



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

April 2019

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

April 13, 2019 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Scene Making: The Essence of Storytelling

featuring

Elizabeth Stark

In life we are often told not to "make a scene," but as writers, we must! Scene brings story alive and lets the reader experience the conflicts and revelations that challenge and change our characters.

We'll look at:



- * **Character:** Every character goes into a scene with expectations and motivations. These create the scene question, and develop reaction and emotion to the events that follow.
- * **Conflict:** Every scene really must have tension--we'll look at why that is and how the character and the obstacles come together to manifest deep conflict.
- * **Change:** We'll get down to the nuts and bolts of what happens in a scene that moves a story forward, and how to pull it off in your own writing.

Elizabeth Stark is the host of Story Makers Podcast (StoryMakersShow.com), author of the novel *Shy Girl* (FSG, Seal Press), finalist for the Ferro-Grumely and Lambda Literary Awards. She co-directed and co-wrote several films, including *FtF: Female to Femme*, a creative documentary and *Little Mutinies*, a short (both distributed by Frameline.) Elizabeth earned an M.F.A. from Columbia University in Creative Writing. A few of the places she has taught are: the Pratt Institute, UCSC, and St. Mary's, where she was the visiting distinguished writer. She currently co-directs and teaches at BookWritingWorld.com and SonomaCountyWritersCamp.com, is producing a feature film called *Lost in the Middle*, and is finishing a novel, *Optical Illusions*.

Sign-in starts at 11:00 am. Luncheon 12 - 12:45 pm. Speaker 1- 2 p.m. at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$25 members, \$30 guests. **Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Website, <http://cwcmtdiablo.org>

Meet Our New NorCal Representative by George

The California Writers Club is made up of twenty-two branches. Of these, fourteen are in Northern California. In order to help coordinate these branches, the NorCal Board exists. Currently, the co-chairs are Carole Bumpus, San Francisco Peninsula Branch and Kymberlie Ingalls, Napa Branch.

Our newly appointed Mt. Diablo Branch NorCal Representative is Jim Hasse. Jim was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Special Forces, where he served two tours-of-duty in Vietnam. He then spent twenty-eight years in law enforcement. He was a criminal investigator, an undercover narcotics detective, and a U.S. postal inspector.

Jim writes about his intriguing, poignant, and sometimes humorous experiences influenced by his time in Vietnam and in law enforcement. Earning a master's in counseling along the way, he became a drug and alcohol rehabilitation counselor. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Carol.

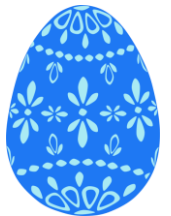
He is active in the Vietnam Veterans writers' group at the Veterans Center in Concord, Public Safety Writers Association, and the Military Writers Society of America. He has had short stories published in Books 'N Pieces Magazine Aug 2018 (<http://multiverseman.com/BNP/ISSUES/2018/AUGUST/AUG18BP-digi-1up.pdf>) Downstate Stories Western Illinois University Journal (<https://www.downstatestory.com/2018-hasse/>) The Military Experience and the Arts (<http://militaryexperience.org/as-you-were-the-military-review-vol-9/>)

Ed note: Also check out Books 'N Pieces Jan 2019 "5 Deadly Mistakes That Get Your Story Rejected" at <http://booksnpieces.com/A/?p=2827>

Also note that our speaker chair Jill Hedgecock writes book reviews for BnP. She has one in the same issue as Jim's story. Jill's reviews are worth reading. They show how a book should be constructed. She comments on tension, unreliable narrator and many other aspects of writing good reads. Her reviews are excellent for writers to read and think about.

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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.) Many on the board have been in their positions for a long time. We need to find volunteers to replace some of the officers or other jobs. New blood brings new ideas and often far better ways of doing things. This is your branch too, and volunteer organizations can always use helping hands and new ideas.

Next board meeting: Apr 13, 10 -11 a.m. Zio Fraedo's.

Welcome New Member

LINDA HARTMANN

Linda Hartmann joined the CWC Mt. Diablo Branch over a year ago.

She came to the West Coast from St. Louis, Missouri, after earning a BA in psychology with minors in English literature and biology from the University Missouri Columbia. In San Francisco she earned a BSN in nursing. While supporting herself working in a home and school for unwed pregnant teens and in hospitals (pediatrics, med/surg, ER, psych,) she learned as much as she did in academia.



After graduation Linda worked at California Pacific Medical Center for approximately 15 years, primarily in the adult critical care units, caring for patients with heart, liver, and kidney transplants, and in pediatric ICU, caring for children with congenital heart abnormalities, leukemia and other cancers, and many difficult pulmonary and infectious issues. Linda became charge nurse on these units, chair of the Quality Assurance Committee for the ICU, a member of the hospital-wide QA Committee, and a 5-person hospital research committee.

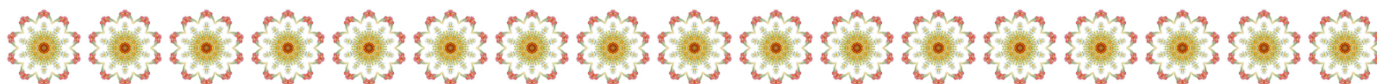
In 1997 chronic orthopedic issues necessitated a career change. Linda followed her interest in research into drug development and biotech, as a scientist in Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance at Genentech. There she had an opportunity to participate in the development of some of the very first, novel, targeted therapeutics for cancer, in particular Herceptin, whose target, the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 protein (HER-2), was a marker of very aggressive and difficult-to-treat breast cancers. She analyzed adverse event data, wrote safety reports for submission to the FDA and its equivalent European regulatory agency, wrote the safety sections of Investigator Brochures, Clinical Study Reports, Briefing Documents, and Risk Evaluation and Management Strategy Programs.

After nearly 6 years Genentech, she served for more than 11 years as director and senior director, while building departments of Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance, Medical Information, and Dosimetry. She oversaw large groups of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, scientists, librarians, and administrative staffers working on drugs from radioactive monoclonal antibodies for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma to cancer vaccines and anemia associated with chronic and acute renal failure, and more.

Since her retirement, she has devoted time to the arts. She has taken up painting, and studied fiction writing through Stanford University Continuing Studies, joined a critique group, gone to the Sonoma County Writer's Camp, attended multiple San Francisco Writer's Conferences, and is currently studying with Elizabeth Stark from Book Writing World. A first novel and a memoir are underway. She loves hiking, kayaking, yoga, black water rafting, films, reading, dance, live performance, and travels whenever possible.

Within the CWC she has been a juror for the International Youth Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, will be a judge for the Young Writers Contest, and photographer for their 2019 awards ceremony.

She lives in Lafayette, CA with her husband, one dog and two cats. She has two step-sons, two daughters-in-law, and one grandson.



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 or self-publish a book? Published in a magazine or journal? Planning a reading at a public venue? Win an IPPY or other 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.

ALFRED GARROTTO

Just released book 3 of his Caribbean Tremors Trilogy: *I'll Paint a Sun* (e-book) "Two lost souls, one betrayed one running from the past find redemption and hope together.

Caribbean Tremors takes readers on a roller-coaster ride of life's inevitable peaks and valleys. In Book 3, Libby O'Neill has just been betrayed and robbed of all assets by her fiancé business partner in restoring 19th century San Francisco Victorian houses. Desperate to complete her only remaining job, Libby hires a homeless man known only as Painter to help with the grunt work of painting the huge home's exterior. As they work together, Libby suspects that her assistant is someone very different from the derelict she picked up at a local soup kitchen. What she discovers shocks her into seeing Painter in a whole new way. Her life—and his—will never be the same.

Don't miss these e-books *A Love Forbidden* ([view trailer](#)), *Finding Isabella* ([view trailer](#)) and *I'll Paint a Sun* all only \$0.99 at all major e-book sellers



FIFTH ANNUAL BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

May 4 & 5

Contact CWC member, Mike Verant to volunteer: mike.verant@gmail.com

The Festival is a two-day event in downtown Berkeley complete with literary sessions presenting top authors from this region, the nation, and the world, along with an outdoor fair with hundreds of literary exhibitors. It also offers writing contests and events for kids. Readers of all ages and interests can find kindred spirits.

Tens of thousands of book lovers meet hundreds of acclaimed authors over an exciting weekend in downtown Berkeley, California. A premier literary event.

See the schedule at: www.baybookfest.org/schedule/



Writers Tables Through June 2019

By John Marvin & Bill Stong



April 13 – Three-Person Panel on Editing

May 11 – None Planned

June 8 – Writing Craft (format TBD)

“Polish It & It Might Shine.”

Join our discussion before lunch on Saturday, April 13 for a most practical topic:




A Panel on Editing as Teaching

A third eye...with advice from three editors

- **Begins at 11:15 am** (there will be table signs directing)
- **Topic: Editing as Teaching**
 1. How do you know you're ready for an editor?
 2. What can you expect from an editor? What should an editor do for you?
 3. How do you choose an editor?
- **Panelists:**
 - Ann Damaschino
 - Lyn Roberts
 - Elisabeth Tuck
- **Summary:** You've given your work your best effort. Now you're wondering whether you need an editor. Let's face it--you're a writer, not an editor.

Please join Ann, Lyn, and Elisabeth on April 13, 2019 to learn the essentials of working with an editor! We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Our Upcoming Programs for 2019

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 <i>How to Revise Your Novel</i>	
June 8 	Bel McNeill <i>What Bookstore Owners Look For</i>	Owner of Lafayette's Bel and Bun 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

Young Writers Contest 2019 Awards Ceremony

The YWC is sponsored by the Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who live in or attend school in Contra Costa County may submit. Categories include short story, poetry, personal narrative and humor.

This year's deadline was March 25. Judges are now reading submissions.

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

Prizes will be presented to winners on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 1-3 p.m. Join the students, parents, teachers and judges in room 209 at National University on Ellinwood Way in Pleasant Hill. All members are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, contact

youngwriters@cwcmtdiablo.org.

Volunteers Needed for the Young Writers Contest

Awards Ceremony: May 18, 2019 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Room 209 National University (part of JFK campus)
100 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill



Tasks needed are listed below.

Questions? Want to help? Contact **Marlene Dotterer** by email youngwriters@cwcmtdiablo.org.

1. Create tri-fold displays
 - a. Experience with MS Word and access to a printer is needed.
 - b. A template will be provided – pages just need to be updated with this year's information
 - c. Print pages and attach to displays
 - d. Return displays to Marlene or bring to ceremony if you are attending.
 - e. Start Date: After April 20th
 - f. Due Date: May 15th
2. Stuff envelopes and mail the certificates for winners of Honorable Mentions.
 - a. Double points if you have experience with MS Word and Mail Merge. If so, you can print the certificates. Otherwise I'll supply everything.
 - b. I will supply certificate paper if you are printing them.
 - c. Start Date: After April 20th
 - d. Due Date: Mail by May 10th

Thank you!

Call for Un-agented Submissions

Vinspire Publishing

One day only: June 1, 2019

9 a.m. EST to 9 p.m. EST

www.vinspirepublishing.com/submissions

For the third year in a row, Vinspire Publishing is accepting un-agented manuscripts for consideration. On ONE DAY ONLY you can submit your young adult, middle grade, Amish romance, children's book, or historical romance novel without an agent.

Vinspire Publishing is a family-friendly publishing house located in South Carolina. They prefer clean submissions without profanity, extreme violence, drug abuse, or overt sex. Be sure to read the submission guidelines at www.vinspirepublishing.com/submissions. Good luck!

Judy Ingram

Book Review by a Member



This section of the newsletter is regularly open to members to submit short reviews of books they've recently read. As writers we should read a lot, looking for what works or what doesn't work.

***The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama reviewed by Dita Basu**

After the CWC March workshop about novel writing I went to the library to pick up a book I had reserved. Under my name, I found a book I hadn't asked for. The one I wanted wasn't there. Disheartened, I picked up the mistaken book *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama. Reluctantly I turned the first few pages. The story is written in a diary form over four seasons. Within a short while, I was hooked and checked out the book. I finished the 217-page book in two days and had that hollow feeling you get after you finish a good book: as if some dear ones have left saying goodbye. I thought that I must write a book review to show my appreciation for the writer.

I hadn't known the author and was pleasantly surprised by this library error. Tsukiyama is a wonderful writer with several good books. She is a San Francisco Bay Area writer and teacher. I wish to meet her one day.

***The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama**

The backdrop of the story is 1938, the dawn of WWII while Japan invaded China. A 20-year-old Chinese boy, Stephen, was sent to a small sea-town in Japan so he could recuperate from tuberculosis in his father's summer home there. His mother and sister lived in Hong Kong, while the father, a businessman, was stationed in Kobe, Japan.

Stephen fell in love with the quaint town and made friends with the people. The caretaker, a master gardener, healed Stephen showing him the values of life, the meaning of love, and of beauty in a cruel world. Though unattractive in appearance he was a samurai of the soul. His love story with a leper girl questions the concepts of love and beauty in real life.

Because of political unrest, Stephen had to leave Japan, but he treasured the friendships he had found in the common people of Japan while the two countries were at war.

Tsukiyama paints a wonderful story of love and war with the minimalist strokes of Japanese art and culture.



California Author Project

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



WANTS TO FIND THE BEST
INDIE-PUBLISHED BOOK IN CALIFORNIA



This year's contest kicks off on April 1, 2019, and submissions will be accepted through May 31, 2019.

Prizes and Eligibility include:

The winners of this contest will receive:

- \$500 each in Adult and Young Adult categories
- Honors at the Public Library Association Conference 2020 reception in Nashville
- Opportunities to promote your book(s) at California public libraries
- Inclusion in a full-page print spread in *Library Journal*

Each book that is submitted to the contest must be:

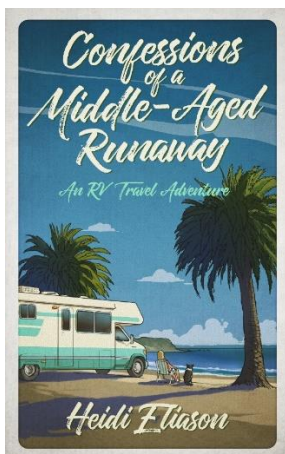
- Indie-published
- In an Adult Fiction or Young Adult Fiction genre
- Written by a California resident
- Available in either ePUB or PDF file

Submit your work at:

indieauthorproject.librariesshare.com/california



You are Invited to a Book Launch Party!



Saturday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m.

Orinda Books

276 Village Square, Orinda

Come enjoy:

Champagne and Snacks

Book Reading and Author Talk

Autographed Books

Prize Drawing

At the age of 45 Heidi Eliason quit her job, sold her house, bought a motorhome, and embarked on a five-year road trip with her dog, Rylie. It was a journey that transformed her life.



Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print this page, write your name on the coupon, cut it out, attend the April 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.

April 2019 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.



In Memorium



Ron Jewison, Owner and proprietor of the UPS printing and mailing store on Crescent Drive in Pleasant Hill. May 29, 1956 – March 11, 2019

Tribute written by CWC member Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Our beloved long-time Mt. Diablo CWC branch supporter, Ron Jewison, lost his battle with liver cancer.

For the past ten years Ron has been an avid supporter of the California Writers Club with a special fondness for our Young Writers Program. Before the contest was online, we mailed packets of guidelines and writing tips to

Contra Costa middle school teachers and taught writing workshops for students. These activities required numerous copies and posters, all of which went through his shop. In addition to giving us a healthy discount on each order, he insisted on donating portions of his work.

Our club wasn't his only beneficiary. The Recreation District, the Senior Center, Special Olympics, and our local schools sing Ron's praises.

Ron was the friendliest businessmen I've ever known. He greeted his customers with a big smile and said he loved his job because of all the hugs he received. It's not surprising that Ron was awarded Pleasant Hill's Business Member of the Year in 2016.

Earlier in his life Ron was a carpenter, but he retired after twenty-five years to earn his BA in graphic design.

Ron leaves a wife and four children. Cards may be sent to: The Family of Ron Jewison, c/o The UPS Store, 25-A Crescent Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. The store will hold a party in his honor at a later date.



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

Jim Hasse

David George in honor of

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

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

Edward Stanislawski

Linda Force

Patty Northlich

Chloe Laube

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

Robin Gigoux

Howard Weisman

Phyllis Nagle

Maya Das

Sheryl Ruzek

Fran Cain

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

Judith Overmeier

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

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Ken Kirkoff

Kathy Urban

Judy Ingram

Charla Gabert

Linda Hartmann

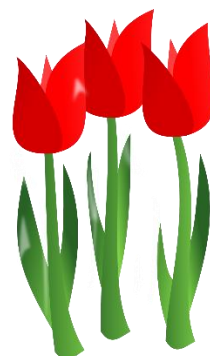
The Helen Hunt Jackson Group (\$25 - \$49)

June Gatewood

George Cramer

Wendy Blakely

Marjorie Witt



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: youngwriters@cwcmtdiablo.org

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