



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

November 2017

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

November 11, 2017 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Is this the New Normal?

Grammar Gone Horribly Wrong!

featuring

Arlene Miller

The Grammar Diva!

Arlene Miller has managed to do what seems impossible. Even people who thought learning about pronouns and participles would be boring were pleasantly surprised, because Arlene makes grammar fun!



You will learn:

- What is the new normal in grammar?
- Have the old rules gone away?
- What rules can I get away with breaking?
- Are the grammar rules for fiction and non-fiction different?
- What are the most important rules these days?

Arlene Miller is the author of nine grammar books, including *The Best Little Grammar Book Ever*. She copyedits fiction and nonfiction and offers grammar and business-writing presentations and workshops. She recently retired from teaching English after 11 years in the Petaluma public schools. She has been a featured speaker at Redwood, Napa, and South Bay Writers, Sonoma County Book Festival, Bay Area Independent Publishing Association (BAIPA), Sonoma County Library, Romance Writers of America, College of Marin, Copperfield's bookstore, and several Rotary and other community groups. Arlene is a member of Redwood Writers and BAIPA. She holds degrees in Print Media, English, Humanities, and California teaching and school administration credentials.

Sign-in starts at 11:00 am. 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, Nov. 8, 2017.** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org>

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

President *Marlene Dotterer*

*"The trauma said, 'Don't write these poems.
Nobody wants to hear you cry about the grief inside your bones...'
...My bones said, 'Write the poems.'"*

— **Andrea Gibson, *The Madness Vase*: By Andrea Gibson**



We have had the fire and its victims on all our minds, and I want to start by thanking the board for their generous agreement for the branch to donate to the Salvation Army on behalf of our northern branches. And a big thank you as well to any members who donated in response to Tri-Valley's call for food donations.

Let's remember that our fellow writers will need ongoing assistance as they recover from this tragedy. We'll try to keep you posted as we learn more information. For now, I'll share this link from Redwood Valley Branch's website: <https://www.creativesonoma.org/emergency-resources/>. If you want to help, this site has resources for you.

I heard our workshop was a great one. Attendance is usually low for workshops and we'd really like to understand why. I was out of town but would have attended otherwise. If you never attend workshops, can you tell us what you'd rather have?

Speaking of our meetings, I'm grateful to everyone who made reservations through the website. It was not without a few glitches and I promise we are working on it! I want it to be a seamless experience for everyone.

Dita Basu, our new reservationist, did a great job. Applause, please. Take a bow, Dita, and THANK YOU!

Let's keep Dita busy by signing up for November's meeting. Go to <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> and submit the form for your reservation. Or email Dita at reservations@cwcmtdiablo.org.

Be sure to come early to attend the [Writers Table](#) before lunch. This month's presenter is Bill Yarborough, who will lead a discussion on THE BENEFITS OF BETA READERS AND OTHER CRITIQUE INPUTS. The Writers Table starts at 11:15. Sign-in by 11:00 to save your spot. ++++++

Speaking of critiques, I've been pleased with the response to our new program to help members find a critique group. Deborah Greenberg has taken on coordinating this and she's hit the ground running. See <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/critique-groups/> for information.

As we move deeper into autumn, we're gearing up for major events. Starting in December, 15 – 20 of our lucky members will participate as judges in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. This national contest has been around since 1923 and features America's best teenage writers. Our branch earns \$2,000 for our participation, so this is a great fundraiser. Judging happens December 29 – January 12. If you can help, drop me a note at president@cwcmtdiablo.org.

December also brings preparations for our own **Young Writers Contest** for middle school students, which opens for submissions on January 1. We will be prepping our page on Submittal to be ready for submissions, as well as sending announcements to teachers, parents, and middle schools in our area. And yes, very soon we'll be asking for volunteers to help us judge these entries. So, mark your calendars: judging takes place April 1 – 15, 2018.

You can see we're busy these days, but amid all the rush, remember to keep writing!

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CWC Mt. Diablo Branch's November Writers Table

Join our discussion before lunch on Saturday for a most practical topic:

Benefits of Beta Readers and Other Critique Inputs



- **Sign in** to the meeting as close to 11 as possible.
- **Begins** at 11:15 am (there will be signs directing interested members to the table)
- **Topic:** Benefits of Beta Readers and Other Critique Inputs
- **Discussion Leader:** Bill Yarborough
- **Summary:**
Seeking and using feedback from beta readers, critique groups, writing workshops, professional editors, and pitch sessions with literary agents can help **focus, sharpen, and enhance your writing project.**
Writing doesn't need to be a solitary journey. Indeed, there are many benefits from *expanding* your contacts and getting direct feedback on what you're writing, as you're writing it. Come join Bill Yarborough as he shares *who* to contact, *what* to do with them, and *how* to reap the many benefits such collaboration offers writers—no matter whether just beginning or already published.



NEXT BOARD MEETING Come join us!

Nov 14, 10-11 a.m. Zio Fraedo's



Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print, write your name, 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.

November 2017 coupon

MT. DIABLO CWC Members only. Good for \$25 off one mtg

Print this page. Cut out this coupon. Write your name below and drop in the Basket/hat/paper bag at the meeting corresponding to the date on this coupon. One coupon will be drawn at each meeting to be applied to a future mtg.

Your name: _____

Must be present to win.





Member Events, News and Salutes

Lynn Goodwin

B. Lynn Goodwin will appear with the Women's National Book Association at Book Passages, Corte Madera on Sunday, Nov 5, at 1 pm, reading from her memoir, *Never Too Late: From Wannabe to Wife at 62*.

Lynn also runs Writer Advice's Scintillating Starts Contest, www.writeradvice.com. The deadline is Dec, 1.



Kymberlie Ingalls

Kymberlie introduced Victoria Zackheim and Anne Perry at a Napa Valley Writers meeting. Victoria, writing teacher and editor of several anthologies, has spoken at the Mt. Diablo branch. Anne is the author of 85 novels which have sold 28 million copies worldwide. Kymberlie was then honored to join the two authors for dinner.



Nannette Rundell Carroll

Nannette was not listed among the volunteers in the September newsletter. Here are some of her contributions to the branch:

Board member for 10? years
Branch rep to the Central Board
Program co-chair
"Three of Our Own" December speaker
Speaker at Lafayette Library panel of CWC authors
Newsletter articles
Sold door prize tickets for YWC benefit for many years
Greeter
Membership re-up phone calls two years
Critique group set-up committee



Member Events, News and Salutes cont'd

Judith Marshall

As a part of our Community Outreach Program Judith has been organizing panels of authors to speak at public libraries on "So You Want to Write a Book." These popular panels are free to the public and feature a variety of Mt. Diablo authors speaking on various aspects of their writing experience. These panels help publicize CWC and allow the public to learn about the authors and their works. Judith moderates the panels so everyone gets a fair chance to speak and the audience has time for questions.

On September 23rd, authors **Lynn Goodwin**, **Jill Hedgecock**, and **Judith Ingram** presented "So You Want to Write a Book" at the San Ramon Library, where approximately 50 attendees asked questions about writing, publishing and marketing.



AUTHOR PANEL for ASPIRING WRITERS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1 - 3 PM at the Moraga Library, 1500 St Mary's Road, Moraga

Come for an author's panel with **Marlene Dotterer**, **Robin Gigoux**, **Camille Minichino** and **Judith Marshall**, members of the Mount Diablo branch of the California Writers Club. These local authors will discuss their writing and publishing journeys, and offer tips on the writing process and being published. A Q&A session will follow.

Camille has released 25 traditionally-published mystery novels plus many short stories and articles. She teaches science at Golden Gate University in SF and holds writing classes throughout the Bay Area.

Robin recently self-published her first novel, *Chronicles of an Occupational Prostitute*, written under the pen name Peechi Keane. It is a story about a single mother in her dream job turned nightmare, where managers mistreat employees and co-workers abuse each other.

Marlene has self-published four science fiction and fantasy novels: *Shipbuilder* and *Bridgebuilders*, both part of the Time Travel Journals series, *Moon Over Donamorgh*, a historical fantasy, and *Worlds Apart*, a modern urban fantasy.

Judith's traditionally-published, debut novel, *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends Are Forever*, won a CWC Jack London contest prize, was optioned for the big screen, and adapted into a screenplay.

If you have an event, news, or a salute to share, please send to ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com



HELP STILL WANTED: This is your CWC branch. It doesn't run without volunteers. Please consider helping

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

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
- 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

I Opened A Book by Julia Donaldson

I opened a book and in I strode.
 Now nobody can find me.
 I've left my chair, my house, my road.
 My town and my world behind me.
 I'm wearing the cloak, I've clipped on the ring,
 I've swallowed the magic potion.
 I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king
 And dived in a bottomless ocean.
 I opened a book and made some friends.
 I shared their tears and laughter
 And followed their road with its bumps and bends
 To the happily ever after.
 I finished my book and out I came.
 The cloak can no longer hide me.
 My chair and my house are just the same,
 But I have a book inside me.

Anthony Folcarelli Awarded the CWC Ina Coolbrith Award

For several months in early 2003, with the help of, the CWC Central Board with Barbara Truax as president, Anthony worked to establish California Writers Week. On September 4, 2003 at 10 a.m., CWC 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.

This year the state CWC President, Joyce Krieg, suggested that Anthony, now in his 80s, be awarded the Ina Coolbrith, CWC's highest honor. Since the president cannot make a motion, Kimberly Edwards of the Sacramento Branch made the motion which included the wording that "Anthony worked many hours and spent his own funds to obtain a California Legislative Resolution signed by both the Senate and the Assembly, designating the **third week in October as California Writers Week in perpetuity**. This extraordinary accomplishment required use of Anthony's connections at the State Capitol and many meetings with legislative staff in both the Senate and the Assembly. By securing the California Writers Week legacy in which CWC is specifically named, Anthony ensured an enduring role for CWC, recognized by both legislative bodies, which in and of itself is an exceptional feat, adding prestige and credibility from which all branches benefit and will continue to benefit as long as CWC exists." The central board approved the motion.

On Saturday, Oct 21, Joyce presented the award to Anthony at the Sacramento Branch meeting. She reported that Anthony, uncharacteristically, was speechless and was extremely appreciative.





2017

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| 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 | Three of Our Own "Creative Elements in Writing: | Our holiday meeting features three of our own members. -Michael Bannister wrote a memoir on his time in the Peace Corps and will speak on infusing travel experiences in your writing. -Joanna Kraus is a playwright and will talk about bringing drama into writing -Kymberlie Ingalls will speak about music in writing. |

2018

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|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 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> . www.amandamctigue.com/am/Home.html |
| Feb 10 | 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 |
| Mar 10 WORK SHOP | 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. |
| Apr 14 | 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. |
| May 12 | 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 Best Book of Year by <i>School Library Journal</i> . The series appeared in the <i>NY Times</i> and <i>USA Today</i> best seller lists and was published in over 25 foreign markets. |
| June 9 | Brooke Warner | Brooke Warner gave a TED talk on June 22, 2017. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a0w4KgWyp8 She is a publisher of She Writes Press, president of Warner Coaching Inc., author of <i>What's Your Book?</i> , <i>How to Sell Your Memoir</i> , and co-author of <i>Breaking Ground on Your Memoir</i> . She is a regular Huffington Post blogger and a master teacher of memoir who co-leads the popular course "Write Your Memoir in Six Months." Her expertise is in traditional and new publishing. She sits on the boards of the Independent Book Publishers Association, the National Association of Memoir Writers, and the Bay Area Book Festival. Her website has been named by The Write Life as one of the Top 100 Best Websites for Writers. Warner lives and works in Berkeley, California. |



Are You a Published Author?

Update your profile on our branch website!

We have more space now to include author photos, book covers, a tagline (140 characters!) and links to your social media sites.

Go to <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/our-authors/> to look over your current listing then send us updates! If you are not listed at all, give us the information to enter your profile.

To send us your information, use the form at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/profile-form-page/>.

Or find the link to the form on the Our-Authors page.

Authors' profiles are available to published members holding Active Membership.



Help Our Branch. Read for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

This fundraiser lets our branch earn \$2,000, while also giving us the uplifting experience of reading the works of America's middle- and high- school students.

Judging begins December 29, 2017 and ends on January 12, 2018. Training webinars are scheduled at a variety of times in December, to allow us a chance to brush up on how the judging is done. Remember, **it's all done online, on your schedule.**

Choose the category(ies) you want to judge AND specify any categories you do NOT want to judge from among the following:

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

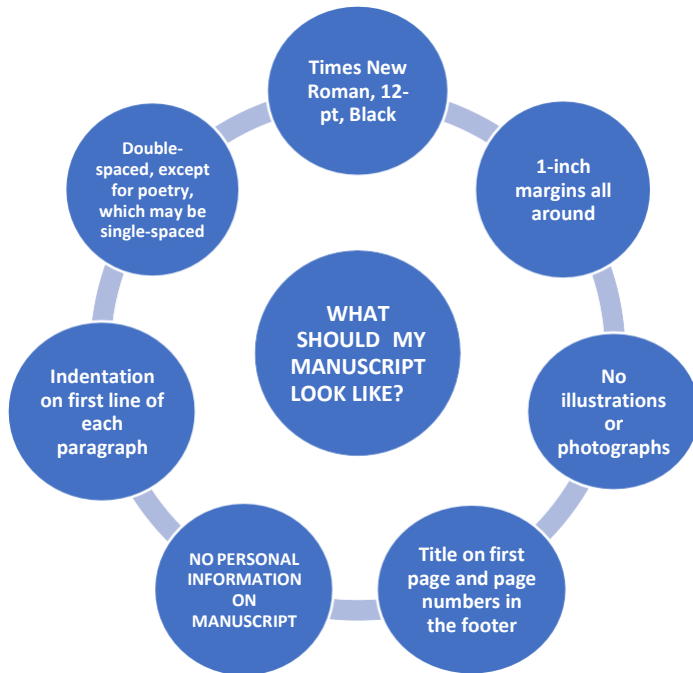
We need 20 volunteers (15 judges and 5 alternates). Contact

Marlene president@cwcmt Diablo.org



2018 YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

This annual contest is proudly sponsored by the Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club. Contest is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who live in or attend school in Contra Costa County. Categories include short story, poetry, personal narrative and humor.



HOW DO I SUBMIT

MY MANUSCRIPT?

Click on the link for Submittal above and follow the instructions. A maximum of three entries per student are welcome under **separate** submission.

Click on your grade and category to see category-specific guidelines (e.g., number of pages). When you are ready to submit, each digital entry form will prompt for the information below:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✚ Student's name | ✚ Student's home address |
| ✚ Student's home phone | ✚ Student's e-mail address |
| ✚ Student's grade | ✚ Name of School |
| ✚ Teacher's name | ✚ Manuscript title |

Manuscripts are accepted via Submittable.com January 1 – March 31, 2018.

DETAILS

DEADLINE: Manuscripts must be received by **9:00 p.m. on March 31, 2018**. Winners will be notified by email by April 20, 2018. Non-winners will not be notified.

TEACHERS: PLEASE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO SUBMIT THEIR STORIES AND POEMS THEMSELVES. We are striving to encourage individual creativity and expression. Do not send entire class assignments. Each submission requires individual student information.

PARENTS: Parents of winning students will be requested to give permission for the child to be photographed for print, videotaped, or electronically imaged during the banquet and agree to allow his or her child's picture to appear in newspapers, news releases, and/or other published formats.

PRIZES: Winning *short stories* and *poems* from each grade level will receive \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second prize and \$25 for third prize. The *Humor Award* of \$100 will be awarded to one winner (combined grades) or one winner in each grade level, at the judges' discretion. The *Betty Tenney Personal Narrative Award* of \$100 will be given to the best personal narrative/essay in each grade. Second and third place prizes may be awarded in the personal narrative category at the judges' discretion. Prizes will be presented to winners on **May 12, 2018**, at a lunch banquet. Further information on the banquet will be provided to the winners. Parents are welcome. Teachers of winning students will be invited to attend the banquet.

Fundraising for the Young Writers Contest

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 Oct 2017

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

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

Judith Overmier

The John Muir Member Club (\$150 - \$249)

The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club (\$100 - \$149)

Judith Ingram

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

David George in honor of Elizaeth Koehler-Pentacoff

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

June Gatewood in honor of Christopher Cecchini

Jill Hedgecock

Chloe Laube

Judith Overmier

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

Ken Kerkhoff

Linda Force

Lynn Goodwin

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

Fran Cain

Robert Poirier

Sara Wilson

Edward Stanislawski

Lucy Hart

Patty Northlich

Lee Paulson

Maya Das

Christine Tomerson



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.

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

All program expenses are supported by individual donations and a grant. 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: _____



Make a check payable to: *CWC Mt. Diablo Branch*. And mail to:
CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507

Attention: Young Writers Contest

