



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

December 2017

Saturday December 9, 2017—11:00 to 2:00pm

Resources for Writers **HOLIDAY SEATED LUNCHEON** **with THREE OF OUR OWN**

Michael Banister, Joanna Kraus & Kymberlie Ingalls

Special Meal Selection:

New York Steak, Salmon, Chicken Parmesan, or Pasta Primavera



Using Travel Experience

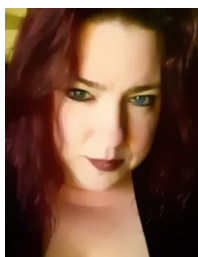
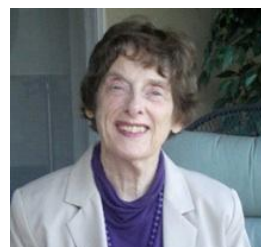
Michael Banister

- How the idea for my novel, *Stolen Identity*, came about.
- Why that idea resonated so strongly with me.
- How I used my travel experiences to enhance my writing.

Adding Drama to Writing

Joanna Kraus

- To add drama, must have conflict, which is part of structure.
- Explanation and application of Grebanier's Proposition, shaping it and examples from own work.
- A folk song to test audience



The Inspiration of Music

Kymberlie Ingalls

- One of my favorite ways for finding inspiration is in the form of music.
- Songs are an amazingly effective memory trigger.
- Music has given me a voice in my writing.

Sign-in from 11:00 - 12pm. **Members display and sell books until our Festive Seated Luncheon** 12-12:45pm. Speakers 1 - 2pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$25 members, \$30 guests.

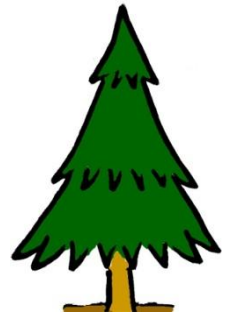
Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday December 6th. To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> or email: reservations@cwcmtdiablo.org. Website: <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org>



President Marlene Dotterer

It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous.

– Robert Benchley



It's raining! I know most people groan on rainy days. It does increase the difficulty of getting around. Don't even talk about the commute. It takes 20 or 30 minutes longer, doesn't it? But I love rain. Water in general fascinates me – how this planet's hydrological cycle constantly moves a finite amount of water through air, ground, oceans, and plants, sustaining life and shaping the world. It can be destructive too, but there's something about a rainstorm that lifts me up. I guess it feels like a signal that life will go on, the plants will grow, and we'll have water to drink. That's worth a little inconvenience, I think.

We had a terrific meeting in November, and wow – did you see the crowd around the Writers Table? We're going to have to get them their own room if this keeps up! Congratulations to Bill Yarborough for a fascinating and successful presentation, and kudos as well to Bill Stong and John Marvin for their hard work in bringing more topics and presenters to this endeavor.

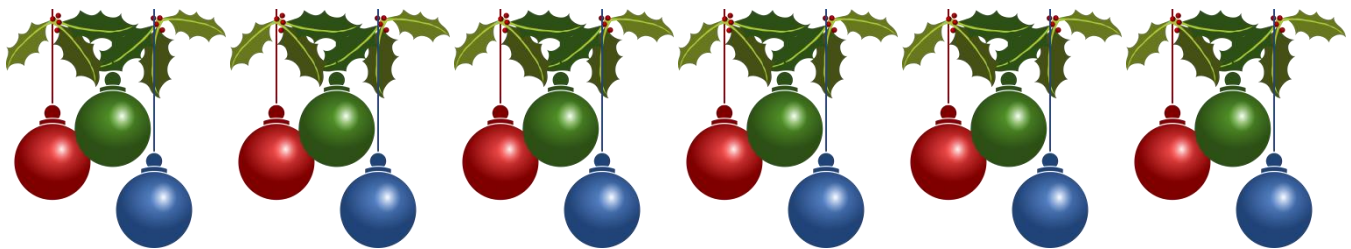
We had several first-time visitors and new members in November, so it was quite exciting for me. I hope these new-to-us writers find education, career opportunities, and camaraderie by joining our branch, as well as a place to share their own expertise with other writers. I'll avoid clichés about water (it was tempting), but will just encourage our new members to look around on our website, newsletter, and at our meetings to see what fits for you, and jump in. We are very glad to have you with us.

The Board of Directors has exciting plans for December meeting and holiday luncheon, so be sure to reserve your spot. And while we always encourage you to invite interested family members and friends to our meetings, the December sit-down luncheon is a good time to bring them along. We're all dressed up and looking our best! As usual, you can RSVP at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>. Be sure to select your lunch entrée!

I'd like to take a moment and recognize three people who are always on call to keep our website up-to-date. **Andrew Benzie** and **Cheryl Spanos** do the detailed work of entering next meeting information and posting your announcements and author profiles. And **Lyn Roberts** coordinates it all, receiving your submissions, checking them for accuracy, and sending them to the right person to post them. Lyn also creates our monthly meeting flyers and makes sure they go where they are needed.

Thank you all for your work!

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoyed families and friends. Keep writing!



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Member Events, News and Salutes

Ellen Aubry

Ellen's story, "My Soul's Gone Away", appeared as RumbleFish Press' Story of the Day on Saturday, November 18.

To view the story, click on the link:

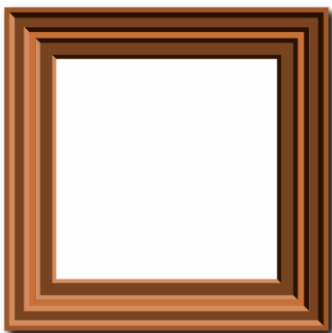
<https://www.rumblefishpress.com/daily>

Go to **Literary** in the header and click on **Past** and find the story in the list. It's a great read.

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



*Have You Been **Profiled**?*



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

To be profiled, please either contact membership chair David George

davegeorge7@comcast.net or contact this editor, Elisabeth Tuck

elisabethtuck@yahoo.com

YOUR PHOTO HERE

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

Where are you from?

When did you begin writing?

What books/authors have influenced your life?

What are your current projects?

What inspired you to write your first book?

Would you change anything in your latest book?

Is there anything you find challenging about writing?

Do you travel for book research?

Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?

What is the wisest thing anyone has said to you about writing?



Writers Table Schedule for 2018 thru June:

- O January: Jill Hedgecock, A Muse Board to Prompt Your Writing
- O February: TBD, initial solicitation outstanding
- O April: TBD, potentially a mini-panel; topic being evaluated
- O June: Solicitation request pending

November Writers Table led by Bill Yarborough on
THE BENEFITS OF BETA READERS AND OTHER CRITIQUE INPUTS



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.

December 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.



2017

Our Upcoming Programs

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Dec 9 | Michael Bannister Joanna Kraus Kymberlie Ingalls “Creative Writing Elements” | Our holiday meeting will feature 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. Kymberlie Ingalls will speak about music in writing. |
| 2018 | | |
| Jan 13 | Amanda McTigue Pitching | Yale graduate Amanda McTigue 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 the novel, <i>Monkey Bottom</i> . www.amandamctigue.com/am/Home.html |
| Feb 10 | Clive Matson “Word Choices” | 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 East Bay Express 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 | Veronica Rossi 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 <i>NY Times</i> and <i>USA Today</i> best seller lists and was published in over 25 foreign markets. |
| June 9 | Brooke Warner She Writes Press | Brooke Warner gave a TED talk on June 22, 2017. She is a publisher of She Writes Press, president of Warner Coaching Inc., author of <i>What's Your Book?</i> and <i>How to Sell Your Memoir</i> , and co-author of <i>Breaking Ground on Your Memoir</i> . She is also 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. |

Attend a Board Meeting

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

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

Next board meeting: Dec 9, 10-11:00am Zio Fraedo's.



Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Several members have signed up to help us judge the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards contest for middle and high-school students. This is our second year participating in the contest and many of last year's volunteers have returned to help us out again. All report they enjoyed the experience and we are happy to have them back this year. We are also happy to welcome a few new volunteers to the circle. These members are dedicating a few hours of their time to help our branch earn funds, and we are grateful for their efforts. This year's judges are listed below.

Please note that **we have room for more volunteers**. If your schedule won't let you help the full 15 – 20 hours needed (over a two-week period), we can use you as an alternate judge. This will allow you to take on just a few submissions. Contact Marlene Dotterer at president@cwcmtdiablo.org.

Thank you to all our volunteer judges!

Aline Soules
Dita Basu
Fran Cain
Elisabeth Tuck
Patty Northlich
Joanna Kalbus
Susan Lawson

Marlene Dotterer
David George
Ann Damaschino
John Marvin
Jill Hedgecock
Kathleen Casey
Nanette McGuinness

Ellen Aubry



All the best for the season to all

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

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

Ken Kerkhoff

Linda Force

Lynn Goodwin

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

Fran Cain

Sara Wilson

Lucy Hart

Lee Paulson

Christine Tomerson

Robert Poirier

Edward Stanislawski

Patty Northlich

Maya Das

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

Judith Overmier

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



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, CA 94507 Attention: Young Writers Contest

