



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

June 2019

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

June 8, 2019 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Trends in Bookselling Today

featuring

Bel McNeill

The owner of *Bel and Bunna's Books* in Lafayette.

Bel will talk about “**What Bookstore Owners Look For**” and will discuss:



- Bookselling today
- What Bel thinks readers want
- Essential characteristics she looks for in a book
- Qualities she believes are important in an author

You've written your life-story or the third book in your historical fiction series or a book you wrote for your grandchildren and now you've decided you want the public to enjoy all your hard work.

How do you go about this when either your publisher isn't proactive in promoting your book or you are self/independently published and have no idea how to get your book into the hands of the local bookseller? *Bel and Bunna's Books* is a real life, brick and mortar, independent children and young adult's bookshop in Lafayette, California. Bel McNeill is committed to providing a positive literary experience for children of all ages from birth to twenty-one years old. After working in the information technology field since the 1990s, Bel, who hails from the U.K., decided she was looking for a change: to follow her true passion for books and children's literacy. Offering a wide range of books (including ones for teens and adults) and book-related products and having been designed to be a safe retreat from the electronic age, *Bel and Bunna's Books* works as a devoted community partner to create a literary wonderland for children where they can embrace the written word and feed their imaginations.

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, June 5th, 2019** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo branch website at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Branch website at: <http://cwcmtdiablo.org>.

CWC is an IRS 501-c6 non-profit charitable organization (ID 94-6082827). Donations are fully deductible to the extent of the law

President *Marlene Dotterer*



Hi Everyone,

I've been quiet this year, haven't I? When I asked other board members to take turns writing this column for the 2018-2019 year, I honestly didn't expect to never write anything myself. Yet, that's how it turned out, and with good reason—the series of articles written by the others were informative, interesting, and varied. I think we all enjoyed hearing from otherwise quiet board members, learning about them and what they do for our branch.

Now we are almost at the end of our membership year. **Judith Ingram** and I will step down from our respective roles as vice-president and president. At our June meeting, the board will present next year's slate of officers for your vote. I think we're in good hands!

I'm very excited that we have new board members who are taking on important responsibilities: **Linda Hartmann**, who has agreed to be our vice-president and president-in-training next year, and **Barry Hampshire**, who is taking on the membership chair position.

Linda Hartmann is not just new to the board; she's new to our branch. Taking on the vice-president and then president role is a brave move for a new member to take, but Linda asked us lots of questions and gave the matter a great deal of thought before telling us she'd accept the nomination. Her careful evaluation assures me that she is indeed a great choice to lead our group.

Barry is a long-time member who already understands our branch and the membership process. He's a welcome addition to our board.

In addition to Linda and Barry, **Jim Hasse**, who has been attending board meetings for a few months, has just started as our new NorCal representative. Lastly, new member **John Schembra**, just joined the board in an exploratory capacity, to learn about our program and see where he might fit in. All this new blood will make a vital difference to our branch in the coming year. I am very grateful for these new volunteers!

It's also time to renew your membership. The cost is \$45. You can pay at the June meeting or go online to <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/renew-membership/> to renew by PayPal or to mail in your check. You can also renew at the September meeting, but why wait?



CONTENTS

- p. 3-4 Member Events, News & Salutes: Greg Coplans, William Martin; Jane Blomstrand
- p. 5-9 Young Writers Contest Judges & Winners;
- p. 9 Writers Table; Branch Website
- p. 10 Volunteering: the Best Member Benefit;
- p. 11 Our Upcoming Programs; You in the Newsletter?; Slate of Officers for Vote at June Meeting
- p. 12 Membership Renewal; Attend a Board Meeting
- p. 13 Redwood Branch Webinar; Awesome Indies Looking for Assessors; Caveat Emptor
- p. 14 Young Writers Contest Donor Page

June 8 meeting then summer break. Meetings resume Sept 14.

Exciting Member Benefit!

As part of our Community Outreach Program, the Mt. Diablo Branch will be presenting "So You Want to Write a Book," at Flashlight Books in Walnut Creek on Saturday, July 20 from 2:00 to 4:00. The program consists of a panel of three or four of our members who have recently published books. Authors will discuss their writing and publishing journeys and offer tips for aspiring writers with a Q&A session following. Authors may sell their books after the presentation.

If you would be interested in being a part of the panel, please email Judith.Marshall@att.net.

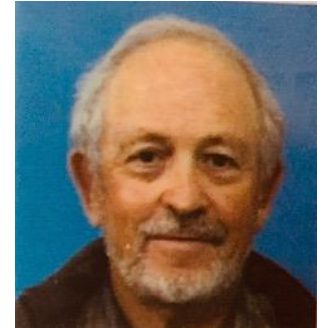


Member Events, News, and Salutes

Welcome Three New Members

Greg Coplans

Greg grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. After graduating from the University of Cape Town (where he and a friend held the banner behind which students marched to the administration buildings for the first ever sit-in at a South African university), Greg emigrated to the UK in 1971, and obtained a law degree from the University of London (Kings College). After living in London for 9 years (as a student and a practicing lawyer), Greg and his wife, Joy (who is from Southern California), moved to the Bay Area in 1981. They currently reside in Danville.



Greg worked as in-house business and intellectual property lawyer for high tech companies in Silicon Valley. During that time he travelled frequently on business to over 25 countries. He has been a speaker at symposia in the fields of global trade compliance and business ethics in the US, UK, Hong Kong and Japan, and has published a law journal article about ethical business practices.

Greg grew up in a family of readers. His mother returned to university in mid-life, completed her B.A. and became a librarian. Books were always lying around a house that had overstuffed bookshelves. His serious reading and love of literature began when he read the novels of Steinbeck and *The Outsider* by Albert Camus.

Greg's first attempt at fiction began in late 2003 when he started to write a political mystery set during the South African Apartheid era. He put the unfinished draft aside until he retired in 2013. A couple of years later, a writer friend encouraged Greg to join a writers' group and he joined the Lakeshore Women's Writers Group. Their encouragement motivated him to complete the manuscript. Greg then realized he would benefit from formal instruction for the revision process, and he took a writing class at a local community college.

Greg's current goal is to complete the revision of his draft manuscript for the political mystery and a third short story. He hopes to publish a short story one day.

Greg enjoys golf, volunteers at We Care Services for Children, and he and his wife love to travel. Greg's most exciting trip was a rugged 10-day canoe trip down the Zambezi River, which flows east along the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia into Mozambique where the borders of the 3 countries intersect and flow into the Indian Ocean respectfully avoiding hippos and crocs but enjoying close encounters.

William Martin



I am excited and grateful to have found the California Writers Club. I wrote my first story when I was six years old about a goldfish that got flushed down the toilet. By Catholic junior high, I had progressed to racy play-ettes, which left me in the doghouse with the nuns!

In my 20s, I was affiliated with the San Francisco Playwright's Center. I wrote 15 full-length plays, many of which had staged readings and productions. I wrote my first book, *Crescendo* in 1987, and later wrote post-modernist pastiche, cross-disciplinary humanities pieces and earned a master's degree in humanities. I also received a master's degree in counseling and for many years wrote clinical reports.



Member Events, News and Salutes (Cont'd)

William Martin (cont'd)

When I turned 40, I realized my teenage dream of becoming an actor. This led to film writing and filmmaking. I co-wrote three low-budget produced films in the horror and thriller genre. I also co-wrote a beat romance feature, which premiered at the Mill Valley Film Festival 2008 and was nominated for best feature at the Syracuse International Film Festival in New York.

I receive my inspiration from the writings of John of the Cross, Teresa D'Avila, Henry James, and others. I believe that life should be full of experiences and people should not begin writing until they're 40 or older! My favorite life directive came from my method-acting teacher, Shelley Mitchell when she said, "Find the beauty, and the magic, and the genius, and the invitation to grow in each moment."

I am currently enrolled at the Pacific School of Religion to obtain a double masters in divinity and social justice. And I am in the process of self-publishing my second book, *Dance of the Animal Spirit through History*, a memoir about feeling alive. I have three other books in various stages of draft. I'm very happy to be a member of the Club and look forward to not squashing my creative inner child during my "grunt and groan" book editing stages, to further exploring my originality, and to expanding my imagination.

Jane Blomstrand

I am an educator and have over 30 years of experience as a teacher, literacy specialist, school principal, and director of a teacher-credentialing program.

Creative writing is new to me, and the book I wrote *Beyond the ABCs: What Does a Principal Do All Day???* was a response to my grandkids asking me, "What DOES a Principal Do All Day?" When I retired, I decided to take a writing class and record for posterity the many experiences of my life as a principal.

As I read the stories to my class I realized that most people were like my grandkids, they didn't really know much about the life of a principal and were surprised at the narratives. My classmates convinced me to publish the stories into a book that would show the intriguing challenges a school leader faces and the many relationships a principal forms with students, staff and parents, which extend "Beyond the ABCs".

What started out as a memoir for my grandkids has morphed into something more. I find educators relating to the stories because even though they are from my experiences, all administrators have stories like these. My hope is the book can be used in Administrative Leadership Programs as a glimpse into the life of a school leader and the importance of building relationships to achieve success.

As a side benefit to this project I have found enjoyment in writing and the process of creating a story out of an incident. I continue to take the Creative Writing class and am not sure at this point if the stories I am now composing will develop into another book.

My husband and I recently moved, after 40 years of living in Lafayette, to a new condo in downtown Walnut Creek and are experiencing and loving a more urban lifestyle. My current connection to education is as a coach to new school administrators as they enter into a challenging but rewarding career.



Congratulations to our
2019 Young Writers Contest Winners

And many thanks to all who helped make the contest possible



Our Winning Middle School Students



**Concord Council Member Laura Hoffmeister
with Mt. Diablo member Robin Gigoux**



**A winner and her family pointing to her
winning category**

Young Writers Contest

By Marlene Dotterer

Our Young Writers Contest invites middle-school-age students in Contra Costa to enter a writing contest in four categories: poetry, short story, personal narrative, and humor. We held the awards ceremony on May 18th at National University in Pleasant Hill which is allocating space to us for special events.

I'd like to give strong "kudos!" to **Aline Soules**, who faced an unexpected change with our online submission program halfway through the submission period. Aline performed a Herculean task to keep the entries in order, and to make sure our judges received their correct slate of entries to read. This required many more hours of work than she signed up for and I'm very grateful that she pulled us through. Thank you, Aline!

Kudos also to **Dot Edwards** and **John Marvin**, our new judging coordinators. Under tutelage from **Lyn Roberts**, they did a fantastic job of recruiting, training, and organizing our judging staff this year. The changes in our submission program meant they had to make unexpected adjustments as well, but they never even blinked. Great job, Dot and John!

And what about those judges? We had a good mix of old hands and new blood in this group as well, and they all did a terrific job working in teams to read and score the entries. I think they were all impressed with the writing submitted by our local middle school students.

Please join me in thanking our readers/judges:

Short Story

6th grade: Lyn Roberts, John Marvin, Robin Gigoux, Patricial Northlich, Cecilia Pugh

7th grade: Jill Plummer, Margie Witt, Anadita Basu, Alain Kerfs, Leslie Rupley, Jim Haase

8th grade: Chloe Laube, Phyllis Houseman, Susan Lawson, June Gatewood, Dot Edwards, Richard Black, Linda Hartmann

Personal Narrative

6th & 7th grades: David George, Fran Cain, Elisabeth Tuck, John Schembra

8th grade: Jill Hedgecock, Howard Wiseman, Ken Kerkhoff

Humor

Susan Lawson, Susan Berman

Poetry

Judith Overmier, Aline Soules, Ann Damaschino



Best of all: congratulations to our winning YWC students!

Poetry – 6th Grade

1st Place: Jessy Wallach

Everyday Perfection

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Katherine Palmer-Collins

3rd Place: Krisha Singhani

Latte with Extra Sugar!

Diablo Vista Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Meyers

2nd Place: Serafina Hwang

Time

Foothill Middle School

Teacher: Dalila Maria Neves

Our Winning YWC Students Cont'd

Poetry – 7th Grade

1st Place: Kylie Wang

The Sky is Dark, The Rain is Falling

Joaquin Moraga Middle School

Teacher: James Flowers

3rd Place: Braden Ou

Rewinding Time

Dorris-Eaton School

Teacher: Melissa Parker

2nd Place: Joshua Yang

The Swim

Dorris-Eaton School

Teacher: Melissa Parker

Poetry – 8th Grade

1st Place: Jade Peng

Glimpses into Insanity

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Erin Alonso

3rd Place: Eloise Anagnost

Time

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Erin Alonso

2nd Place: Siena Fershtman

No Wings

Prospect Sierra School

Teacher: Rinat Manhoff

Personal Narrative

Special thanks to the **Tenney family** for the **Betty Tenney Personal Narrative Award** for 1st Place winners.

Personal Narrative – 6th Grade

1st Place: Serafina Hwang

Bigots

Stone Valley Middle School

Teacher: Dalila Maria Neves

3rd Place: Neil Chandran

My Greatest Fear

Foothill Middle School

Teacher: Alexandra Haas

2nd Place: Sean Kwok

And the Winner is...

Charlotte Wood Middle School

Teacher: David Wright

Personal Narrative – 7th Grade

1st Place: Bilva Medamurthy

Flight to Acceptance

Diablo Vista Middle School

Teacher: Mark Rathjen

3rd Place: Indie Lee

Guzheng, The Ancient Well

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Suzy Kisch

2nd Place: Alejandro Riofrio

Final Fight

Diablo Vista Middle School

Teacher: Mark Rathjen



Our Winning YWC Students Cont'd

Personal Narrative – 8th Grade

1st Place: Jade Peng

Battle Song

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Erin Alonso

3rd Place: Sameeha Ahmed

The Notepad

Windemere Ranch Middle School

Teacher: Mitchell Jensen

2nd Place: Sandhya Nayar

Leftovers

Windemere Ranch Middle School

Teacher: Mary Blasquez

Short Story – 6th Grade

1st Place: Sydney Mielcarski

The Creation of Something Therefore Everything

Home School

Teacher: Mari Mielcarski

3rd Place: Emma Wong

A New Homeland

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Katherine Palmer-Collins

2nd Place: Sydney Yee

White is Alright

Windemere Ranch Middle School

Teacher: Michael Smith

Short Story – 7th Grade

1st Place: Ava Filer

Winn

Joaquin Moraga Middle School

Teacher: Ben Wayne

3rd Place: Penney Daisy

The Sun Will Come Out

Joaquin Moraga Middle School

Teacher: James Flowers

2nd Place: Leila Maboudian

Two Blue Wings

Orinda Intermediate School

Teacher: Eric Page

Short Story – 8th Grade

1st Place: Saanika Medishetty

Currants

Windemere Ranch Middle School

Teacher: Randy Hart

3rd Place: Jackson Hansell

The Golden Goblet

Foothill Middle School

Teacher: Ms. Jefferson

2nd Place: Vivian Change

Serengeti Struggle

Dorris-Eaton School

Teacher: Mary Dickens



Our Winning YWC Students Cont'd

Humor – All Grades

1st Place: Daisy Penney

The Impossible Climb

Joaquin Moraga Middle School

Teacher: James Flowers

3rd Place: Mary Carrasco

A Walk in the Park

Joaquin Moraga Middle School

Teacher: James Flowers

2nd Place: Kush Rajesh

My Love Letter to Ginger Ale

Gale Ranch Middle School

Teacher: Dylan Vaughan



CWC Mt. Diablo Branch's Writers Table

Join our discussion before lunch on Saturday, June 8, for a most practical topic:

Writing Craft
Polish It & It Might Shine



Logistics:

•**Begins at 11:15 a.m.** There will be table signs directing interested members to the table.

•**Topic:** *Writing Craft - Polish It & It Might Shine*

•**Summary:** Have you ever noticed how some writing is vivid—sends electricity through you, while other writing is bland—tends to make your eyelids heavy? The first one has readers blurting out “Wow! What happens next?” while the other one has readers yawning “Ah, 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.

Have you 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 shed light on HOW TO polish your writing.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,

•**Activity Emcees:** John Marvin & Bill Stong



Reminder re Our Branch Website

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org>

Members may show some of their work on our branch website. Profiles may include a short bio, author photo, link to your website, up to two recent contest wins or awards and two book covers. If you are a current member and want to add or update your profile, submit your information [here](#). This will take you to the profile form page, which you can fill out.

Volunteering: Hands Down the Best Member Benefit

By Jill Hedgecock

Volunteering is perhaps one of the greatest benefits of CWC membership and offers a window into book marketing that you won't find sitting in a meeting listening to a lecture. Probably many people think that offering to help means less time to write. Perhaps there's an element of truth in that. However, writing the book is only part of getting your novel in readers' hands. Even if you are traditionally published, you have to market your book if you want it to succeed.

Many people duck their heads, study their hands, or even suddenly decide it is time to leave when someone mentions the "V" word. I don't. I've judged for the Young Writers Contest for more years than I can count, co-chaired the full event twice and been the speaker liaison as part of the Program Committee. I've attended a CWC leadership conference and served as the NorCal representative. I've also given multiple talks at our branch's Writers Table. And have been rewarded twice with the branch Distinguished Service Award. I have a full-time science-related day job, plus I write monthly columns, freelance articles for two publications, and my second novel will be released this year. With all this going on, I have also stepped up to represent the Mount Diablo branch of the CWC at two different events this year.

Every single time I have volunteered, I have learned something valuable for my writing journey,

Most recently, I spent two hours of Saturday, May 4th at the Bay Area Book Festival in Berkeley. The Festival is a two-day event with literary sessions presenting top authors from around the world along with an outdoor fair and hundreds of literary exhibitors. Volunteers at the CWC booth chatted with participants, gave out brochures, and collected information to follow-up with potential new members. I was inspired. In addition to the positive energy surrounding the other volunteers, I had stimulating conversations with people in all stages of their writing journey. My booth mate, Laurel Ann Hill, brought an owl puppet. From this, I learned that realistic animal caricature draws people to a booth--great information for writers who want to sell their books at local events. Another volunteer suggested that I walk through the author alley after my shift to see how other authors were setting up their tables and which ones were attracting crowds.

I never know what writing insights I'll gain from volunteering but I do know it won't take away from my writing. So the next time a board member requests help, raise your hand. The experience may inform your writing project.



Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print and 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.

June 2019 coupon

MT. DIABLO CWC MEMBERS ONLY

PRINT THIS PAGE. CUT OUT THIS COUPON. WRITE YOUR NAME BELOW.

DROP COUPON IN THE BASKET/HAT/PAPER BAG AT THE MEETING
CORRESPONDING TO THE DATE ON THIS COUPON.

ONE COUPON WILL BE DRAWN EACH MONTH TO WIN \$25 CREDIT TOWARD
A LATER MT DIABLO BRANCH MEETING.


Your name: _____

Must be present to win.

Our Upcoming Programs







2019

June 8 	Bel McNeill <i>What Bookstore Owners Look For</i>	Owner of Lafayette's Bel and Bunna Books Bookselling today What Bel thinks readers want Essential characteristics she looks for in a book Qualities she believes are important in an author
---	---	---

Summer break July & August

Sept 2019-June 2020

Sept 14 	Ann Steiner <i>How to Successfully Promote Your Book</i>	Member and leader of the National Speakers Bureau. Drawing on her 30 years as a psychotherapist, her popular keynote presentations, motivational speaking engagements, and teaching reflect her warmth, humor, and understanding. All these presentations give Ann the opportunity to share her message, publicize, and sell her books.
Oct 12 		
Nov 		
Dec 	Three of Our Own	

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

You in the Newsletter?

Writers should be readers. What are you reading? What book would you recommend to others and why? One of my recent favorites was *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a novel by Amor Towles. I liked his use of history and philosophy of life. As we watched the main character settle in, we saw what seemed like everyday things for a man of his stature. Later in the novel, we realized how important/useful these were to him. I enjoyed the layers of story and many characters.



So here's the challenge and opportunity to member-writers of all genres, send me some short(ish) book reviews to put in the September newsletter. (or Oct if we get many)! <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>

The slate of officers to be voted on at the June meeting is as follows:

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

Time to Renew/Join Mt. Diablo CWC

Please visit <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/renew-membership/>

If renewing, click and follow the instructions using PayPal to pay or see below to mail a check. Renewal is \$45 annual membership, \$25 for dual membership if your main membership is at another branch.

If your address has changed, please note the change so it can be updated in branch records.

If you are a member and there are no changes to your information, you can use PayPal, mail a check or credit card info to the address below, or hand your payment to the membership chair, Barry Hampshire, or the treasurer, Lucy Hart, at meeting check in. Please indicate MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To apply for a **new membership**, see <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/membership-requirements-and-annual-dues/> An application is required and a copy of one of your stories or articles published or unpublished.

Payment by check

Make your \$45 check payable to “CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch” and mail to:

CWC- Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507.



Payment by credit card

Please provide the following information:

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date (month/year) _____

Name as it appears on the credit card _____

Billing zip code _____ Security code on back of card _____

Donation to the Young Writers Program

Add the amount to your \$45 membership renewal and indicate the donation.

Security Note: Membership information is not made public at any time.

For more information, contact the Membership Chair at membership@cwcmt Diablo.org



Attend a Board Meeting

This is YOUR branch. Extra minds and hands are 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 use new ideas.



Next board meeting: June 8, then Sept 14, both at 10:00-11:00 a.m. Zio Fraedo's

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS: Come attend a board meeting and see if you'd like to join the board—maybe even assume a chair. Volunteer work looks good on a resume!



The following activities are informational only and do not imply endorsement of product or service

Online webinar sponsored by the Redwood Writers branch

“When Does the Business of Being a Professional Author Get Easy?”

How do you turn a book, a single book, into a successful, profitable, sustainable business with multiple streams of income... that also happens to be fun?

In this 45-minute, intensive, fact-filled session, Jim Horan, author of *The One Page Business Plan*, shares the story of how his first book led to the development of a global cottage industry.

The key to Jim’s success is a whole series of simple marketing and business development events that you can use to turn your book into a much bigger success than you ever imagined.

Join this Live Webinar! Sign up below

Webinar leader Jim Horan

Jim shares tips, tricks and traps that you may never have heard of. . . that
Work and simplify the business of being a successful, profitable author.
There will be ample time for questions



This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions in real time. You can join from your computer, phone, or tablet. Instructions on how to participate will be sent to you when you register. Plan to arrive 10-minutes before the start time to set up your device.

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 pm

Cost: \$20 for members of all CWC chapters, \$25 for non-members



Could you be an Assessor?

Awesome Indies Book Awards is currently closed for new submissions simply because we do not have enough assessors to deal with the backlog. Although there are twenty-nine assessors on the list, since Awesome Indies Book Awards reopened in August last year, only five of the twenty-nine have taken books for assessment.

To be viable, Awesome Indies Book Awards needs at least twenty more active assessors, so please, visit the website and at least, consider joining the assessment team. Ideally, we are looking for professional editors, proofreaders and publishers, but we also need experienced readers and reviewers as associate assessors.

Awesome Indies Book Awards does not charge a submission fee, but active assessors have the opportunity to advertise professional editing services on the website. Editors and proofreaders also have the opportunity to enter into a private arrangement with the writer.

For more information: <http://awesomeindies.net/assessors-needed/>

Philip Catshill
Administrator for Awesome Indies Book Awards



Editor’s note: Caveat emptor: Research Research Research

<https://indiereader.com/2018/01/self-published-book-award/>

<https://www.creativindie.com/awesome-indie-books-a-criticism-of-book-awards-and-seals/>

Young Writers Contest Fundraising

Sponsored by

The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch



Please consider joining one of the following donor groups 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 CWC year you donate (e.g. 9/18 -6/19.) Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

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

Al Garrotto

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

Karen Tenney

Linda Hartmann

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

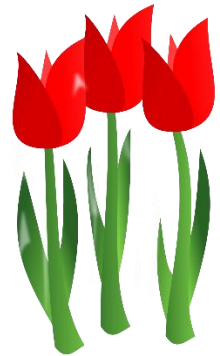
June Gatewood

Al Garrotto

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.

The Mt. Diablo Branch holds an awards luncheon in May honoring the winners.

All program expenses are supported by individual donations. 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: _____

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

Or via PayPal click "buy now" on the Mt. Diablo website

<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>. Please add the \$2 transaction fee