



# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

February 2018

## BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

February 10, 2018 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

## Finding Your Most Powerful Words

featuring

**Clive Matson**

What I Learned from the Beat Generation  
(And What I Wish We Hadn't Learned)



### **Clive will cover:**

- First thought, best thought
- Writing as an expression of the body
- Suspicion of boundaries
- Honesty and impulse
- Sacraments and direct experience
- Vitality of Myths

"I bring forty years of experience leading workshops and coaching writers of all kinds. Little by little I've seen that my original training was sound, provocative, and instructive, so I'll quote Pound, Williams, R.Creeley, Ginsberg and show how their dictums apply to today's writing. The guidance is crucially important now that we're entering a time similar to the 1960s when we are at odds with our government, the Sixth Extinction looms globally, and politically we're in decades similar to what Chaucer called "this sour and hungry time."

Clive Matson (MFA Columbia University 1989) hung out in New York in the early 1960s with Beat Generation writers and that immersed him in streams of passionate intensity that run through us all. He writes from the itch in his body to the delight of his students according to *Let the Crazy Child Write!* (1998). He's published nine volumes of poetry and his seventh book, *Squish Boots* (2002), was placed in John Wieners' coffin. He received the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles National Literary Award in 2003 and the City of Berkeley Lifetime Achievement Award in Poetry in 2012. In 2017 he presented at the European Beat Studies Conference in Paris, where he premiered his long poem, "Hello Paradise, Paradise Good-bye." Visit Clive at Wikipedia or [www.matsonpoet.com](http://www.matsonpoet.com)

**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, Feb. 7, 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.

### **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*



*Barbara Walters: "But what would you do if the doctor gave you only six months to live?"*  
*Isaac Asimov: "Type faster."*

Greetings Mt. Diablo-ites!

We had another terrific meeting in January. I think it's unanimous that Amanda McTigue gets high marks for her presentation. The subject of pitches is worth an entire workshop, but she managed to give us a lot of information and tips in just one hour.

The response to our recent Writers Tables has been overwhelming. It's been crowded and loud, but I'll have to ask for your continued patience as we figure out how to handle the logistics. This is a good problem to have, but I know it can be frustrating to all of you who are trying to hear the discussion. Thank you for understanding, and for heaven's sake, don't stop

attending the Writers Tables! I'm very happy they are so popular and send kudos to Bill Stong and John Marvin for the effort they are putting into them.

I am always amazed at how quickly time goes by. As a board member, and as president, I have many tasks that are categorized into "monthly," "bi-monthly," "semi-annual," or "annual" periods. I gotta say, those semi-annual and annual tasks seem to come out of nowhere. My first reaction is often, "What? Wait, it's not time for that already. We just did it!" Perception is such a tricky thing.

So, what's coming up? For starters, the Young Writers Contest is up and running, already nearly through its first month. Submissions are coming in and we are signing up judges. And it's not too early to begin planning the awards banquet in May – we want it to be a memorable event for our winning students and their families. I could use some help with that, if any of you have a few minutes to spare.

Then there are branch elections. Our fiscal year ends in June. By April, we must have officer nominations ready for the May newsletter, so that you (our informed membership) can vote on them at the June meeting. This is easy when all the current officers are re-upping for another year. But this year, it's time for me to step aside and turn the president's reins over to someone else. I'll still be on the board and available to assist, so don't be afraid to jump in. The other board members and I will walk you through it. I'm putting my request out now, so you have a couple months to think about it.

Newsletter editor is not an elected position, but Elisabeth Tuck is hanging up that hat and hopes one of you will step up soon to take it over. Elisabeth does innumerable services for our branch and for the central board. Performing one volunteer job is easy, but when a volunteer takes on four or five jobs (*ahem*), it really is too much. If you have desktop publishing skills, please consider taking over this important position. We have more information about it, below.

For now, I hope you enjoy the rest of the winter (spring will be here before you know it), and be sure to sign up for our February meeting.



Before time gets away from you. Happy writing!



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## New Member



Corinne Corley

It's not easy being a writer and the original Missouri Mugwump, but I muddle through each day with as much finesse as possible. I hale from Jennings, Missouri, but most recently from the California Delta Loop where I occupy a THOW and eke out my daily existence by applying for steady work and editing my forthcoming book while writing and deleting snarky posts on social media. I'm five-three-and-a-half and always wanted to be shorter or taller. My greatest claim to fame is giving birth to a son who is both writer and musician. How cool is that!

I spent thirty-four years practicing law because I chickened out. Convinced that I had to have a "real" career, I abandoned writing and slogged my way to moderate success representing fathers and abused children. That's an unlikely combination which brought me great satisfaction. I started writing again in 2008 with the break-up of one of my 300 marriages. I sent a weekly contemplative e-mail to a lawyers' list serve, which morphed into a blog called the Saturday Musings. Writing as "the Missouri Mugwump," I sent an entry every week for eight years. I have suspended that while I work on a manuscript which will include 52 of those posts and twelve pieces of stunning visual art by Mary Pettet, who graces me by agreeing to participate.

The first seven years of that blog can be found at: [www.themissourimugwump.blogspot.com](http://www.themissourimugwump.blogspot.com).

The entries from 2017 live at: [www.themissourimugwump.com](http://www.themissourimugwump.com).

I've been a mother, a wife, a lawyer, a daughter, and a pet-owner. Through it all, I strove to memorialize what I experienced so that when I'm dead and people who loved me say, "What the heck happened to her?" they might have a clue. My current blog, My Year Without Complaining, demonstrates that I'm nothing if not persistent. If you want to read that blog, it's at (big surprise): [www.myyearwithoutcomplaining.com](http://www.myyearwithoutcomplaining.com).

After living in Kansas City for nearly three decades (not counting five loooooonnnnnng years in Arkansas), I moved to California to save my life. So far, so good.

That's 345 words so I'll quit while I'm ahead. You can find me at [ccorleyjd@gmail.com](mailto:ccorleyjd@gmail.com). Thank you



## HELP WANTED

**Newsletter Editor:** Gather articles, format and build monthly newsletter (except July and August). Turnover, training and assistance **will be offered**.

**Skills needed:** Desktop publishing (I do the whole thing in MSWord, no special software skills needed) layout (all I do is eyeball it), clip-art (free, optional, can be fun), Adobe Acrobat (the branch has a copy for the newsletter editor. I don't use it.) 3 members are available to copy edit. Job Description provided upon request.

**June will be the last issue unless someone steps up.**

## CWC Mt. Diablo Branch's Writers Table

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

### Researching History for All Writers & Genre

*The right details can bring your writing to life, no matter the genre.*

#### Logistics for February's Writers Table:

- **Begins:** 11:15 am (signs will direct interested members to the table)
- **Topic:** *Researching History for All Writers & Genre*
- **Discussion Leader:** John G. "Jack" Sharp
- **Summary:** One of the greatest challenges for all writers—fiction, memoir, non-fiction--is to recognize that the past is not so much another place or time as another world. How many times have you been reading an article or a book and wondered: "Did that really happen?" "What was it like living then?" "What did people look like?" "I wish I had more detail."

Please join Jack Sharp as he shares a variety of sources to do the research that will give you the details that make *your* writing accurate, interesting and sparkingly fresh.

Jack's handout, "History for all Writers and Genre" is available at:

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/History-for-Writers.pdf>

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,

John & Bill



## 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 new ideas.

**Next board meeting: Feb 10, 10-11:00 am Zio Fraedo's.**

## MORE HELP WANTED

### Open for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

**President:** Create agenda, preside over board meetings, general meetings, and an annual planning session with the board, coordinate with board members and committee chairs, write monthly newsletter column. Other duties may include sending out mass emails and announcements to the membership using MailChimp, and general facilitation between members and with other branches. Follow already documented schedule for monthly and yearly events.

**Skills needed:** General organizational abilities, public speaking, and discretion. Job Description available upon request.

**Board Members:** Attend board meetings (monthly, before general meetings, except workshop months and August), attend 4-hour planning session in July, offer advice or suggestions, serve on committees or assist as you are able.

### *Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members*

**Print this page, write your name on the coupon below, cut out the coupon** and bring it to the meeting. Drop it in the basket 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.

**February 2018 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.**



## *CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch Critique Groups*

by

**Deborah Greenberg**

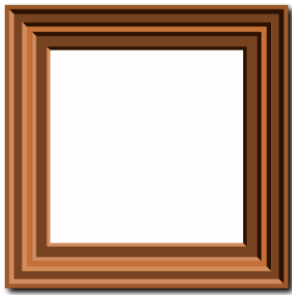
Greetings from your new Critique Group Coordinator. I have volunteered to help members find other members writing in a similar genre to form critique groups.

Many writers find critique groups to be quite helpful. If you want to join a critique group and haven't done so already, please sign up using the form on the Mt. Diablo branch website <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/>. I plan to match people up according to genre, geographic location, and time availability on a rolling basis. The bigger the pool of interested members, the better I will be able to optimally group people. Once members are connected, each group will be responsible for deciding how their group will run, and will function independently of the Mt. Diablo chapter. There may be some shuffling around as people try to find the most compatible group.

Details that each critique group must decide include: how often to meet, when to meet, how many members to allow, how many pages of each member's work to consider at each meeting, and whether or not to distribute material ahead of time or read it for the first time at meetings. I have a more comprehensive document that describes different possible formats and general rules to be considered, which I will forward to members once groups are forming.

After the first groups gel (hopefully in the next one to two months), I expect openings to be infrequent. Members will then need to wait until there is an opening in an existing group, or there are enough people signed up to start a new group in the same genre, etc. For that reason, I urge interested parties to sign up soon.

## *Let Us Know Who You Are, New or Renewed Branch Members*



We publish brief (usually around 400 words) member profiles 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.

You're a writer aren't you? Write your brief bio and send it to Lyn Roberts at: [editingonline@astound.net](mailto:editingonline@astound.net) or contact membership chair, David George at [davegeorge7@comcast.net](mailto:davegeorge7@comcast.net)

### **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?





2018

## Our Upcoming Programs

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 <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.
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.

Summer Break: July & August

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

If you have an event, news, or a salute to share, please send to [ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com](mailto:ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com)

## Things to Do



## 2018 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE

at the Mark Hopkins Hotel

**Main Conference: Thursday, February 15th through Sunday, February 18th, 2018**

*Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community for Writers*

**Master Classes: February 19, 2018**

<https://sfwriters.org/>

The mission of the **San Francisco Writers Conference** is to build bridges to better tomorrows for writers connected to the conference by:

- Giving writers the information and inspiration they need to
  - write and sell their books
  - make them successful
  - reach their literary and financial goals
- Providing a forum for writers, agents, publishers, and writers organizations
- Helping writers build the networks they need by creating a community of writers online and off . . .

Because the **California Writers Club's** mission statement mirrors that of the SFWC, we are able to reach out to many of the same writers who are seeking help, support and encouragement in their writing by providing them with information about our Club.

This is the CWC's seventh year at the conference as an exhibitor and each year our booth improves. Our eye-catching banner, a Tri-Fold Display of some of our member authors' book covers, our redesigned CWC brochures and of course, YOU. To volunteer for this year's conference, contact Tim Jollymore from the Berkeley Branch at: [tim\\_jollymore@yahoo.com](mailto:tim_jollymore@yahoo.com) Remember, we are sharing our writing stories, our connections through the CWC, our understanding of the CWC and meeting new friends.

## *Things to Do (cont'd)*

The **CWC Bulletin** is scheduled to come out mid-March, 2018. Deadline for advertising and branch news is February 28, 2018.

Advertising can be obtained by following the directions on [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) to reach almost 2,000 writers and readers at a low, low price.

From Bulletin editor Rusty LaGrange:

Welcome to CWC's *The Bulletin* 2018 – our statewide digital news.

In continuing with our coverage for all 22 branches, as editor-in-chief, I'd like to update our submissions process so the least amount of errors and omissions will keep all readers informed.

I've added a second set of eyes as a reviewer for content and my proofreader: Angie Horn. It will be her job to check submissions and tally up the content and photos that come in from all over the state. Together we can double-check entries and compare notes.

Submission guidelines:

Email submissions to me at [Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com)

- Subject lines should include: "CWC Bulletin – Your Branch Name"
- Photos must be in jpg format. I convert them to a web-based format.
- Please provide any available captions to identify people in your photos
- Text is preferred in MSWord Arial 11 point or a standard generic text
- Please send your news separate from photos so I can place them in *The Bulletin* without a lot of conversion processes.
- Please do not send pages directly from your branch newsletters. I'm not able to deconstruct PDF content or embedded photos.
- I will respond with a receipt to all entries received, so if you don't hear from me, something has happened to it. Send it again or call me.
- If you miss the deadline, call me and we'll discuss it.
- After *The Bulletin* is on the web, if you find a major mistake, call me and we'll see if it can be corrected after the fact.

These standards are on [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org) for easy access.

*The Bulletin* is published three times a year – March, August, and November.

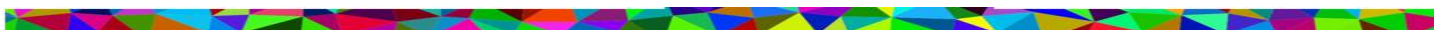
All news submissions and advertising are due on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, July, or October.

Display advertising info and rate sheet is available in each issue or email me.

If you have questions please email [Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com](mailto:Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com)

**760.646.2661**

Thanks for your cooperation,



## Things to Do (cont'd)

*Napa Valley Writers Presents:*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarita Lopez

Tel. 707-508-9845

Email: [publicity\\_nvww@outlook.com](mailto:publicity_nvww@outlook.com)

Date: 1/22/2018



**Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
7-9 p.m.**

**Open Mic with Chocolate**

***Bilingual Edition***

Napa Valley Writers (NVW), in conjunction with Xulio Soriano, a local socio-ecological justice activist and poet, will host NVW's first Spanish-English bilingual Open Mic with Chocolate! The evening will feature local and regional bilingual and indigenous language poets.

In Mexico and other Latin American countries, countries that speak Spanish and hundreds of indigenous languages, Hispanic Valentine's Day is celebrated as a day of love AND friendship. In the U.S. the celebration focuses on romantic love. We encourage you to dig into and expand upon the meaning of love; all prose and poetry is welcome. What kind of love do you share with your romantic partner? Is your call for love along the lines of Martin Luther King's calling for love and justice to be brought to the streets? Is love memory and recalling our ancestors? Latin American poet Eduardo Galleano tells us that "Recordar" (re-cardio), to remember something in Spanish, means to "run again through the heart".

All original work is welcome, and attendees may read up to five minutes. Yummy treats will be offered, along with great company. As an added bonus we are offering the standard \$5 member cover to non-members. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**Event is from 7pm-9pm at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 1625 Salvador Ave, Napa, CA 94558.**

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

- Charles M. Schulz

Please join us in reading your original work alongside our featured poets for this special Valentine's Day event: Blanca Huijon, Gervacio Peña López, Laura López Ledesma, Karla Gómez-Pelayo, Graciela Rodríguez García, Charlie Toledo, Kevin Valdovinos, Gary Silva, and Xulio Soriano.

Napa Valley Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club, holds monthly meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact [publicity\\_nvww@outlook.com](mailto:publicity_nvww@outlook.com) or see [www.napavalleywriters.net](http://www.napavalleywriters.net). Always open to the public.

*NVW fosters professionalism in writing, promotes networking of writers within the Napa Valley writing community, mentors new writers, and provides literary support for writers and the writing community through education, networking, and leadership.*





## 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

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

**Ken Kerkhoff**

**Linda Force**

**Lynn Goodwin**

**Kathy Urban**

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

**June Gatewood** in honor of Christopher Cecchini

**Jill Hedgecock**

**Al Garrotto**

**Chloe Laube**

**Judith Overmier**

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. Check our branch website for details:  
[cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/](http://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