



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

May 2018

YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS LUNCHEON

May 12, 2018 – **10:45 am** to 2:00 pm

“Life is Fiction and Fiction is Life”

Featuring
Veronica Rossi



- How can being a better *writer* make us a better *person*?
- Why *should* there be a vital connection between the words on the page and our personal experiences?
- What are some of the lessons we can carry from our manuscripts into our day to day?

We tend to think that our lives are separate and apart from the time we spend huddled over keyboards or notebooks creating plot arcs and characters—but the process of writing is actually a lot more like life than we realize. In fact, life reflects story and story reflects life.

In this talk, *New York Times* bestselling author **Veronica Rossi** will discuss the crossover between life and fiction, and how we should consider ourselves as much created by stories as the creators of them. Come prepared to be inspired!

Veronica Rossi is a *NY Times* bestselling author of fiction for young adults. Her debut novel, *UNDER THE NEVER SKY* (January 2012) was the first in a post-apocalyptic trilogy. The series has been published in over 25 foreign markets. Her second series for young adults began with *RIDERS* (February 2016), and tells the story of four modern day teens who become incarnations of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, and the prophetic girl who brings them together. *SEEKER* (May 2017) completed the fantasy duology.

Veronica graduated from UCLA with a degree in Latin American Studies and then went on to study fine art at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. She continues to paint in oils, when she's not writing. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she has lived in Mexico, Venezuela, and all over the United States, to finally settle in Northern California with her husband and two sons.

Sign-in starts at 10:45 am, Awards & Readings 11:30, Luncheon 12:15, Speaker 1-2 pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$25 members, \$30 guests. **Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday, May 9th, 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*



Dear Mt. Diablo-ites,

Wasn't that a great meeting in April? I think we were all ready for some humor – that was quite a crowd! I hope we all came away with good ideas for how to incorporate humor into our writing, even the serious stuff.

It's almost May, and that means Young Writers Contest. I won't even try to tell you how busy I am. All of our wonderful judges have finished their reading and presented us with 30 winners and 47 Honorable Mentions. That is a lot of work, but they sailed through in good humor – so to speak!

This year, over 300 middle school students submitted 355 poems, personal narratives, and stories. These students came from 3 private and 16 public schools in Contra Costa County.

I must give a big shout-out “Thank you!” to Lyn Roberts and Aline Soules, who take on huge roles in our contest. Lyn has a big job to find judges, organize them into teams and see that they are trained. Aline does the behind-the-scenes work to keep our Submittable account current, vet the submissions as they come in, and assign judges. In addition, both women help judge entries. They are fearless!

Many others help with tasks, big and small, and all of them make the contest work and the banquet a success. But let's face it – we couldn't do this contest without the judges. There IS no contest without the judges, so THANK YOU, all of you, for keeping this contest going, year after year.

Our volunteer judges are listed below. Give them pat on the back if you see them at a meeting! And come support the branch at the May Awards Banquet. Sit with a family/teacher. See how excited the kids are and how supportive their teachers are. There will be a good presentation, too – internationally published author Veronica Rossi is a former Mt. Diablo member, and it's always fun to have her come speak.

As summer approaches, what's on your agenda? Keep our newsletter editor posted about your writing activities by submitting your information at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>. Keep writing!

The *CWC Literary Review* is expected to be mailed in late June. It is still in the layout phase. If you have changed address, please ensure David George has your most recent information: davegeorge7@comcast.net



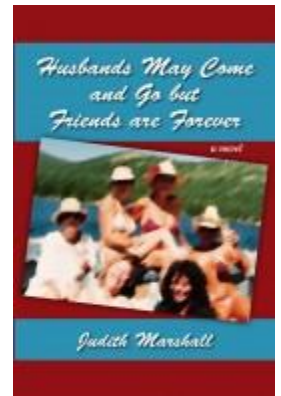
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Member Events, News and Salutes

Judith Marshall is adapting a screenplay for her debut novel, *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever* into a stage play with the help of author and playwright, Victoria Zackheim, a two-time speaker at our branch.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST JUDGES

by Lyn Roberts

You were awesome!

Teamwork was the key ingredient to discovering good writing. This year we judged 350 submissions from 300 Middle School students. We thank our judges for their willingness to work together as teams to select winning stories and poems, and for considering your teammates' point of view. Special thanks go to two people whose efforts were unsung and unnoticed.

Aline Soules not only judged all the poems with her team, but she also ran the Submittable program, distributed the poems to us and still made deadline. For the record, the poetry team read every poem submitted. Congratulations, Aline!

Marlene Dotterer ran the Submittable program for all the stories, and (in case you forgot) all this while running our Mt. Diablo branch as our current CWC president. And now she is working to prepare for the YWC Awards Banquet. Our thanks to you, Marlene!

Below are the Judges for the 2018 Young Writers Contest and the category they judged.

We are grateful to you all.

Short Story – 6th Grade

John Marvin & Dot Edwards
Ceci Pugh & Lyn Roberts

Short Story – 7th Grade

Margie Witt & Jil Plummer
Ken Kerkoff & Dita Basu

Short Story – 8th Grade

Chloe Laube & Phyllis Houseman
Ellen Aubry & Susan Lawson

Personal Narrative – 6th & 7th Grade

Fran Cain & David George &
Elisabeth Tuck

Personal Narrative - 8th Grade

Jill Hedgecock & Leslie Rupley

Poetry

Aline Soules
Ann Damaschino
Judith Overmeier

Humor - All Grades

Susan Lawson & Ellen Aubrey



Distinguished Service Award

The board approved **Jill Hedgecock** as this year's awardee for her excellent work as chair of the speaker/workshop committee. Over the last 3 years, Jill has been doing a great job finding and booking good speakers and workshop leaders for our branch meetings.

Officer Slate for 2018-2019

President: Marlene Dotterer

Vice-President: Judith Ingram

Secretary: Judith Overmier

Treasurer: Lucy Hart

Members will be asked to vote at the June meeting.

Welcome New Member

Linda Mack

Almost four years ago, my partner, Charlene, and I retired and moved from Seattle to California to be near grandchildren. I have always thought of myself as a writer, but I've never thought of myself as a serious writer until the last couple of years. Now I have the time. I'm 70 years old today, and now—finally-- I'm writing memoirs and stories, thinking of novels, thinking of publishing. Several incomplete fiction manuscripts are waiting for attention.

My wonderful California mentor, Marcella Lorfing, introduced me to memoir and to the benefits of having a marvelous critique group. Last December Marcy died suddenly, but her energy lives on in her students, and I intend to use that energy to keep writing, to keep learning and to keep sharing the written word with anyone who cares to participate. I'm happy to be a new CWC member, looking forward to finding a critique group or two, and looking forward to writing for as long as I'm able to string a few coherent words together.



What is Your Favorite Novel?

Explore the power of literature in an eight-part series told through the lens of America's 100 favorite novels, culminating in the first-ever national vote for America's best-loved book.

Don't miss *The Great American Read*, premiering Tuesday, May 22, at 8pm on KQED 9.

CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch Critique Groups

Deborah Greenberg

Deborah has 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 and they can be invaluable in helping you polish your work for submission to publications. If you are not in a critique group and want to join one, please sign up using the form on the Mt. Diablo branch website: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/critique-groups>.

Deborah will match people according to genre, geographic location, and time availability. The bigger the pool of interested members, the better she 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 CWC branch.

Each critique group must determine details such as: when and how often to meet, how many members make an ideal group, how many pages of each member's work to consider for each meeting, and whether or not to distribute material ahead of time or read it for the first time at meetings. Deborah has a more comprehensive document that describes different possible formats and general rules to be considered which she will forward to members forming a group.



CWC Mt. Diablo Branch's Writers Table—a new year coming

This year, John Marvin and I (Bill Stong) have enjoyed lining up *Writers Table* sessions. Your response has been tremendous. Each session since September 2017 has been well attended, with several having standing room only.

For the upcoming 2018/2019 year, John and I would like to continue arranging our pre-meeting *Writers Table* sessions for the membership. Many of you have shared topics for which you would like us to find discussion leaders, and several of you have also volunteered. Thank you!

As we begin thinking about the schedule starting in September 2018, please feel free to give us feedback and to suggest topics. The best way to do so is through the *Writers Table* page, at the bottom, on the Mt. Diablo Branch's website (under the 'Current Meeting' tab): <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/writerstable/>

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at a *Writers Table*.

John & Bill



And don't forget to join us at the Writers Table before the **June 9** meeting to learn about **book trailers** and how to develop one to help spread the word about your book. **Judith Ingram** will lead the discussion.

Writers Table meets before the general meetings. These are short (@ 40 minutes) informational or practice session on the craft of writing. Hosted by Mt. Diablo members, these sessions cover many topics of interest to writers.

Sign-in begins at 11:00. Writers Table begins at 11:15. Drop in any time.

Why Join CWC, Attend Meetings and Volunteer

The California Writers Club is a statewide organization with nearly 2000 writer-members in 22 branches from Mendocino to Orange. We are a non-profit organization with a mission to: educate writer of all abilities in the craft of writing and the marketing of their work. The state board meets twice per year to ensure governance and share ideas. We support a statewide newsletter and website that share ideas and activities. The annual Literary Review magazine offers members a possibility of being published with 30 - 40 other members.

Northern and southern groups represent their branches to inform each other about regional activities like conferences, book fairs, speakers and branch events. Each of the 22 branches endeavors to offer members education, activities, and networking at a local level, and some produce member anthologies.

Writing is a solitary activity. Yes, you lose yourself in the scenes you describe. Yes, your characters or contacts speak with you and seem to be in the room. Yes, the storyline or article is vivid and consuming.

BUT: How are you developing as a writer? How are you learning and growing alone in that room? CWC offers professional development, comradery, ideas, contacts, suggestions and networking. Not every branch speaker or workshop will appeal to every person but each of us can learn something from every experience and as writers we need experiences to feed our craft. Sometimes you can hear the same information several times before you actually *hear* it and understand how it applies to you and can help you grow as a writer. The fellowship and advice of other authors can be invaluable.

Volunteering with CWC offers you a way to meet fellow authors, and can lead to professional opportunities that haven't yet knocked on the door to your solitary writing room. The Mt. Diablo branch offers Writers Tables before meetings where members share information. Some topics have been: muse boards, police work, publishing, editing, the brain and writing, first sentences, critiquing, and memoirs. Lead a group and strengthen your ability to speak to others.

The branch needs many hands to operate as well as it does. Join the board and learn about governance, finance, leading groups, the value of policies and procedures, minutes, and non-profit status. Many things that volunteers learn from non-profit boards translate to the work world. Greet members and visitors attending the meeting—maybe you'll see someone the description of whom has perfect aspects for a character you've been struggling to define. Work on the branch newsletter and see your name in print—another credit on your resume. Read submissions by middle grade students entering our Young Writers Contest. Writers must read in order to see what works and what doesn't. Why is one student's piece better than another's? What are the differences?

Everything you do can enhance your writing. Join in. As a former branch president said, "Writers are nice people."

Link to <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/> to offer to help.



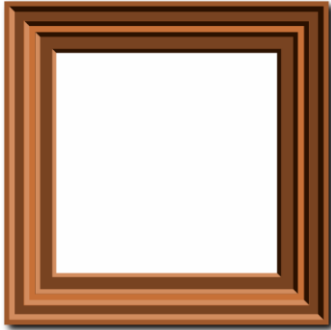
Literary Magazines

Have you ever researched where you could publish a story or article? Recently I came upon a site that lists their top 50 magazines.

<https://www.everywritersresource.com/top50literarymagazines/>

Most of the magazines allow you to read a story or article or part of one. Maybe you'll find a magazine that matches your writing style or interest and you will subscribe. In any case, browsing through the magazines, you can see what's out there, read how others write and perhaps select a few to submit to. Or perhaps there's one that would be a perfect gift for a reader you know.

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 Membership Chair David George at davegeorge7@comcast.net

YOUR PHOTO HERE

Following are some questions to start you 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?



Young Writers Contest Winners Receive Cash Prizes

The Mt. Diablo branch awards **cash** prizes to our Young Writers Contest first second and third place winners in each category? Consider donating to the branch for the YWC (see p. 10) at the same time you renew your membership (see p. 9.)

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-be-involved, advisors, and the just plain curious. Join us. (Liz usually serves coffee or tea.) We usually 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 prior to the Young Writer Contest Banquet: May 14, 9:30-10:30 am Zio Fraedo's.

Our Upcoming Programs

2018

May 12	Veronica Rossi Young Writers Contest “Writing Great Fiction? Living a Great Life”	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 the 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. Since then she has added 4 books to the series and has written 2 novellas.
June 9	Brooke Warner “Hybrid Publishing”	On June 22, 2017, Brooke Warner gave the radio TED talk, “Green-Light Revolution: Your Creative Life on Your Terms.” She is a publisher at 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> , a regular <i>Huffington Post</i> 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. TheWriteLife.com named her website one of Top 100 Best Websites for Writers. Warner lives and works in Berkeley, CA.

Summer Break: July & August

Sept.9	Matthew Zapruder TBD	Matthew Zapruder is an associate professor in the Saint Mary's College of CA MFA Program in Creative Writing, and editor-at-large for Wave Books. From 2016-17 he was Editor of the Poetry Column for the <i>New York Times Magazine</i> . He authored several poetry collections, most recently <i>Sun Bear</i> (2014), and <i>Why Poetry</i> (2017), a book of prose about poetry, Ecco/Harper Collins. With Brian Henry, Zapruder co-founded Verse Press, which later became Wave Books.
Oct.13	Penny Warner TBD	Warner has published over 60 fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children which have been translated for 16 countries. Twice Penny has won the Agatha Award for Best Children's Mystery and was nominated for the World Mystery Anthony Award for Best Children's Mystery. She has appeared on dozens of national television shows on stations including PBS, ABC, CBS and NBC. She has been teaching child development for over 30 years, writes a column for a local newspaper, and creates fund-raising murder mystery events for libraries across the country. A Mt. Diablo member recently heard her speak and described her as funny and informative.
Nov10	David Corbett “The Compass of Character”	After a career as a high-profile private investigator, Corbett turned to writing in 2000. His first novel was nominated for both the Anthony and Barry Awards for Best First Novel of 2002. He has since published 5 more novels. He also wrote a nonfiction book, <i>The Art of the Character</i> . He will discuss identifying your character's deepest longings, exploring their resistance to pursuing them, and revealing how that conflict generates behavior.
Dec. 8	Three of Our Own	Our December meeting is a festive, sit-down meal where three members are invited to speak on a particular theme.

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

Reminder re Our Branch Website

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org>

Members may show some of their work on our branch website. Profiles may include a short bio, author photo, link to your website, up to two recent contest wins or awards and two book covers. If you are a current member and want to add or update your profile, submit your information [here](#). This will take you to the profile form page which you can fill out.

Time to Renew/Join Mt. Diablo CWC

Please visit <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/membership/> If renewing, click and follow the instructions using check or PayPal to pay or see below to mail a check. Renewal is \$45 annual membership, \$25 for dual membership.

If your address has changed, please note the change so it can be updated in branch records.

If you are a member and there are no changes to your information, you can just mail a check or credit card info to the address below or hand it in to the membership chair, David George, or the treasurer, Lucy Hart, at meeting check in. Please indicate MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To apply for a **new membership**, an application is required and a copy of one of your stories or articles published or unpublished. The directions on the membership page on the website explain more. Go to the bottom of the middle column on the membership page and click on Let's Start.

Payment by check

Make your \$45 check payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch" and mail to:

CWC- Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507.

Payment by credit card

Please provide the following information:

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date (month/year) _____

Name as it appears on the credit card _____

Billing zip code _____ Security code on back of card _____

Donation to the Young Writers Program

Add the amount to your \$45 membership renewal and indicate the donation.

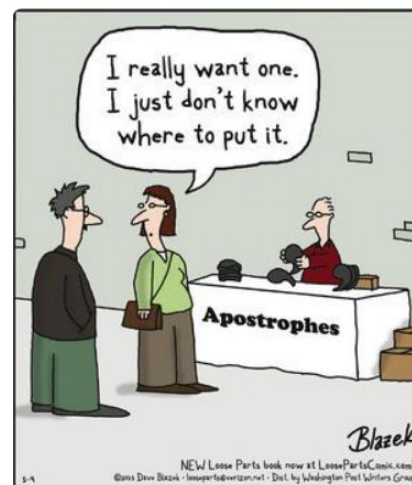
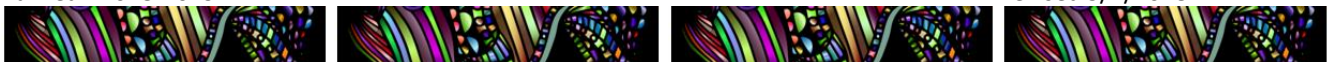
Security Note: Membership information is not made public at any time.

If you have questions, contact David George via email at davegeorge7@comcast.net

REMEMBER!! If you renew your membership before May 31, your name will be in a drawing for a \$25 meeting discount.

Renewal Year: 2018-2019

Revised 5/1/2018



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 CWC year you donate (e.g. 9/18 -6/19.) Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

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. See our branch website for this year's winners: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/2018-ywc-contest/>

The Mt. Diablo Branch holds an awards luncheon in May honoring the winners.

All program expenses are supported by individual donations. 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