



The Write News

Mt Diablo

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

October 2019

WRITING WORKSHOP AND LUNCHEON

October 12, 2019 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Screenwriting Tools for Sharpening Prose

Featuring

Angie Powers & Elizabeth Stark

Prose writers can learn from the streamlined and structured screenplay, blueprint for the rich visual-audio-story experience of a film. In this workshop, we will explore a screenplay's strengths, especially the power of building a strong, clear engine based in character psychology. That engine can drive every aspect of your prose.

Understanding some screenwriting principles will allow you to better:

- Make dynamic use of scene structure
- Demonstrate effective and moving character change
- Create subtext in dialog for compelling, purposeful interactions between your characters.



Angie Powers teaches *Book in a Year* and *Intro to Screenwriting* online. Her first feature film *Lost in the Middle*, debuted as the opening film of the 14th Annual Broad Humor Film Festival in Los Angeles, and is also an official selection of Cinema Diverse, the Palm Springs LGBTQ Film Festival.

Angie has an MFA in English and Creative Writing from Mills College, where she won the Amanda Davis Thesis Award for her novel, *The Blessed*. Certified by the Professional Program in Screenwriting at UCLA, she is the co-director and co-writer of the short *Little Mutinies* distributed by Frameline and an official selection of the Palm Springs International Short Fest. Angie was a quarter-finalist for the Nicholl Fellowship and at the Blue Cat Screenplay Competition for *Little Mutinies*. Twice she made it into the second round of consideration for Sundance Labs and was a CineStory Foundation semi-finalist. She wrote and directed the short *Hot Date*, and *The Truth About Love and Panic*, a comedy about anxiety, both of which premiered at the Frameline Film Festival. Learn more at BookinaYear.com.

NOTE WORKSHOP TIMES:

Sign-In from 8:30 – 9:00. Breakfast 9:00 – 9:30. Workshop 9:30 – 12:30 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$45 members, \$55 guests. **Reservation Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, Oct 9th, 2019.** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo web site at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>

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

President's Message: David George

What Does Sponsorship Really Mean?

As a greybeard member of the CWC leadership team, I know that the Club has grappled with this frequent member question. In keeping with our mission to educate members in the craft and business of writing, we try to publicize events, workshops, conferences, contests, and anthology opportunities that we think would be of benefit to some or all.



During our September meeting, the Mt. Diablo board liberalized our promotion and publicity policy. They decided that if a member event may be of general member or public interest, we will do our best to get the word out to our branch membership. #NewsFlashes can publicize member events such as book launches, author panels, private workshops, individualized tutoring, or editing offerings and the like. But #NewsFlash won't announce the publication of member books or articles. The branch newsletter "Sales and Salutes" section and our website will continue to be the venues for publications.

I encourage all of our members to let us know if you have an event coming up. We all know how difficult it can be to spread the word. We will help when we can. Email the request and details to president@cwcmtdiablo.org. We will let you know if it cannot be publicized for some reason.

But that does not mean that we **sponsor** these events or opportunities. That is why our #NewsFlashes and monthly newsletters print a disclaimer near the end of the announcement. Sponsorship involves three distinct commitments:

- 1) the branch volunteers hours to staff a booth or perform other important activities in support of the event
- 2) funding in the form of expense reimbursement, fee payments, or direct contributions to the event or cause
- 3) a board-level majority vote to sponsor the event or opportunity. For example, the statewide Club has voted to sponsor the annual San Francisco Writers Conference with a CWC booth, payment of fees, and recruitment of volunteers to help.

Your event may not be the size of a writers conference or contest. None-the-less, we are happy to help get the word out – with the appropriate disclaimer at the end. The Club and branch board wish you much success with your endeavors.



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Member Events, News and Salutes

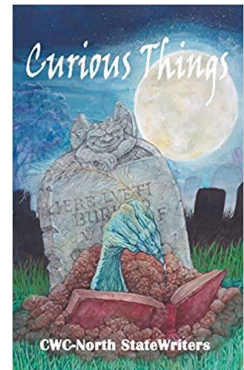


This section of the newsletter is regularly open to members to submit information about milestones in your writing journey. Publish a book? Planning a reading at a bookstore or county fair? Speaking somewhere? Win an IPPY or other significant prize? Is your play being produced? The TV or movie version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

Phyllis Houseman

I am a great believer in putting your work out into the Universe. So, when I saw the call for Curious stories from the North State Writers for an anthology, I immediately sent my ghost story, "Tuffy."

The result? *Tuffy* was included in *Curious Things: A Compilation of Curiously Disturbing & Sometimes Horrifying Stories*, along with 16 other tales by CWC writers.



Marlene Dotterer



Member Events, News, and Salutes (cont'd)

Marlene Dotterer

At the July 21 Central Board meeting, Marlene received the **Jack London Award** for outstanding service to our branch. Following is the bio Marlene submitted for the 2019 award booklet:

Marlene Dotterer has an itchy soul. While that sounds like a good trait for a fantasy/adventure character, in real life it means she's always starting a new project, often before the previous project is finished,

There's just always something else to *do*. This may be the reason Marlene volunteered to take over duties as Mt. Diablo branch membership chair in 2014. Shortly after that, with Mt. Diablo's long-established Young Writers Contest in danger of extinction, she volunteered to step in as contest chair. She still runs the contest today and is happy to report many enthusiastic volunteers help her get it done.

Marlene has served as Mt. Diablo's president since 2016. During that time, she worked with a designer to create a new branch website and continues to handle many of the background tasks to keep it running. Marlene especially likes to build forms for the website. When she gets an itch, the website gets another form.

Her itchy soul explains why Marlene's four books are written in three genres, and why she earned a degree in geology then worked in nuclear waste before starting a business as a personal, chef, and after that, taught natural childbirth classes. Scratch, scratch.



NEXT BOARD MEETING



Nov 6, 10-11:00 a.m. Zio Fraedo's

Come join us!



James Baldwin's Advice on Writing

"Talent is insignificant. I know a lot of talented ruins. Beyond talent lie all the usual words: discipline, love, luck, but most of all, endurance."

Joseph Conrad on Art and What Makes a Great Writer, in a Beautiful Tribute to Henry James

"All creative art is magic, is evocation of the unseen in forms persuasive, enlightening, familiar and surprising, for the edification of mankind."



Writers Tables



Join us before the general meetings to participate in a Writers Table. These are short (40 minutes or so) informational or practice session on the craft of writing. Hosted by Mt. Diablo members, these sessions cover many topics of interest to writers.

Sign-in begins at 11:00. Writers Table begins at 11:15. Drop in any time.

Schedule 2019-2020

October 12 – No Writers Table due to workshop

November 9 – “Writing a Memoir – *Is it for you? What is your story?*”

Presented by: Barry Hampshire

Writing a memoir – is it for you? You may think not, but most of you are writers every writer has a memoir in them. So, what is a memoir? How do you begin the steps, how do you face that doubting inner voice asking, Why would people your story? There are many unknowns, but overcoming them is extremely can do it, then I have confidence that you can too. For me, overcoming the hurdles memoir has opened my world as a writer to avenues that I never thought possible.



and I believe journey, what are read it? What is rewarding. If I of writing a

Please join Barry Hampshire on November 9th as he shares his experience writing a memoir.

December 14 – No Writers Table due to “Three of Our Own” and our holiday luncheon.

January 11, 2020 – Police Procedures & Criminal Investigations: “Whatever you want to know about policing!”

Presented by: Bob O’Brien & John Schembra

February 8 – Even When the Content is Not Precisely Your Genre: “You don’t know what you’re going to learn.”

Presented by: Kymberlie Ingalls & Elisabeth Tuck

March 14 – No Writers Table due to workshop

April 11 – International Writing: “It’s A Whole Big World Out There”

A Panel with: Dita Basu, panelist TBD, panelist TBD

May 9– No Writers Table due to workshop

June 13– TBD

Contact Us



Do you have an idea for a topic you’d like to see? Can you lead a session to share your own tips and knowledge? Let us know! <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/writerstable/>







Our September Writers Table member speaker: Dot Edwards speaking on Make Your (Grand)Child a Hero!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Nov. 9 	Janine Kovac Marketing by Building Community	Janine Kovac is a founding member of the writing group Write on Mamas and a contributing editor to the anthology <i>Mamas Write: 29 Tales of Truth, Wit, and Grit</i> . In 2016 she was awarded the Elizabeth George Foundation Fellowship from Hedgebrook. The following year she co-founded Moxie Road Productions with Tarja Parssinen, a consulting firm that helps writers bring their ideas into the world. Janine graduated magna cum laude from U.C. Berkeley in 2009.
Dec. 14 	Three of our Own Author Visibility: Ways to Gain the Confidence to Broadcast Your Work	Marianne Lonsdale is a frequent presenter at LitQuake and bookstore events as part of her involvement in the group Write On Mamas. She will give tips on how to present a successful book reading. Charla Gilbert is a podcast moderator of STFU: We Are Not Done Talking Yet and will speak about opportunities for authors via podcasts Colleen Gonzales is contributor to the anthology <i>She's Got This</i> that was a 2019 San Francisco Book Festival Award Winner in the anthologies category and will talk about gaining confidence in public through making presentations at group speaking events.

2020 (June TBD)

Jan. 11	TBD	
Feb. 8 	Rick Acker Keeping it Real: Creating Tension with Believable Plot Twists	Rick Acker writes his novels while commuting to and from his "real job" as a Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice. Rick has led investigations and lawsuits that made national headlines. Most recently, he and his team won a string of record-breaking judgments and settlements against the Wall Street players who created the toxic mortgage securities that triggered the Great Recession. Before joining DOJ, Rick was a senior litigator at Bingham McCutchen, where he worked on high-stakes litigation, including a fight between two owners of the San Francisco Forty-Niners and a multibillion-dollar international fraud case. Rick has law degrees from the University of Oslo and the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated with honors. In addition to his novels, he is a contributing author on two legal treatises published by the American Bar Association.
Mar. 14 	Penny Warner WORKSHOP Writing Dialogue	Penny Warner has published over 60 fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children which have been translated for 16 countries. Twice Penny has won the Agatha Award and was nominated for the World Mystery Anthony Award for Best Children's Mystery. She has appeared on dozens of national television show on stations including PBS, ABC, CBS and NBC. She has been teaching child development for over 30 years, writes a column for a local newspaper, and creates fund-raising murder mystery events for libraries across the country.
Apr. 11 	Helen Sedwick Using Real People in Your Writing Without Ending up in Court	Author and attorney, Helen Sedwick has represented small businesses and entrepreneurs for 30+ years. <i>Publisher's Weekly</i> lists her Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook as one of the top five resource books for independent authors. Helen is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Alliance of Independent Authors and a Contributing Writer for TheBookDesigner.com. Helen's blog coaches writers on everything from saving on taxes to avoiding scams.
May 9 	Jennifer March Soloway/Literary Associate Victoria Piontek Query Letters	Jennifer March Soloway is an Agent for Andrea Brown Literary Agency. She represents authors and illustrators of picture book, middle grade, and young adult stories. Although she specializes in children's literature, she also represents adult fiction, both literary and commercial, particularly crime, suspense and horror projects. Prior to joining Andrea Brown, Jennifer worked in marketing and public relations in a variety of industries. She has an MFA in English and Creative Writing from Mills College and was a fellow at the San Francisco Writer's Grotto in 2012. Jennifer regularly presents at writing conferences all over the country.
June	TBD	

If you've heard a great speaker on writing/publishing/editing topics, email Jill at hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net

A Dilemma Regarding the Newsletter

Should the Newsletter Editor Content-Edit Submissions?

If I do, I may:

- 1) Change the author's meaning
- 2) Spend longer than I should have to putting the newsletter together.



We are a writing group and one could expect that a writer would put their best foot forward when their writing may appear in public.

If I don't edit:

- 1) The author might be embarrassed to notice errors in print in something written in haste.
- 2) The authors' names and therefore any work associated with their names are searchable online. Remember, we put our newsletters online now. Badly written work reflects poorly on an author.
- 3) Unintelligible writing, misspellings, incorrect grammar, punctuation errors, etc. reflect badly on the branch.
- 4) It makes the editor seem lazy or incapable for not having caught errors.

I don't mind making small corrections such as punctuation, fixing spelling, etc. Not everyone knows those rules, although everyone should make an effort.

I polled the board for their opinion since they represent the branch. The consensus was that the editor should attend to punctuation, spelling, and minor issues that seem like typos, but the editor should return to the author anything that seems to require content editing or clarification of meaning.

So don't be upset when something is returned. We do want our authors to contribute to the newsletter. New members should submit their biographies, their Sales and Salutes news, articles related to writing or opportunities for members. And from time to time, the editor will define a writing opportunity and ask members for submissions. In the past we've asked for items such as opening or closing lines, 100-word stories, reviews of commercial books. These kinds of topics are designed to help authors think of the best ways to write.

As an editor, I suggest submitters write, reread, and make corrections then read their work OUT LOUD. They will hear errors, trip where readers may trip, see where ideas aren't so crisply written or where they could be described in a more literary way, and in rewriting, produce a better product.

ALSO, I offer free editing of up to two pages on any author's work. Why not do the above, making as many corrections as you can on your own, then follow the rules on the website for Helpful Editor

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/helpful-editor/>

Come to a meeting willing to stay a few minutes afterwards and let's discuss what works and what might need to be fixed? Warning: I will not be at the November meeting. Elisabeth

Umberto Eco's Advice to Writers

"If we think that our reader is an idiot, we should not use rhetorical figures, but if we use them and feel the need to explain them, we are essentially calling the reader an idiot."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Figure_of_speech

E.B. White: How to Write for Children and the Writer's Responsibility to All Audiences

"Anyone who writes down to children is simply wasting his time. You have to write up, not down."

THE SAGA OF ONE BOOK

Among the books collected for the CWC Mt Diablo branch December 2018 holiday table decorations, a member must have donated *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, And The Redemptive Power of Music* (2008) a biography by Steve Lopez.

Apparently the person who received and unwrapped that book at the end of the meeting wasn't interested in reading it and left it on the table. The restaurant where we meet tosses out anything left on the tables after our meetings including business cards, post cards, bookmarks, etc. Some of us rescue as much as we can. I noticed that *The Soloist* was music-related and decided to give it to a friend whose life has been enriched through music. He taught music in local high schools. An auto-immune disease derailed his tenure shortly before his retirement. Since then he has worked hard to enjoy life in spite of a spate of health setbacks. To this day he teaches private music classes.

I didn't see him until a few month ago when I was finally able to give him the book. Since then he has told me many times how much he enjoyed the book and how moved he was by it. He highly recommends it and lends it to anyone who seems interested.

I want to thank whoever donated the book and whoever rejected it. It found its home in the heart of a music lover.

Find a review of *The Soloist* by Martin Brady from BookPage at <https://bookpage.com/reviews/5719-steve-lopez-soloist-biography#.XYvjm0ZKg2w>



Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print, cut out and fill in the coupon below to 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.

October 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.



You in The Newsletter!—Book Reviews

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Story summary by Stanford Stewart

A canonical American novel of the excesses and social decay of the 1920's. Nick Carraway, a bond dealer, in NYC is invited to lunch by his cousin Daisy and her husband, Tom Buchanan, where he meets the female golfer, Jordan Baker, a rumored cheater. Tom is carrying on a rather indiscreet affair with Myrtle, the wife of a garage operator.

Carraway rents a comparatively modest and rundown house in the Long Island community of West Egg. His next-door neighbor is the famously wealthy, somewhat notorious, Jay Gatsby the host of frequent, lavish parties to which people simply show up rather than by invitation. However, Carraway meets the mysterious Gatsby by invitation and enjoys the company of Jordan Baker.

Gatsby longs for Daisy with whom he had a relationship before WWI took him to Europe and some education at Oxford. He purchased his massive home and estate to be directly across the water from Daisy's home and dock. Gatsby pursues Daisy using Nick to gain access. An affair ensues. Gatsby ultimately arranges a confrontation with Tom, informing him that Daisy has always loved him and has never loved Tom. Speeding away from the confrontation, Daisy, driving with Gatsby in his grand yellow car, strikes and kills Myrtle Wilson. Gatsby plans to take the rap for Daisy. He expects a call from Daisy that never comes. She reconciles with her brutish husband who suspects Gatsby as Myrtle's lover and killer. He kills Gatsby then kills himself.

By default Carraway becomes responsible for Gatsby's funeral to which no one comes except Gatsby's father, and the minister. Disillusioned, Carraway breaks up with Jordan and returns to the Midwest.

The Woman in the Window by Dan Mallory writing as AJ Finn

Reviewed by Ann Damaschino

A psychological thriller. Another good one, although there was a subsequent plagiarism scandal. I loved the language and the unreliable narrator

Fight to the Finish by Ron J. Jackson Jr.

Review by: Carol Koehler Hebert

In one of the latest books written about the epic battle between Gentleman Jim Corbett and Joe Choynski, Ron Jackson has stunningly captured, not only the rhythm of the time, but also the people and places involved!

Set in the late 1800s, this "gritty & colorful historical narrative" chronicles the ongoing feud between two young men both raised in middle class families, and although they lived barely a mile apart in the bustling streets of San Francisco, were from two different worlds.

The young Choynski, exposed to the cultural explosion of art and literature through his publisher father's bookstore, worked as a blacksmith, carrying 300-pound barrels of sugar at his second job at a candy factory. Corbett, an Irishman known as a dandy, was a banker who dressed impeccably by day, but by night was a formidable foe in the shadows of dimly lit dives.

They were destined one day to meet in the battle that changed the course of the history of boxing--the bloody Barge Battle of 1889 on the Carquinez Straits off the Coast of Benicia, California.

This is an easy-to-read, hard-to-put-down piece of history. You will thoroughly enjoy Mr. Jackson's writing style, and especially his attention to detail, in this exciting historical novel.

Mr. Jackson is a bestselling author, historian, and former award-winning journalist!

You in the Newsletter!—Book Reviews (Cont'd)

The Night Visitors by Carol Goodman

Reviewed by B. Lynn Goodwin

Ever felt the need to run away? It's common among those who feel powerless because they can't change or control the behavior of others. Often the runners are women who want to wipe away the past and start fresh. Two women, Alice and Mattie, are in this position though they've had very different lives and one has run while the other has stayed in an effort to confront her demons.

Alice flees an abusive relationship and tries to protect ten-year-old Oren, when she steps off a bus in Delphi, NY. Delphi is also a sight made famous by a wise oracle in ancient Greece, as Oren, who loves mythology and the stars, is quick to point out. Oren is a wonderful, wise kid with an imagination that helps him be open to the unexpected.

He is drawn to Mattie, who meets them at the bus and makes a classic, social worker mistake: When the local shelter doesn't work out, she takes them home, wanting more time with Oren, who reminds her of her ten-year-old brother who died.

As the story unfolds we're drawn into a world slightly beyond our comprehension, unless you believe that some spirits stay behind, trying to communicate what the missing don't or can't see. Is there a real spirit in the house and why is Oren the one it can communicate with? The magical realism has an emphasis on real in this unique thriller about courage, survival, and moving on. It also offers the possibility that spirits are trying to communicate with those who can hear them.

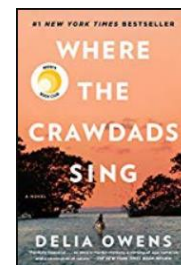
Everyone has secrets and the secrets of these two women are about to be revealed. Hand of fate? Hand of justice? Or simply a need to free these characters from the past and let them move forward? Carol Goodman draws on her experience as a volunteer-responder at a hotline for domestic abuse victims to tell this story.

I keep coming back to Goodman's work because I love her skills with language and tension. Always believable, these stories are also imagination stretchers.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Reviewed by Al Garrotto

Delia Owens has written a beautiful story, told with poetic sensitivity that is just right, never overdone. Kya, her protagonist, is wonderful and more of a cloistered nun whose monastery is the sea and marshland of Eastern North Carolina. It's no wonder the book is a national number-one bestseller. I want so much to give this sensitive novel 5 stars, but I can't. The final 30-40 pages leave so much to be desired, covering as they do 30-35 years in "this happened then that happened" fashion. Owens ends her story so abruptly that the zinger at the end loses its power, leaving this reader sadly deflated rather than gratefully elated.



Writers should be readers. What are you reading? What book would you recommend to others and why? What worked? What didn't work? Why? Does the author do a good job with scene, character, or story or all three?

So here's the challenge and opportunity to member-writers of all genres, send me some short(ish) book reviews to put in the newsletters. <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>

Please no advertising of members' books. Newsletter policy doesn't allow it

Things to Do

??? Submit to the 2019 CWC *Literary Review* ???

Currently the status is “The submission window for 2020 is not yet open.” Volunteers are needed to make it happen and not enough hands have been raised, nor has process been determined. Keep an eye on <https://calwriters.org/publications/#submit>

BOOK REVIEWERS WANTED FOR WRITER ADVICE, WWW.WRITERADVICE.COM:

Query Lgood67334@comcast.net. Put “Book Reviewer” in the subject box. Only review books you recommend.

- *While balance is good in a review, the ones for Writer Advice should be at least 80% positive.*
- *Honor the thought, effort, and creativity of authors.*
- *Write about what makes the book appealing, different, unique, and worth the time it takes to read it.*
- *Use plot points to illustrate what you say, but do not write a plot summary longer than five sentences.*
- *Reviews should run only 200-300 words since it is 25% harder to read online.*

The editor reserves the right to cut your work or ask you to cut it if it is longer. Thank you for sharing your reviews with Writer Advice. You earn a credit for your writing resume, good karma, and an ego boost when your work appears in WriterAdvice.

Lynn

B. Lynn Goodwin

Managing Editor of www.writeradvice.com

Poets, Poetry Lovers:

David Alpaugh will teach a class on Wallace Stevens at OLLI’s Cal State East Bay campus in Concord. Class times are 1:30 - 3:30 on five consecutive Tuesday afternoons, October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

Whether you know a few or many Stevens poems or wish to encounter this poet for the first time I’ll be acting as your guide to enjoying a poet who is too often *unnecessarily* thought of as difficult. I believe that Wallace Stevens is America’s “Holiday Poet”—playful, exhilarating, and suffused with a *joie de vivre*, which can be found at times in Walt Whitman, but almost nowhere else in American Poetry.

I hope we can savor Stevens poetry together at OLLI in October. If you cannot attend, but know someone who might be interested, please pass this email along!

This link describes the course. <https://www.scholarolli.com/product/programs/courses/wallace-stevens-america's-holiday-poet/>

THINGS TO DO are informational only and do not imply endorsement of product or services.



Young Writers Contest Donation Programs

By Marlene Dotterer



Our annual Young Writers Contest is an important way that Mt. Diablo Branch connects to the local community. The contest encompasses all of Contra Costa County, providing a fun and profitable opportunity for middle school students to showcase their writing skills. This long-running and well-respected contest also puts our name out into the community, among teachers, parents, and other prospective writers.

Many volunteers from our branch do the work necessary for a successful contest. In addition to the many volunteer hours, a financial investment is required. There are a few ways we raise these funds:

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

This national contest pays regional partners to provide judges to read and score the thousands of submissions they receive. For the past three years, Mt. Diablo has partnered with this program, with 15 – 20 of our members volunteering to act as judges for two or three weeks in December/January. Our branch receives \$2000 from this partnership, all of which goes to support our Young Writers Contest. This year, the honorarium has grown to \$2500.

Member and Public Donation via Website

Our branch also accepts private donations via our website. On the YWC web page <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/> there is a PayPal “**Donate**” button. The button is just below the “About the Contest” section. Clicking on this button takes you to PayPal, where you can donate using either your PayPal account or your credit card.

PayPal Giving Fund

This fund is an IRS-registered 501(c)(3) public charity. They receive donations from businesses and the public, who choose from a list of charities enrolled in the fund. PayPal disperses the money to the charity’s PayPal account. Our Young Writers Contest enrolled in this program. The amounts so far are very small (\$7.00 this year), but it all helps!

Other Ways We Raise Funds

Twice a year, the branch holds *Buck-a-Book* at a general meeting. Members are asked to bring books from their own bookshelves to sell at the meeting for \$1. All proceeds from *Buck-a-Book* go to the Young Writers Contest.

Of course, your checks and cash donations have always kept the contest afloat! You can donate at any meeting by leaving a check or cash when you sign-in for the meeting. Members may also mail checks to us at: CWC-Mt. Diablo YWC

P.O. Box 606

Alamo, CA 94507

For special donor levels, see the following page of this newsletter. And yes, we are an IRS 501-(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization (ID 94-6082827). Donations are fully deductible to the extent of the law.



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 Mount Diablo CWC newsletter every month in the year you donate. Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

DONATIONS A/O Sept 2019

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

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

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

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

Judith Ingram

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Fran Cain

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

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

Kathy Urban

Patty Northlich

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

Lee Paulson



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:

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>

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: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>

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



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL CONTEST

In Memorium

Joanne De Niece Denison, former Mt. Diablo branch board member
May 12, 1932 - August 19, 2019
Danville, CA

Also known as Jody, she greatly enjoyed her life and all the people around her. She had a lovely disposition, beautiful big blue eyes, wonderful smile, and a way about her that drew a great group of close friends. Her immediate family includes husband Robert C. (Bob) Denison of Danville, CA; daughter Nancy E. Denison of Fayetteville, TN; son Robert B. (Ben) Denison and wife Dona, grandson Robert C. (Collier) Denison, granddaughter Kaylyn A. Denison all of Elk Grove, CA.



Born in Salt Lake City, Jody's family moved to Alameda in 1944. In 1950, she graduated from Alameda High School and received a degree in Fine Arts from the University of California, Berkeley in 1954.

An accomplished pianist, painter, golfer and avid reader, her great joy was concentrated on raising her family.

Surviving the loss of their first born, John K. Denison, at birth, she became a devoted advocate of the American Heart Association. She enjoyed working for local doctors where she learned the art of deciphering doctors' handwriting. She shared almost 62 years married to Bob and his partner for all functions associated with Del Monte, military events, travel and community events. Close friends stated, "She was always alive and interesting and you looked forward to having a conversation with her and the stories she shared."

Those who know her appreciated her love and protection for animals, which include wolves, birds, cats, and dogs. She wrote many humorous, perceptive articles and short stories published by local newspapers. Topics ranged from local issues, personal experiences, and fiction.

Jody travelled throughout Europe, Canada and the Nordic countries enriched by arts, culture, and family heritage with specific interest in her Danish and Icelandic family history.

In lieu of flowers please donate to one of her favorite charities: American Heart Association, ASPCA, Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, Four Paws Intl., Wounded Warriors.

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