



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

May 2019

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

May 11, 2019 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Making the Mud Pie into a Palace: How to Revise Your Novel

featuring
Rachel Herron

Novel revision is often feared, reviled, and avoided...sometimes for years. You've spent a long time crafting your book, and you know it needs revision, but the idea can be overwhelmingly daunting. How, exactly, do you dive back into it? Where should you start? How long should it take? Approached systematically, with a plan in hand, revising your novel can happen sooner than you think. In this session, you will learn how to save the keepers while culling the passages that don't make the cut. At the same time, you'll learn your own ideal editing process to make revision manageable and fun.



- Learn how (and where!) to start your revision.
- Learn what tools you need (and don't need) to revise your book.
- Learn how to tell when you're (finally) finished revising.

Rachael Herron is the internationally bestselling author of more than two dozen books, including genres in thriller (under R.H. Herron), mainstream fiction, feminist romance, memoir, and nonfiction about writing. She received her MFA in writing from Mills College, Oakland, and she teaches writing extension workshops at both UC Berkeley and Stanford. She is a proud member of the NaNoWriMo Writer's Board.

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, May 8, 2019.** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Branch website at: <http://cwcmtdiablo.org>.

CWC is an IRS 501-c3 non-profit charitable organization (ID 94-6082827). Donations are fully deductible to the extent of the law.

Meet Our Writers Tables by Bill Stong and John Marvin

One of Mt. Diablo Branch's membership benefits is the occasional *Writers Table*. These are held six times a year, before our regular meetings, between the time one registers and when one sits down to eat. We hold the sessions when there is a regular presentation/speaker. Specifically, in:

September, November, January, February, April, and June

Fellow members—dubbed Discussion Leaders (DL)—lead the *Writers Tables* sharing their writing expertise or experience. The format may be a single DL or a panel of DLs covering a similar topic. One format we haven't tried, but are itching to do, is a quick, interactive "exercise workshop." It *has* to be quick because sessions only last about 45 minutes. The June 2019 *Writers Table* will be the guinea-pig session for this new format. Will it work? We hope so, and with your participation, we have high hopes!

On June 8, 2019 the topic is: **Writing Craft: *Polish it, and it might shine.***

- ▶ Have you ever noticed how some writing is vivid—sends electricity through you, while other writing is bland—tends to make your eyelids heavy? How the first one has readers blurting out "Wow! What happens next?" while the other one has readers yawning "Eww, really? This is *still* going on?"
- ▶ Can writing generate different reactions? Like giving you goosebumps, or leaving you as flat as a glass of month-old Diet Coke, or triggering a hibernation reaction in a species that doesn't have one?
- ▶ Perhaps you've also heard that as soon as you finish the first draft, the real work—and the fun—begins?

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions, please join John and Bill as they work to help you:

- Make your writing sparkle
- Draw your audience in
- Leave your readers with an after-glow that hums "Now *that* was a great read!"

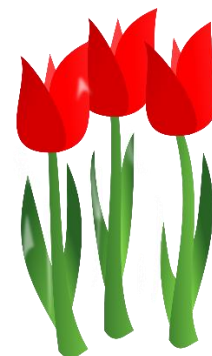
We know you're adventuresome. Be on the cutting edge as the June 2019 *Writers Table* launches a brand-new format:

- ◆ Brief summary of how to approach this part of writing
- ◆ Actual examples of how it was done
- ◆ Audience participation—yes! YOU!—in small groups to work through an example that is then shared with the larger group
- ◆ Material & template that might be helpful to YOUR masterpiece(s)

Looking forward to seeing you on June 8, 2019!

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Slate of Officers for the Coming CWC Year

President: *David George*
Vice President: *Linda Hartmann*
Secretary: *Judith Overmier*
Treasurer: *Lucy Hart*

We will vote on the above slate of officers at the *June* meeting.

Below are board officers and chair positions with the names of each volunteer for the coming year. Please note that I (newsletter editor) would be happy to train someone to take on the newsletter.)

i.	President:	Marlene Dotterer is stepping down-	David George will stand for president
ii.	Vice-President:	Judith Ingram is stepping down-	Linda Hartmann will stand for VP
iii.	Secretary:	Judith Overmier will continue-	Judith will stand for secretary
iv.	Treasurer:	Lucy Hart will continue-	Lucy will stand for treasurer
v.	Membership:	David George will step down-	Barry Hampshire will replace him
vi.	Program Chair:		Jill Hedgecock will continue
vii.	Newsletter:		Elisabeth Tuck would like to train someone
viii.	Website/Online Coordinator:		Lyn Roberts and Andrew Benzie continue
ix.	Facility:		Danard Emanuelson will continue
x.	Publicity:		Ann Damaschino will continue
xi.	NorCal Rep:	George Cramer is stepping down-	Jim Hasse will replace him
xii.	YWC:	Marlene Dotterer will continue; John Marvin to replace her as Judging Coordinator	Lyn Roberts is helping train Dot Edwards and
xiii.	Writers Table:		William Stong and John Marvin continue

David George will step down as President after ½ year and Linda Hartmann will step up.

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 chair some of the board's tasks. 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: May 11, 10 -11 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 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.

Writers Tables Through June 2019

May 11 – None Planned

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



Beta Readers

After the April Writers Table presentation, the issue of beta readers was raised. Beta readers will read a polished manuscript to give an author feedback.

Following is a link to a helpful article that explains the process and benefits of beta readers.

<https://nybookeditors.com/2017/10/what-you-need-to-know-about-working-with-beta-readers/>

Deb Greenberg who organizes and coordinates private critique groups for Mt. Diablo CWC members agreed to also take names of branch volunteers who'd like to be beta readers. For the reader, they get the fun experience of encouraging an author by pointing out good and weak parts of their effort. It's like a critique group but it's someone who can take the time to read the whole work and think about what works and what doesn't. It helps to get feedback about your book before you spend the time and effort to have your manuscript professionally edited and published. If you're interested in offering to be a beta reader, contact Deb through the website, www.cwcmt Diablo.org/contact-us/ critique groups

Judith Marshall saw a post that said both Goodreads and Facebook have public groups of beta readers. One of the editors on the panel that day said, “I'm not sure I'd encourage my writers to send a story to a total stranger. Just not sure how it works with either of these sites.”

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Additional Events @ National University?

In order to expand the scope of topics covered by Mt. Diablo's popular *Writers Table*, we are thinking of scheduling sessions under an agreement worked out between CWC and the National University whereby we could use a classroom in their Ellinwood Way campus (100 Ellinwood Way; Pleasant Hill, CA). Scheduling to use their classrooms would allow us to:

- Cover more topics
- Meet more frequently than six times a year
- Delve into more complicated topics in greater depth
- Provide the time and internet connectivity to walk/work through examples and/or tasks

John and I would like to arrange these further sessions because members have shown so much interest and positive energy for the ones held on selected Saturdays. These sessions would be free.

However, a key question is: when would be convenient?

If you would be interested in additional presentations and working sessions, please let us know:

- **Which days** would be best for you?
- **What time** on those days would be best?

If you might be interested in such off-site sessions, please let either Bill or John know when you might be able to attend. After receiving feedback, we will schedule a session and see how it goes!

Best regards from your Writers Table Co-Project Leads,

Bill Stong: william.a.stong@gmail.com

John Marvin: jmarvin8484@gmail.com



Public Safety Writers Association (PSWA) conference

July 18-21, 2019 at the [Orleans Hotel and Casino](#) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This is an affordable, educational, and fun conference. Lots of great panels consisting of PSWA members offering some important and pertinent writing information.

The PSWA is open to all authors, published or not, who write with a public safety theme. We also have a writing competition each year with awards presented at the close of the conference.



CWC member John Schembra is the PSWA vice president, and the membership chair.

Learn more about PSWA: <http://www.policewriter.com>

Learn about the conference: <https://policewriter.com/wordpress/conference/>

Today I learned that humans eat more bananas than monkeys.

Our Upcoming Programs for 2019

May 11 	Rachel Herron <i>How to Revise Your Novel</i>	Novel revision is often feared and avoided. The idea can be overwhelmingly daunting. Approached systematically, with a plan, it can happen sooner than you think. Learn how to save the keepers while culling. And learn your own ideal editing process.
June 8 	Bel McNeill <i>What Bookstore Owners Look For</i>	Owner of Lafayette's Bel and Bunna Books

Sept 2019-June 2020

Sept 14	Ann Steiner	Member and leader of the National Speakers Bureau
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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

FIFTH ANNUAL BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

May 4 & 5

The Festival is a two-day event 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. We also offer events for kids and writing contests. We transform vibrant Downtown Berkeley into a literary utopia where 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.

Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

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

www.cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/

Have you checked out our Mt. Diablo branch website and seen the ways to communicate with various volunteers?

<u>General inquiries/comments</u> president@cwcmtdiabl.org	<u>Membership</u> membership@cwcmtdiablo.org
<u>Meeting Reservations</u> reservations@cwcmtdiablo.org	<u>Upcoming Events</u> events@cwcmtdiablo.org
<u>Write News Newsletter</u> writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org	<u>Member Milestones</u> memberspotlight@cwcmtdiablo.org
<u>Add a Book Cover to Website</u> memberbookcarousel@cwcmtdiablo.org	<u>Critique Groups</u> critiquegroups@cwcmtdiablo.org
<u>Writers Table</u> writerstable@cwcmtdiablo.org	<u>Web Site</u> webmaster@cwcmtdiablo.org
<u>Young Writers Contest</u> youngwriters@cwcmtdiablo.org	



When I was a kid, my
English teacher looked
my way and said,
"Name two pronouns."
I said, "Who, me?"



Grammarly

Mt. Diablo Branch's Young Writers Contest 2019

Proudly sponsored by the Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club, 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.

Two hundred and sixty-one submissions were received by the March 25, 2019 deadline. This is fewer than previous years.

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.

Non-cash honorable mentions may be awarded as determined by the judges.

Winners will be notified by email by April 20, 2019. Non-winners will not be notified.

Prizes will be presented to winners on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at National University on Ellinwood Way in Pleasant Hill.

U of New Orleans Contest Opportunity

The University of New Orleans Press is excited to announce that our fifth annual UNO Publishing Lab Prize is now open. We have always believed in paying our authors, and for the fifth year of the Publishing Lab, the advance has increased from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

The University of New Orleans Press is looking for **full-length fiction manuscripts**, either novels or short story collections, for the fifth annual Publishing Lab Prize. The selected author will receive a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) advance on royalties and a contract to publish their winning manuscript with UNO Press. The work does not have to have a regional focus. There is no word limit. There is no limit on subjects covered. Submissions are open until August 31st. More information, including the Submittable link, can be found at: <http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx>

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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 Overmier

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

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Ken Kirkoff

Kathy Urban

Judy Ingram

Charla Gabert

Linda Hartmann

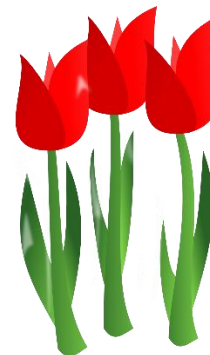
The Helen Hunt Jackson Group (\$25 - \$49)

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: 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