



# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter  
Elisabeth Tuck, editor

December 2018

Saturday December 8, 2018—11:00 to 2:00pm

## Writing from Reality: Opportunities & Pitfalls

**FESTIVE HOLIDAY SEATED LUNCHEON**

**with THREE OF OUR OWN**

**Janet Finsilver, Jim Hasse & Wendy Blakeley**

**Special Meal Selection:**

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



### Janet Finsilver

- Opportunities and pitfalls when writing about a real place.
- Should you include your pet (dog) in your books?
- Advantages and disadvantages of writing a series.

### Jim Hasse

- How does Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) manifest during the writing process?
- How does journaling and short story writing help in writing from reality?
- What is the value of working in a group setting?



### Wendy Blakeley

- How I found a story in my memoir that makes it a meaningful book to read.
- How I rose to the challenge and overcame self-doubt: "Who am I to write about Africa?"
- How I dealt with delicate subjects, depicting people and incidents that are not flattering but were important to the story.

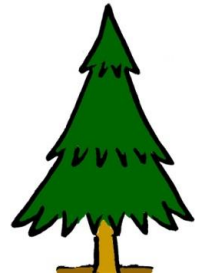


**Sign-in** 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Members display and sell their books** until our Seated Luncheon 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Speakers 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$25 members, \$30 guests.

**Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday, December 5th.** To reserve a spot **and order your lunch**, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org>

## *Memo from a Member:* David George

The last time I was asked to write a monthly President's message was 8 years ago this month! Since I am considered a Club greybeard now, I have taken on a de-facto role as branch historian. I joined the CWC in January, 2004 and have spent many years volunteering for various branch and state organization roles. So, I have a perspective on the history of the Club to share with you this month.



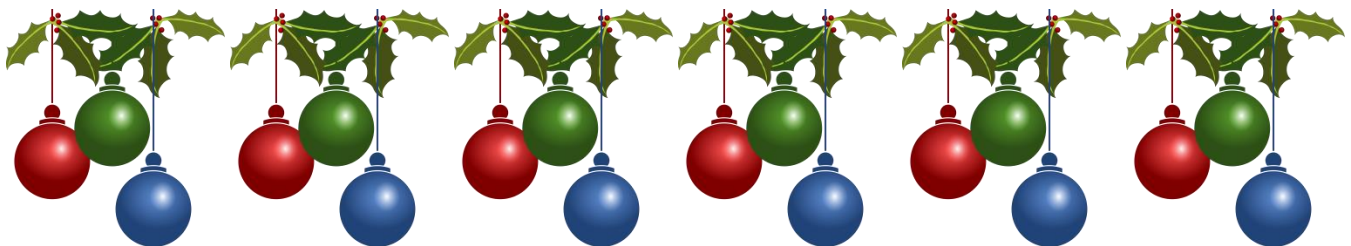
You may have heard that the California Writers Club was founded in 1909 as the "Press Club of Alameda" in Oakland. Founders included Ina Coolbrith, the Oakland Librarian and California poet-laureate, Joaquin Miller, another famous poet of the time (and owner of the Oakland property that is now Joaquin Miller Park), and other writer and poet friends of celebrity author, Jack London. But Jack did NOT continue his membership when it was incorporated in 1913 as the California Writers Club. The new leaders chose the motto "Sail On!" from Joaquin Miller's poem, "[Columbus](#)" that was standard reading for all California elementary school students.

Early *honorary* members included Mr. London, George Sterling, and John Muir. The existing "Writers Memorial Grove" at Joaquin Miller Park celebrates California's great writers with the planting of redwood trees. The first tree was planted for Joaquin Miller. Bret Harte, Charles Warren Stoddard, Edward Roland Sill, Ina Coolbrith, Jack London, Mark Twain, Charles Fletcher Lummis, and Edwin Markham are so honored as well as Dashiell Hammett, Gertrude Stein, and historians Will and Ariel Durant.

The first branch of the Club was relocated to Berkeley and was joined by a second branch in Sacramento in 1925 to promote literary education legislation. In fact, the State Legislature passed a resolution in the 1980s honoring the first week of October each year as California Writers Week. The Club has now grown to 22 branches throughout the state with over 2,000 published and aspiring members.

Our Mt. Diablo Branch was founded by former Berkeley Branch members, being chartered on June 6, 1987. Some of you may remember our founders: Ted Fuller, Helen McGrath, Bobbie Davis, and Sheryl Hacker. Other early members included Mary Anne Dolan, Beverly Lauderdale, Maureen Biro, Virginia Jones, and Betty Tenney, some of whom are still active members. Our branch now averages 135-150 members each year.

Celebrate the rich history of our venerable Club with me at our annual holiday gathering at Zio Fraedo's on December 8<sup>th</sup>!



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## 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: Jan 12, 10-11:00am Zio Fraedo's.**

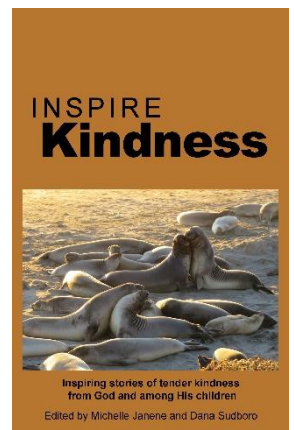


## Member Events, News and Salutes



### Judy Ingram

I am thrilled to have my article, "Enemy or Neighbor?" chosen for inclusion in a new anthology, *Inspire Kindness*, to be released December 8, 2018, by Inspire Press. The ninth in a series of anthologies from Inspire Christian Writers, each edition features stories, poems, articles, and devotionals meant to inspire and encourage readers in their daily lives. I had the good fortune to have two articles published in their 2015 anthology, titled *Inspire Forgiveness*, and I'm grateful to stand with authors who write with courage and honesty about human struggles we all face.



For more information about the online writers group, Inspire Christian Writers, please visit their website at <https://www.inspirewriters.com/>. You can order anthologies directly from their website or through Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

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

**REMEMBER TO BRING BOOKS YOU'VE WRITTEN TO  
DISPLAY AND SELL AT THE DECEMBER MEETING.**

## ***Writers Table Schedule for 2019 thru June:***

**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.”



## ***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 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.**





2019

## Our Upcoming Programs

<b>Jan 12</b> 	<b>Kevin Fisher Paulson</b>  <i>The Process of Creativity</i>	Kevin Fisher-Paulson will discuss the craft of writing from the perspective of purpose and structure. He will explore how the writing process begins with a commitment to the creative self. As Kevin explains, everyone has an autobiography but not everyone has a memoir. Everyone has instructions, but not everyone has a poem. Kevin will talk about choices, not habits that usher the individual through the creative door. A series of prompts for the real life that morph into prompts for the imaginative life will be provided.
<b>Feb 9</b> 	<b>Steven Nightingale</b>  <i>The Arts of Language</i>	Steven Nightingale is the author of ten books: two novels, six books of sonnets, a long essay on the city of Granada, Spain, and a book of short fiction entitled <i>The Hot Climate of Promises and Grace</i> . He is a graduate of Stanford University
<b>Mar. 9</b> 	<b>Susanne Lakin</b> <b>WORKSHOP</b>	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!
<b>Apr. 13</b> 	<b>Elizabeth Stark</b>	Host of Story Makers Podcast (StoryMakersShow.com), author of the novel <i>Shy Girl</i> (FSG, Seal Press) and co-director and co-writer of several films, including <i>FtF: Female to Femme</i> , a creative documentary and <i>Little Mutinies</i> , a short (both distributed by Frameline.) She earned an M.F.A. from Columbia University in Creative Writing and has taught at the Pratt Institute, UCSC, St. Mary's where she was the visiting distinguished writer, and elsewhere. She co-directs and teaches at BookWritingWorld.com and SonomaCountyWritersCamp.com. Elizabeth is currently producing a feature film called <i>Lost in the Middle</i> , and is finishing a novel.
<b>May 11</b>	<b>TBA</b>	
<b>June 8</b>	<b>TBA</b>	

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

## Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Fundraiser Judges Needed

Once again, our branch has been called to judge entries for the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards contest. The Scholastic organization pays our branch \$2,000 for 15 judges to read submissions from students in grades 7 through 12 in this national contest.



We need at least five more judges to volunteer. All reading is done online, on your own schedule, between December 28, 2018, and January 11, 2019. No need to give feedback, just a grade based on their criteria. We will train you to use Scholastic's program. You won't be on your own. It's easy and fun!

If you have already signed up to judge, THANK YOU!

If you would like to help or want more information, please contact President Marlene Dotterer at [cmdotterer@gmail.com](mailto:cmdotterer@gmail.com).

*Don't let the holiday rush distract you!  
Sign up NOW!*

## *You in the Newsletter: 100-Word Stories*



### **Perfection**

By Chloe Laube

Adonis passed by. Turning in our direction, his lips curl into a slight smile.

Like deer in headlights, we stop in our tracks.

Our eyes linger—hypnotized by the up and down movement of his posterior, fitted tee shirt, designer jeans and broad, chiseled shoulders. Each step: slow, deliberate and confident.

“Don’t see his kind in Walmart,” I muttered.

“Damn!” My daughter retorted. “There goes Oregon’s finest.”

Between bursts of laughter we walk away. As a final salute to perfection, she gives him a thumb-up farewell salute; just in case he had no idea he made women twitter with desire.

### **Roamer**

By Chloe Laube

Matt spent adulthood scoping the field for perfection. Each girl a catch; maybe one deserved a ring. Never satisfied, his eyes roamed from her, assessing others with x-ray vision.

He hired a beauty queen with glistening blond hair, emerald eyes and hourglass figure as his secretary. She, smitten by money—he lusting her looks; it was mutual self-love.

The third date he proposed and she accepted. On their evening of wedded bliss he suffered a stroke. In the hospital his eyes roamed the white walls, machinery hooked to his body, railings of his bed—she was nowhere to be found.

### **Used ‘n Lookin’ Fer Love**

By Chloe Laube

(Advertisement misplaced in the Personal Column)

Used car for sale. High mileage. Dents. Needs a paint job. Worn CD player and saggin’ front upholstery. Pipes are rusty. The four baldin’ tires still crawl over river beds, though their tolerance for cold water has lessened. Can’t find a better trail blazer as it has traveled miles over dusty roads and sand dunes. Some joints need oilin’ but the engine still hums, and the spark plugs fire occasionally—although a lot less than before. She just needs to percolate with high octane gas, a little WD40 and hands on lovin’ care and she’ll be like brand new again.

## *And a vignette:*

### **Hard Hat Eat**

By Linda Force

In 1980 I had the good fortune to get an assignment at a nuclear power plant under construction in Pennsylvania. On typical mornings I stopped at a little café called ***Hard Hat Eat*** for breakfast. The café had several rickety chairs and tables with chipped Formica tops. The “regulars” consisted of about five retired coal miners in their 60s. Each had weathered features. Day after day they regaled me with their incredible life stories and overcoming near death experiences in the mines. I will always remember those extraordinary men and being included in their “group” at Hard Hat Eat.

*All the best for the season to all*

*Don't Miss Robert Dugoni—an excellent speaker!*

## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CONFERENCE

**Keynote Speaker:**  
Robert Dugoni

**Presenters:**  
IngramSpark  
IBPA  
Smashwords

[conference@trivalleywriters.org](mailto:conference@trivalleywriters.org)  
[www.trivalleywriters.org](http://www.trivalleywriters.org)

**Early Bird Registration**

Members \$115  
Non-Members \$140  
Students \$80

Registration begins  
December 1, 2018

Seating is limited



**Saturday April 13, 2019**  
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



**Four Points by Sheraton**  
5115 Hopyard Road  
Pleasanton, CA

## 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 Sept. 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)

**Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff**

**Ken Kirkoff**

**Kathy Urban**

**Judy Ingram**

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

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

**Edward Stanislawski**

**June Gatewood**

**Linda Force**

**George Cramer**

**Patty Northlich**

**Chloe Laube**

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

**Robin Gigoux**

**Phyllis Nagle**

**Maya Das**

**Sheryl Ruzek**

**Fran Cain**

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

