



The Write News Mt Diablo

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

November 2018

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

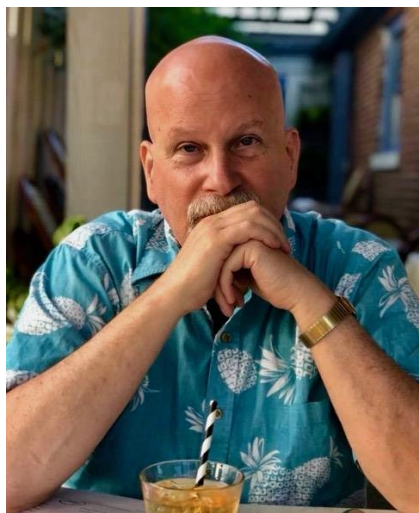
November 10, 2018 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

THE COMPASS OF CHARACTER

Featuring

David Corbett

Award-winning author David Corbett will reveal how to build complex characters that generate compelling stories.



You'll learn:

- How to identify your characters' deepest yearnings
- How to explore the various sources of resistance to pursuing those yearnings
- How to reveal the conflict between yearning and resistance in behavior.

David Corbett is the award-winning author of the writing guide *The Art of Character* ("A writer's bible," says author Elizabeth Brundage) and six novels, including *The Long-Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday* (August 2018.) His short fiction has been selected twice for *Best American Mystery Stories*, and his non-fiction has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Narrative*, *Bright Ideas*, and *Writer's Digest* where he is a contributing editor. www.davidcorbett.com

Sign-in starts at 11:00 am. Writers Table 11:15 – 12 noon. 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, November 7th, 2018.** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org>

Memo from a Member: Kymberlie Ingalls

As writers, we may have a collective goal – to be read – but to achieve this goal, each of us has individual validations that drive us. For me, it is important to be heard more than anything else. While I’m quite proficient at putting words to paper and generating emotion in others, when I read my work aloud or have a natural conversation with individuals, or even addressing a crowd in a casual manner – that’s when I feel empowered.



I recently did a reading at another CWC branch, and came away from it feeling it was my best effort to date. When I said to my group at yet another branch that I’d had a “rock star” kind of moment, someone asked me why I felt that way. My answer was this: For the first time, I owned it. I had something of value to say which gave me the confidence to speak loud and clear, make eye contact, and to embrace the connective energy of the audience. It was bold, energizing, and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

No matter the genre, it’s that connection we crave – to tell stories that will touch someone else’s life. Some of us imagine fantastical places, some bring history back to life. We walk on the moon, dive under the sea, find hidden worlds and solve complex mysteries. Some of us simply tell the moments of our lives, turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. We live among ghosts and characters who rely on us to tell their stories as much as our own.

And we hope to be read.

We are the California Writers Club.



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NEXT BOARD MEETING



Nov 10, 10-11:00 a.m. Zio Fraedo’s

Come join us!



Member Events, News and Salutes

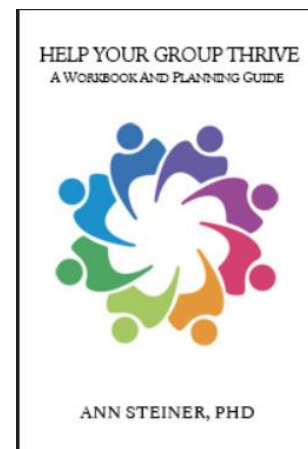


This section of the newsletter is regularly open to members to submit information about milestones in your writing journey. Publish a book? Planning a reading at a bookstore or county fair? Speaking somewhere? Win an IPPY or other significant prize? Is your play being produced? The TV or movie version of your writing will be out soon? Let us know here. elisabethtuck@yahoo.com

Ann Steiner

This easy-to-use manual is recommended for leaders of all types of groups - discussion groups, peer support, organizations, book clubs, writer's groups and workplace teams. You'll find discussion of the different types of groups, leadership styles and roles. Worksheets help you figure out your preferred leadership style, along with facilitation tools, sample group agreements, and numerous modifiable written forms for starting and maintaining effective groups. Practical advice and worksheets help you design your group, select potential members, and understand common group challenges. These valuable tools will take you from defining your group's mission to helping your group thrive.

Published by Routledge Press, London, April, 2018



Here is a link to order directly from the publisher, Routledge: <https://tinyurl.com/yaqsquc7> For a 20% Discount Code: FLR40, Free Shipping – or through your local bookseller or on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/Help-Your-Group-Thrive-psychoanalysts/dp/1782205616?>



Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print, cut out and fill in the coupon below to 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 2018 coupon

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

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 (Cont'd)



**Jill Hedgecock
David George
Ann Steiner**

Check out the November 2018 issue of the *Diablo Gazette*. Three of our members appear here: <http://www.diablogazette.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Diablo-Gazette-NOV2018-Digi.pdf> In addition to our member contributors, there is a wealth of information about activities in Concord and Clayton. Even if you don't live in one of those communities, you are likely to learn and to enjoy this online publication.

Jill reviews *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff which "provides insights into the lives of German traveling circus performers under Nazi rule in the 1940s. It is also a tale of hiding Jews in plain sight during the final years of World War II."

Jill's article "A Guide to Managing Family Dynamics over the Holidays" shows the helpful ideas that Ann's book *Help Your Group Thrive* offers and can be applied to any group. **Dr. Ann Steiner** explains that conflict in families and groups is normal and suggests that the Thanksgiving holiday offers a unique opportunity to show appreciation. She offers a proactive road map to steer your gathering from challenging conflicts to happy concordance.

Jill's column "Ruby Dooby Do to the Rescue" this month features the background of a rescued black lab ready for a new home.

David's column about organic gardening is titled "The Naked Gardener" where he explains how composting works and gives tips on making it easy to end up with nutritious soil.



Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Fundraiser Judges Needed

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a national contest for students in **grades 7 – 12** is coming up. The Scholastic organization pays our branch \$2,000 for 15 judges to read the submissions they send us. We can use for contest prizes for members, the Young Writers Contest, or 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.



We're Making Changes to our Young Writers Contest

by Marlene Dotterer

Each year when we hold the Young Writers Contest, we learn about something that's not working as well as it should. Often, it's something we can easily fix, but sometimes a real change is needed. This year we are implementing a big change and we thought we'd let you know about it early.

The YWC awards ceremony has a new day and venue.

For many years, we've held the ceremony at Zio Fraedo's on our regular May meeting date. Not this year!

The new date and venue for 2019 will be May 18th at National University in Pleasant Hill. This will allow us to shorten the program (a plus for active middle-schoolers), serve simple refreshments, and maybe have more interaction between students and judges.

What does this mean for you?

It means you can plan on a regular CWC meeting on May 11. Go ahead and put it on your calendar. In the meantime, our program committee (Jill Hedgecock, Elisabeth Tuck, Lyn Roberts and Al Garroto) will perform their magic to provide a productive and entertaining program for you.

We are looking forward to another enjoyable contest with our talented local teens. We hope you'll help us by judging entries, assisting with the program, attending the awards ceremony and donating to the contest at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>.

Volunteerism - How to Involve and Inspire

by: Kymberlie Ingalls

CWC NorCal Leadership Conference, 2018



Why volunteer?

- Opportunity to give back to a community
- To educate others using your personal and professional skills
- Develop new skills, build on existing experiences or knowledge
- Create awareness to something you believe in
- Bonus experience on resumes and offers a great reference
- Meet new people and expand your networks

Volunteering keeps the wheels turning in any organization so that we, as a whole, are able to maintain the structure as well as to make things happen. Working as a team, we are able to help bring ideas to life, to help each other and ourselves shine. Great ideas always begin somewhere, why not in you?

How to ask for help:

- Get to know the newcomers. Learn their reason for joining or being present. Don't survey them; engage in conversation. Don't come at them in their first meeting. Let them know that you hope they'll return.
- Give people space to consider what you're asking them to do. Encourage, don't sell.

It isn't unusual to find fault and even chaos in any group that relies on volunteers – we all have limits and often take on positions that aren't in our skill set because we have the desire to help. By offering our help, we have the chance to become part of the solution rather than the easier way from the sidelines of complaining about the problems.

Goals:

- To embrace a challenge that has the potential to better ourselves
- Emotional rewards
- Provide or to learn leadership
- To help evolve and keep things moving forward

Leaders – it is our responsibility to provide this experience by practicing patience, employing our best communication skills, listening more than lecturing, and keeping the greater good in mind at all times.

Members – it is our responsibility to give back that which we wish to receive.

Preventing burn out:

- Be honest (but not discouraging) about what the task entails – verbally, by email, provide a list of expected tasks. Put them in touch with someone to answer their questions.
- Take care not to overwhelm anyone with more than they can handle. Accept what they can offer and respect their boundaries. Create a team if needed.
- Don't create unrealistic expectations
- Look to the skill set and work with that rather than trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. People feel more accomplished when they are comfortable in their jobs. Failure creates unneeded stress. It isn't always possible to have the perfect fit, but it's important to exercise patience in those situations.
- Encourage breaks after a suggested term commitment, let them enjoy being a member again. They may find they'd like to return later to a different role.

Volunteerism - How to Involve and Inspire (Cont'd)

Avoiding conflict: It isn't easy for any one person to be positive every minute of every day. Our best practice as a leader *and* as a volunteer is to communicate as best as we can. Misunderstandings happen, but rather than let it build to conflict, talk with each other. Also understand that personalities clash sometimes. If you find that you truly can't work with an individual, express your concerns and consider moving on or away from the situation. We're human.

Most important is to remember that we are an organization of *writers!* A core issue often stated is that as we involve ourselves, we lose the time we'd like to devote to our work. Encourage members to participate, but breathing space is of utmost priority.

Respect one another, and create the environment you wish to be a part of. Keep in mind the mission of the California Writers Club:

We shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership.



You in the Newsletter: Ceci Pugh's 100-Word Stories

Engine Trouble

The burning cigarette hung from her lips like a small appendage. Bleached blond hair fell loosely about her shoulders. Tattoos covered her arms.

"Car trouble? No gas station fer miles."

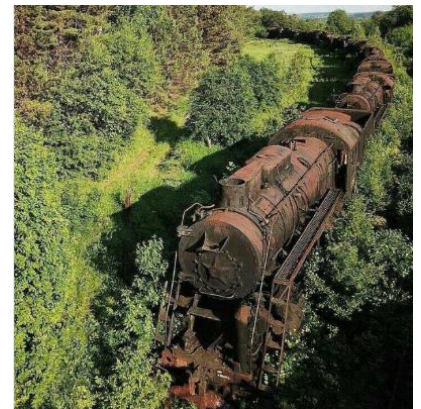
"It's getting dark, yer gonna need a place to stay tonight."

The options to take an offer from a stranger or spend the night off a dark road seem bleak.

"Any bed and breakfast nearby?"

"Mine. Get in."

Gabby's Boarding House sign hung on the fence. A black lab with swishing tail, smiling cowboys and the whiff of fried chicken greeted the truck. I breathe in a sigh of relief.



Neighbor's Prized Plant

He explained, he must take an emergency flight to visit a dying friend and wouldn't she be willing to feed his plant? Five drops daily of his scientific formula.

Days before his return, her Mancoon cat nuzzled, causing the formula to fall, pouring onto the plant.

Distressed, Cynthia went to bed.

The next morning, she gasped in horror. Seeming alive, branches like octopus tentacles crept upward.






Specialists took samples. Authorities became involved. News channels reported. The plant continued to grow.

The neighbor never returned. Cynthia collected insurance and moved.

The area, a jungle choking off any living thing, is condemned.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS for 2018



Nov. 10 	David Corbett <i>The Compass of Character</i>	<p>After a career as a high-profile, private investigator, Corbett turned to writing and was nominated for both the Anthony and Barry Awards for Best First Novel in 2002. He has since published 5 more novels. He will teach you how to identify your character's deepest longings, explore resistance to pursuing them, and reveal how that conflict generates behavior.</p>
Dec. 8 	<p><i>Three of Our Own:</i></p> <p>Janet Finsilver Wendy Blakeley Jim Hasse</p> <p><i>Writing from Reality:</i> <i>Pitfalls and Opportunities</i></p>	<p>Our December meeting is a sit-down meal where three current branch members in a panel setting:</p> <p>Janet Finsilver, is the USA TODAY best-selling author of the Kelly Jackson mystery series. The picturesque town of Mendocino, California and their festivals have informed the writing of her 3 Kelly Jackson mysteries.</p> <p>Wendy Blakeley, memoirist and co-founder of the nonprofit, Africa Matters, will discuss sensitivities around writing about different cultures and races.</p> <p>Jim Hasse writes about intriguing, poignant, and sometimes humorous experiences influenced by his time in Vietnam as a sergeant in Special Forces for two years and in his 28-year in law enforcement career. He was a criminal investigator, an undercover narcotics detective, and a U.S. Postal Inspector. Earning a master's degree in counseling, he became a drug and alcohol rehabilitation counselor.</p>
Jan 12 	Kevin Fisher Paulson <i>The Process of Creativity</i>	
Feb 9	TBA	
Mar. 9 	C.S. Lakin <i>Layering your Novel</i> WORKSHOP	<p>C. S. Lakin is a multi-published novelist and writing coach. She works full-time as a copyeditor and critiques about two hundred manuscripts a year. Layer your novel to success with this innovative, simple technique!</p>
Apr. 13 	Elizabeth Stark	<p>Fresh from the October SonomaCountyWritersCamp.com</p> <p>StoryMakersShow.com</p>
May 11	TBA	
June 8	TBA	

We're always looking for speakers. If you've heard a great speaker on writing/publishing/editing topics, email Programs Chair Jill Hedgecock at hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net



Things to Do

SUBMIT YOUR BEST WORK TO THE CWC *LITERARY REVIEW*

By Joyce Krieg

The California Writers Club is looking for great writing from our members for publication in the 2019 CWC *Literary Review*.

Submissions are now being accepted in four categories: fiction, poetry, memoir and essay. For guidelines and the required submission form, go to the CWC website, <https://calwriters.org>

This year instead of the traditional Managing Editor, the *Literary Review* is chaired by four volunteers: Tish Davidson (Fremont Area Writers), Kimberly Edwards (Sacramento), June Gillam (San Joaquin Valley) and CWC President Joyce Krieg. The team points out that even though the publication has “literary” in its title, genre fiction is welcome, as are pieces that are humorous or deal with lighter themes and topics. The emphasis is simply on good writing that entertains, informs or inspires, regardless of style or subject matter.

The CWC *Literary Review* offers members the opportunity to showcase their work in a high quality, glossy print magazine that is sent through the U.S. mail to some 2,000 fellow CWC members. Publication of the next edition is slated for May or June of 2019.

The 2019 California Writers Club LITERARY REVIEW



Next Bay Area Book Festival: May 04-05, 2019

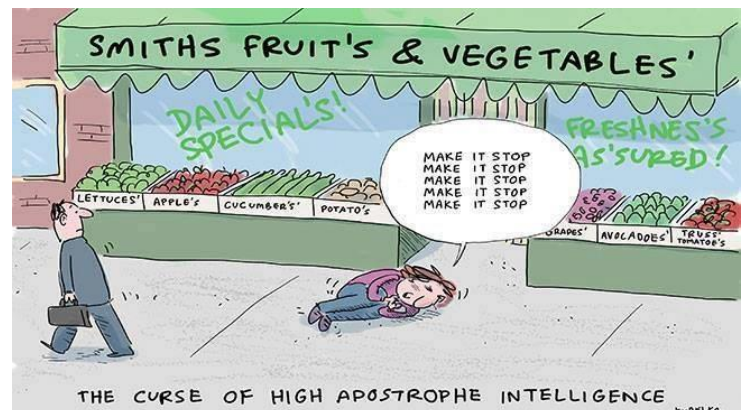
The 9 a.m.–6 p.m. festival features authors who appear in keynotes, interviews or panels. Exhibitors fill downtown Berkeley streets. The nonprofit festival also features a large kids' stage and other family activities.

To sign up to be an exhibitor see <https://www.baybookfest.org/2018-exhibitor-registration/>

There is a fee to have a table. (ed. Note: I couldn't see the cost!) They expect around 120 exhibitors and 10,000 visitors over the weekend.



The streets were oddly deserted that night.



Things to Do (Cont'd)

Attend a Mt. Diablo Writers Table Gathering at 11:15 before the meeting.

Brought to you by John Marvin & Bill Stong

November 10

Book Trailers Part 2: Script Writing and Marketing

"Become a Movie Producer: Using a Professional Book Trailer Service"

Led by **Jill Hedgecock**

Amazon now offers a space for video trailers This is what to look for:

Part 1 of the Book Trailer presentation by Judith Ingram at the June 2018 Writers Table provided a do-it-yourself option for book trailer creation.

In Part 2, Jill will provide an alternative for planning and preparing your video project using a professional service. Jill will walk you through how she wrote a script to quickly capture the essence of her debut novel *Rhino in the Room* and worked with Chasing Light Studios to select voice-overs and images to develop a one-minute video trailer. She will also suggest resources to market the finished book trailer. Even if you opt to create your own book trailer, you'll find value in attending.

Please join us on November 10, 2018, and learn how to bring your books to life with stunning visual and audio trailers.

We're looking forward to seeing you there! Best regards.

December 8 – No Writers Table due to our festive seasonal meeting

January 12 – Panel on Social Media

"Got platform?" 3 Panelists TBD

February 9 – Panel on Mt. Diablo Member Benefits

"Got your back." 3 Panelists TBD

March 9 – No Writers Table due to workshop

April 13 – Panel on Editing

"A Third Eye..." 3 Panelists TBD

May 11 – TBD

June 8 – Writing Craft (format TBD)

"Polish It & It Might Shine."

Related Video Shorts (0) [Upload your video](#)



Be the first video

Your name here





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 Aug 2018

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
Kathy Urban

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

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

Chloe Laube
Edward Stanislawski

Judy Ingram
Patty Northlich

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

Robin Gigoux
Fran Cain
Phyllis Nagel



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:

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>

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: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>



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

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL CONTEST