

The Write News



A Monthly Newsletter
Elisabeth Tuck, editor

February 2019

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

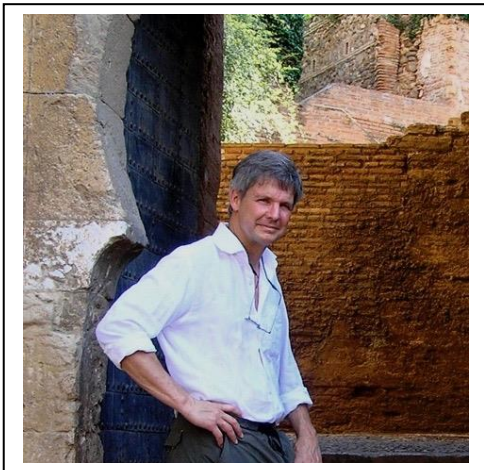
February 9, 2019 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

The Art of Language

Featuring

Steven Nightingale

“We’ll talk about the simple methods one can use to write with surety, beauty, and power. That is, to write so that it’s good for life—the life of the reader and the life of the writer. These methods are traditional and remarkable, but at present are not widely taught. So it’s a presentation of delicious secrets.”



- How stories and proverbs wake up the mind.
- How laughter leads us to energetic insights.
- What kind of daily practice has unexpected power and joyfulness.
- Why the chance to write is wild good luck.

Steven Nightingale: “I will riff, digress, muse, tell stories, and take questions. We’ll have fun.”

He will offer practical suggestions that will allow any practitioner to write like Shakespeare. If they want to.

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 *The Hot Climate of Promises and Grace*. His interests include the medieval art of Spain and Italy, the wild country of the American West and the Caribbean, astronomy, venture capital, and Emily Dickinson, whom he loves. Chief among his pleasures is teaching by invitation in schools and universities in Nevada and California. He is a graduate of Stanford University, and divides his time between the Santa Cruz Mountains of California, his beloved home state of Nevada, and the beautiful Albayzín (Albaicín), a barrio in Granada, Spain.

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. 6, 2019.** 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.

Memo from President Marlene Dotterer

The Young Writers Contest Has Begun

It's that time of year: time for our members to sign up as judges for our Young Writers Contest for middle school students. Please consider volunteering for this special event.

To volunteer as a judge, email Dot Edwards at dotuncom@gmail.com. You will be asked to attend a brief training session on one of two dates:

February 5th at 1:00 p.m.

or

February 27th at 1:00 p.m.

Select the session that works for you. We'll let you know the location detail as soon as we have it.

Weekend/weeknight sessions will be considered if needed.

The judging period is April 1 – 15, 2019.

You can choose the category and grade you'd like to judge:

Personal Narrative	6 th , 7 th , or 8 th grade
Poetry	6 th , 7 th , or 8 th grade
Short Story	6 th , 7 th , or 8 th grade
Humor	all grades



You'll need about four hours over the two-week period to read and score your assignments.

Brief History of the Young Writers Contest

Mt. Diablo Branch started the Young Writers Contest in 1995 for middle school students in the Mt. Diablo School District. There were two categories: fiction and poetry. In 1997, the contest widened to include all Contra Costa County middle school students.

The essay/personal narrative category was added in the early 2000s, when Betty Tenney, a long-time writer club member, died and her family donated money for that award. Around 2014, another member, Lee Paulson, gave a donation to start a category for humor. We've combined the grades in this category due to the initial low number of entries, but it is growing. 2018 was the first year we had enough submissions in this category to offer 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.

In 2015, the branch bravely stepped into the new century by migrating the contest online, using the program, Submittable. This has enabled us to reach many more schools, teachers, and students.

In 2018, we received 344 submissions from students at 19 schools in Contra Costa County. We give cash prizes to 30 winners - \$100 for 1st place (10 winners), \$50 for 2nd place (10 winners), and \$25 for 3rd place (10 winners).

Donations to the YWC are always welcome. See the last page of the newsletter for information.

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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: Feb 9, 10-11:00 a.m. Zio Fraedo's.

Member Events, News and Salutes



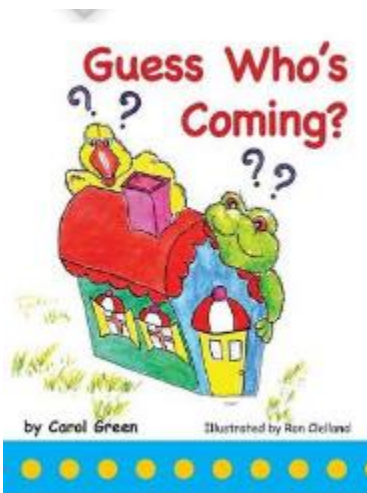
This section of the newsletter is regularly open to members to submit information about milestones in your writing journey. Publish a book? Planning a reading at a bookstore or county fair? Win an IPPY or other significant prize? Is your play being produced? The TV or movie version of your writing will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

JIM HASSE

Jim sold a flash fiction piece about a veteran to Downstate Story, an on-line journal published annually by Western Illinois University. The journal features writers with an Illinois connection. Jim is from Carbondale, Illinois and has his BA and MA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He's a retired US postal inspector, was a drug and alcohol treatment counselor, and is now a writer.

Read Jim's story at: <https://www.downstatestory.com/2018-hasse/>

CAROL GREEN



Carol Green was inspired to write *Guess Who's Coming*, a children's picture book when her younger daughter was expecting her second child. This page turner keeps the reader guessing when it's not an alligator, frog, or cow or comes by truck, train or plane, but comes by God's special delivery. It's a baby that you can cuddle, and coo and tell stories to.

This book will help an older sibling prepare for the new arrival. It can be ordered on Amazon.

An elementary school teacher, Carol retired from teaching when she began to lose her eyesight. She uses a talking computer which she affectionately calls George. A number of her stories,

poems, and articles have been published by various publishers. She grew up in Chicago and graduated from Northwestern. She lives in Rossmoor and enjoys many concerts as well as water aerobics. Carol is legally blind and has attended many meetings in the past with Susan Lawson's help. Contact Carol through Susan's email (susanelawson@comcast.net). Carol's five grandchildren make up her most enthusiastic fan club and call her Gramscracker.



Meet New Members

John Schembra spent a year with the 557th Military Police Company at Long Binh, South Vietnam in 1970. His time as a combat M.P. provided the basis of his first book, *M.P., A Novel of Vietnam*, a work of fiction based in part on his personal experiences. It is the story of an average American young man (Vince Torelli) drafted into the army in 1968 and chronicles his tour of duty during the war.

Upon completing his military service, John joined the Pleasant Hill Police Department, where, after 30 years of service, he retired in 2001 as a sergeant. He then joined the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department as the lead EVOG (emergency vehicle operations course) instructor for the Sheriff's Office Police Academy. John has been designated by the State of California as a subject matter expert in emergency vehicle operations.



In addition to *M.P.*, John has had several articles published in law enforcement periodicals, including, *Law and Order*, *Police Officer's Quarterly*, and *The Backup*. He is also a contributing author in *True Blue – Police Stories by Those Who Have Lived Them*, a collection of short stories released by St. Martin's Press.

His second novel *Retribution*, a fictional story of the hunt for a serial killer in San Francisco, published in the spring of 2007, was awarded the Silver Medal for writing excellence by the Military Writer's Society of America.

His third novel, *Diplomatic Immunity*, the story of a deadly sniper killing foreign consuls in San Francisco, was published in 2012. The three books are part of the Vince Torelli series.

John's fourth book, *Sin Eater*, a paranormal thriller, is now available in both electronic and print.

His fifth book, *Blood Debt*, the fourth in the Torelli series is being edited at the publisher and should be released by April, 2019.






John is currently hard at work on his sixth book, *Echoes of Lies*, another paranormal thriller. John lives in Concord with Charlene, his wife of 46 years.

Maureen Boyd Biro (mboydbiro@comcast.net). Maureen has been a dual member for many years but has moved her primary branch affiliation to Mt. Diablo.

Read about Maureen and her writing successes at: <http://www.maureenboydbiro.com/>



Our Upcoming Programs for 2019

Feb. 9 	Steven Nightingale <i>The Art 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.
Mar. 9 	C.S. Lakin WORKSHOP <i>Four Key Pillars of Novel Structure</i>	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.
Apr. 13 	Elisabeth Stark Scene-making: The Essence of Storytelling	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. Elisabeth is currently producing a feature film called <i>Lost in the Middle</i> , and is finishing a novel.
May 11 	Rachel Herron	TBD
June 8 	Bel McNeill <i>What Bookstore Owners Look For</i>	Owner of Lafayette's Bel and Bunna Books

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

PLATFORMS FOR YOUR BOOK TRAILER

By Jill Hedgecock, author *Rhino in the Room*

trailer: <https://vimeo.com/287911864>

Virtual and Social Media

- Your blog
- www.trailshelf.com (free or expanded services)
- www.bookreels.com (free) (choose lots of relevant categories)
- Smashwords profile (must be u-tube)
- Vimeo (profile)
- Facebook
- Instagram videos
- Tumblr (can post from [bookreels.com](http://www.bookreels.com))
- Author Central – Amazon
- U-Tube (include keyword tags, a clear title & description so your video is findable)

- www.GoodReads.com

Events, Advertising, and Special Opportunities

- Book Launch (ipad – book events)
- Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa Calendar - <http://www.zoomaru5.com/index.php?id=0&display=&portal=contracostaarts>
- For Children's Books and SCBWI Members – Launch Year: SCBWI Bookstop (10/23 to 12/7) \$25 ad includes slot for video

Writers Table for February 2019

February 9 – “Got your back” Panel on Mt. Diablo Member Benefits

Panelists

Marlene Dotterer –	Website
Deborah Greenberg –	Critique Groups
Elisabeth Tuck –	Helpful Editor



Members of Mt. Diablo Branch have automatic access to a huge range of benefits. If you aren't taking advantage of them, please join our *Writers Table* on some of the key benefits aimed directly at helping writers. We will cover the branch website (a great part of YOUR platform), critique groups (great for supportive feedback on your writing), and Helpful Editor (good for helping with writing problems.)

Begins at 11:15 a.m. (there will be signs directing interested members to the table)

March 9 – No Writers Table due to workshop

April 13 – Panel on Editing
“A

May 11 – TBD

June 8 – Writing Craft (format TBD)
“Polish It & It Might Shine.”



Poetry Course Opportunity with David Alpaugh

David Alpaugh alpaugh.david@gmail.com will be teaching a course on T. S. Eliot’s poetry for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Cal State East Bay, Concord campus. The first class is **February 5** at 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. for five consecutive sessions ending March 5.

Whether you’ve been reading Eliot for years or want to experience him for first time, I plan to present his poetry in interesting ways while exploring the personal and literary circumstances that turned “Young Tom” into “T. S.” and led to his becoming the most innovative, mesmerizing, and enigmatic poet of the first half of the 20th Century. We’ll have some fun along the way with the possum behind the musical CATS via takes by Joseph Heller (from *Catch 22*) and Henry Reed.

For a course description and enrollment information, click on this link:

<https://www.scholarolli.com/product/programs/courses/t-s-eliot-an-old-possum-retrospective/>

Published poet, Alpaugh, is a graduate of Rutgers University and the University of California, Berkeley. He teaches poetry for the UC Berkeley Extension and at the Osher Lifelong Learning. A popular performer of his own poetry, he hosted monthly poetry readings in the SF Bay area for fifteen years and has been a finalist for Poet Laureate of California. Read more at <http://www.davidalpaugh.com/>

Writer Advice Flash Memoir Contest

Dazzle, delight, and entice us. 750 words or less. Low fee for detailed feedback from award-winning author, B Lynn Goodwin plus the chance to earn a cash prize and publication. Deadline: 03/01/19. Fee and details: www.writeradvice.com.



2019 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE

NEW LOCATION at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero

Main Conference: Thursday, February 14th through Sunday, February 18th, 2019

Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community for Writers

<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 Kymberlie Ingalls at: kymberliecwc@gmail.com Remember, we are sharing our writing stories, our connections through the CWC, our understanding of the CWC and meeting new friends.

Mt. Diablo Branch's Young Writers Contest 2019

This annual contest is proudly sponsored by the Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club. Contest is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who live in or attend school in Contra Costa County. Categories include short story, poetry, personal narrative and humor.

DEADLINE: Manuscripts must be received by **9:00 p.m. on March 25, 2019**. Winners will be notified by email by April 20, 2019. Non-winners will not be notified.



TEACHERS: STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR STORIES AND POEMS THEMSELVES. We are striving to encourage individual creativity and expression. Do not send entire class assignments. Each submission requires individual student information.

PARENTS: Parents of winning students will be requested to give permission for the child to be photographed for print, videotaped, or electronically imaged and agree to allow his or her child's picture to appear in newspapers, news releases, and/or other published formats.

PRIZES: Winning *short stories* and *poems* from each grade level will receive \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second prize and \$25 for third prize.

The *Humor Award* of \$100 will be awarded to one winner (combined grades) or one winner in each grade level, at the judges' discretion.

The *Betty Tenney Personal Narrative Award* of \$100 will be given to the best personal narrative in each grade.

Second and third place prizes may be awarded in the personal narrative category at the judges' discretion.

Manuscripts are accepted
via [Submittable.com](https://www.submittable.com)
January 15 – March 25,
2019.

Prizes will be presented to winners on **May 18, 2019**. Further information on the awards ceremony will be provided to the winners. Parents are welcome. Teachers of winning students will be invited to attend the ceremony.

CWC is a federal non-profit 501(c)(3) <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/> Questions? Email us at youngwriters@cwcmtdiablo.org.



Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print this page, write your name on the coupon, cut it out, attend the January meeting, put the coupon in the glass/basket/bag 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 2019 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!



THE 3RD TRI-VALLEY WRITERS CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker:
Robert Dugoni

Presenters:
IngramSpark
IBPA
Smashwords

conference@trivalleywriters.org
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

How to Download the Books That Just Entered the Public Domain

Starting at midnight on January 1, tens of thousands of books (as well as movies, songs, and cartoons) entered the public domain, meaning that people [can download, share, or repurpose](#) these works for free and without retribution under US copyright law.

Per the [Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act](#) of 1998, “corporate” creations (like Mickey Mouse) can be restricted under copyright law for 120 years. But per an amendment to the act, works published between [1923 and 1977](#) can enter the public domain 95 years after their creation. This means that this is the [first year since 1998](#) that a large number of works have entered the public domain—including works by Virginia Woolf, Agatha Christie, and Robert Frost.

If you can’t find a book on one site, you can probably find it on another. For instance, [ReadPrint.com](#), as well as [The Literature Network](#) (mostly major authors), and [Librivox](#) (audio books), [Authorama](#) (all in the public domain), and [over a dozen other sites](#) all have vast selections of free ebooks.

There’s also a handful of archiving projects that are doing extensive work to digitize books, journals, music, and other forms of media. A blog post from Duke University’s Center for the Study of the Public Domain [listed some of the most recognizable works](#) published in 1923, as well as links to download these books on digital archiving projects Internet Archive, HathiTrust, and the Gutenberg Project. The books include:

- Edgar Rice Burroughs, [Tarzan and the Golden Lion](#)
- Agatha Christie, [The Murder on the Links](#)
- Winston S. Churchill, [The World Crisis](#)
- Robert Frost, [New Hampshire](#)
- Kahlil Gibran, [The Prophet](#)
- Aldous Huxley, [Antic Hay](#)
- D.H. Lawrence, [Kangaroo](#)
- Bertrand and Dora Russell, [The Prospects of Industrial Civilization](#)
- Carl Sandburg, [Rootabaga Pigeons](#)
- Edith Wharton, [A Son at the Front](#)
- P.G. Wodehouse, [The Inimitable Jeeves](#) and [Leave it to Psmith](#)
- Virginia Woolf, [Jacob's Room](#)
- E.E. Cummings, [Tulips and Chimneys](#)



In total HathiTrust, a massive digital archiving project, has uploaded [more than 53,000 works published in 1923](#). Over 17,650 of them are books written in English. Similarly, Internet Archive has already uploaded [over 15,000](#) works written in English that year.

[Project Gutenberg](#), which has over 58,000 free downloadable books, has digitized five works that entered the public domain in the new year: [The Meredith Mystery by Natalie Sumner Lincoln](#), [The Golden Boys Rescued by Radio L. P. Wyman](#), [White Lightning Edwin by Herbert Lewis](#), [The Garden of God by H. De Vere Stacpoole](#), and [The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran](#) or [Jacob's Room](#) by Virginia Woolf.

If you’re interested in academic papers, Reddit user nemobis also [uploaded over 1.5 million PDF files](#) of works published in academic journals before 1923. Your best bet for actually finding something you want to read in there is to know which academic paper you’re looking for beforehand and check the paper’s DOI number. Then, search for the DOI in one of nemobis’s lists of works—one list includes works published until [1909](#), the other includes works published until [1923](#).

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 Jan 2019

The Jack London Founder's Circle (\$500+)

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

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

The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club (\$100 - \$149)

Jim Hasse
David George in honor of
Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff
Ken Kirkoff
Kathy Urban
Judy Ingram
Charla Gabert

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

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

Edward Stanislawski
Linda Force
Patty Northlich
Chloe Laube

June Gatewood
George Cramer
Wendy Blakely

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

Robin Gigoux **Howard Weisman**
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/

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, CA94507 Attention: Young Writers Contest