



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

March 2021

ZOOM WORKSHOP

March 13, 2021 – Workshop 10:00 am to 12:00

Register online at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>

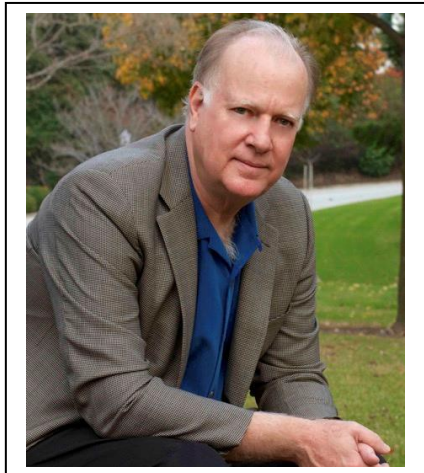
Write Your Novel from the Middle: A New Approach for Plotters, Pantsers and Everyone in Between

Featuring

James Scott Bell



For over twenty-five years I've been studying plot and structure. And I've plotted in many different ways. I've pantsed my way to completed books (no outline or planning,) and others I have outlined. I've done it in between, too. So I know the strengths and weaknesses of every approach. Based on my #1 bestselling writing book, this workshop will teach you a unique method for crafting a powerful, unified novel by way of the "mirror moment," a crucial beat that happens in the middle of great and enduring stories.



From Several Examples You'll learn:

- ☐ How to discover the true heart of your novel
- ☐ How that knowledge brings both beginning and end into focus
- ☐ How this method can be used at any time during the writing process

Have your Work In Progress (WIP) handy as there will be exercises.

JAMES SCOTT BELL is a winner of the International Thriller Writers Award and the author of the bestseller for writers, *Plot & Structure* (Writer's Digest Books.) He has taught writing at Pepperdine U. and at numerous writers' conferences in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. He has appeared as an expert commentator on *Good Morning America*, CBS radio, and in *Newsweek* magazine during the O. J. Simpson murder trial. His book on search and seizure law is the leading authority in its field, used extensively by lawyers and judges throughout California. He lives in Los Angeles. His **thrillers** include: *Romeo's Rules*, *Romeo's Way* and *Romeo's Hammer* (the Mike Romeo series); *Try Dying*, *Try Darkness* and *Try Fear* (the Ty Buchanan legal thriller series); and stand-alones including *Your Son Is Alive* and *Final Witness* (which won the first Christy Award for Suspense.) He served as the fiction columnist for *Writer's Digest* magazine and has written several popular writing books, including *Just Write*, *Conflict & Suspense*, and *The Art of War for Writers* (all from Writer's Digest Books.) He has also published *How to Write Dazzling Dialogue*, and *Write Your Novel From the Middle* <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00IMIXI6U>, *Super Structure*, and *How to Make a Living as a Writer*. Links to his writing books may be found [HERE](#).

Check into the Zoom Invitation at 9:30, Workshop 10:00 – 12:00. Members Cost: \$15, Guests \$20

By registering you consent to be recorded during the meeting

***President's Message:* Linda Hartmann**

Writing the Waves

Dear Honorable CWC Mt. Diablo Branch Members,

Our board, committee members, and chairs have been working diligently to make the remainder of this fiscal year a delightful for one for all of you. We have some great speakers lined up, workshops, Writers Tables, and Open Mic Nites! We hope the membership is enjoying the knowledge gained and fun being had as much as we have enjoyed planning it for you!

June 30th marks the end of this fiscal year, followed by a two-month break for formal meetings, but the board continues to work during that time, to try to envision the branch of this club that you yearn for upon returning to regularly scheduled monthly meetings in September. As a result, I would like to invite you to a couple of ways to participate in planning your own future.

The first: You are invited to stay after the workshop with James Scott Bell on March 13th, to talk with some of the members of the board about not only what you would like to see from your branch, but perhaps ways you can help contribute in a small or a large way to help make something happen for others to enjoy. We have some known openings, small to larger roles that we would like to make you aware of. Perhaps one might sound like a fit. You may have ideas of your own to bring to the floor.

The second: The leadership board is your board, and we would love to have you join us at any time for any meeting. The more you understand the inner workings of your branch, the more fun you will realize how involvement in it can be! **The next Board Meeting will be March 6th at 1:00 pm.** Please contact me at president@cwcmtdiablo.org or through the website contact page, and contact either the webmaster, or president for a link to attend (no charge for these meetings!)

There are positions you may want to consider that could be on or off the board, or both. One of the best-known benefits of volunteering is the impact it has on others. It connects you to others in your community in real ways, in the lives of others and organizations, fulfilling needs and gaps, making a better situation no matter how small the task. But volunteering is a two-way street, and the benefits can be greater for the volunteer in many ways. The right match can help you build a network of similar-minded people, learn new skills, connect with the community, advance your career, or enrich you.

One thing is definite, volunteering has been shown by science to make people happy. It can take your focus off your own worries, keep you mentally stimulated and productive, and add zest to your life! With busy lives, it may be hard to find time to volunteer, but for those of us doing it, there are no regrets. Please join us for the after-meeting chat on March 13th, and sign up to join us for a Board Meeting at any time! They are on the website on the calendar once we know when they are scheduled. We'd love to see you there.

All my best, and write the waves!



CONTENTS

- p. 3 Attend a Board Meeting; April Writers Table; Upcoming Programs
- p. 4 Member News Jill Hedgecock; Nannette Rundle Carroll
- p. 5 Members' Works: Judith Marshall
- p. 6-7 Some Things to Do: Submit to the CWC *Literary Review*; **Become Newsletter Editor**,
Attend Resources for Writers; Participate in Open Mic Night
- p. 8-10 Young Writers 6th Grade Short Story First Prize Liam Hancock
- p. 11 Young Writers Contest Donor Page
- p. 12-13 In Memoriam: Ellen Aubry



Attend a Board Meeting



This is YOUR branch. Extra minds and hands are always welcome.

There's room at the board meetings for observers, the maybe-I'd-like-to-get-involved-ers, advisors, and the just plain curious. This is your branch too, and volunteer organizations can always use new ideas. To join us go to <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/> and select webmaster or president. Fill out the form and ask to receive an invitation to the meeting.

Next board meeting: Saturday, March 6, 1-2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Writers Table

Writers Tables begun several years ago by a former board member are short, informal, informative talks by branch members sharing writing-related knowledge. Any member can suggest and subsequently present a topic. How do you encourage yourself to write? How do you develop plot, scene, or characters? Have pointers on editing your own work? What do you need/get from critique groups? Share tips on publishing?




Any writing-related topic works. Believe it or not you have something to offer. These talks have become popular as members gather to hear from a peer, ask questions, and share ideas.

Our current Writers Table chair, John Schembra, will step down after June in order to meet some writing deadlines. We're looking for someone to take his place. John Marvin and Bill Stong were co-chairs prior to John Schembra, and they wrote the job description. The task can be as much or as little work as you want to make it. Maybe you can think of several useful topics, and are willing to ask around among the branch for someone to speak on one or more. Often volunteers are asked for, members will step up. It's a great way to get to know fellow writers. Let the board know when a talk is arranged, and the details will be put on the website and in the newsletter. The board is supportive and helpful. You wouldn't be floundering on your own. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Linda at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/> and select "president."

There will not be a writers table in March. The meeting on the 13th is a workshop which is a longer opportunity to listen to and work with the speaker.

In **April**, our presenter will be Al Garrotto, speaking on "Challenge: Eradicating 'To Be' verbs." Al became so determined to use power verbs that he challenged himself to write a complete novel without a single "to be" verb, with one exception--in dialog.

Upcoming Programs for 2021

Apr. 10 	Alan Brennert Researching Your Novel: Reality Matters	Brennert has authored multiple historical novels, including his new novel <i>Daughter of Moloka'i</i> , and <i>Moloka'i</i> , both have won awards. He has developed screenplays for major studios, miniseries, pilots, and television movies. He won an Emmy Award and a People's Choice Award as a writer-producer on the TV series <i>L.A. Law</i> . His short story "Ma Qui" was honored with a Nebula Award.
May 8 	TBD	
June 12 	TBD	

Member Events, News, and Salutes



If you have a new publication, a book launch, an upcoming media interview, please write up a short announcement and let us put you in the newsletter. Gather up a picture of yourself or your publication and to submit, go to:
<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>

Jill Hedgecock

A radio show in the UK does 10-minute interviews with published authors around the globe. Jill's interview was Saturday from 1:20 to 1:40 p.m. Email Ian Johnson at chatandspin@gmail.com and in the subject line put Author Interview.

Jill listened to a few examples and found it free flowing, so she recommends being prepared to "drive the bus" during the interview. The questions could be something like: Tell me about your book or What is your contact info?

Preparation before the call will be key to having a successful interview. One author she listened to hadn't done much prep work and it showed.

To listen to interview, here is the link: www.chatandspinradio.com

Nannette Rundle Carroll

Nannette, who lived in Walnut Creek and wrote *The Communication Problem Solver*, has moved to Florida with her husband and retained her CWC membership! She recently submitted an article titled "From Polio Pioneer to COVID-19 Trailblazer" to her local newspaper and was published February 25.



[From Polio Pioneer, to COVID-19 'trailblazer': Ormond Beach resident shares her story | Ormond Beach Observer | Ormond Beach Observer](#)



1. "adverse" and "averse"

Two words with only a "d" to tell them apart, but are used very differently. Usually, a person is *averse* about something, whereas a thing or situation is *adverse*. Another difference: In most cases, if it comes right before a noun, it should be "adverse" and not "averse."

- ☐ The cat had an *adverse* reaction to the medicine.
- ☐ The cat was *averse* to the taste of the medicine.

Members' (Short) Works

Members, See your writing in print!

Send your **short** works (up to 750 words, preferably less) to be included in the Mt Diablo branch newsletter to: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>



The Value of Female Friendship

February 13, 2021 by **Judith Marshall**

My debut novel, *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever*, is a tribute to enduring female friendship. Although I am not a licensed professional, I have gained a lot of personal experience and done research on the subject of female friendship. Here are some of the things I've learned.

The importance of friendship for women

Physiologically, women have a greater need to bond with others. Whereas many men get by with loose, casual relationships with other men, women tend to look for nurturing, emotionally-fulfilling bonds with other women. This need starts in childhood and increases during adolescence when teenage girls find support from female peers. This helps explain why women form some of their strongest friendships in high school, which can end up being some of the longest-lasting female bonds of a woman's life.



The benefits of female friendship

Women seek each other out for emotional support and identity. We gain self-esteem, validation, and a feeling that we are not alone in our fears or feelings. Studies show that when women form supportive bonds, there are physical benefits as well, such as lowering of heart rate, blood pressure, and stress. The immune and digestive systems work more efficiently, too. It takes a lot of heat off men, too!

Keeping long-term friendships alive

It's easy to be friends in high school. You see each other every day, maybe you're even neighbors, or your parents are friends. But after school people move away, go to college, and soon life gets in the way. Before you know it, the only connection you have is sending jokes to each other on email. Or worse, you let a good friendship simply fizzle out.

Friendships are like marriages, they take work. If you value a relationship, pick up the phone and call or drop a thinking-of-you or birthday card in the mail. There's nothing like a personally signed note or card to show that you care. The bottom line is, you need to take action to stay connected. Remember, our friends help us remember who we really are.

Spread the love

2. "effect" and "affect"

Switching "effect" and "affect" is one of the most common errors. "Affect" is almost always a verb meaning to act upon, to make a change to something. "Effect" is usually a noun, and typically means a change that happened already, one that resulted from something else acting on it.

- ☐ The heat **affected** the woman.
- ☐ The heat had an **effect** on the woman.

Some Things to Do

SUBMIT TO THE 2021 CWC LITERARY REVIEW:

- The submission guidelines are on the state website: www.Calwriters.org
- The deadline for submissions has been moved to **April 15th 2021**
- Note that poems are now allowed to be **50 lines or less.**
- As in the past, you may submit something that has been published elsewhere as long as you hold the copyright. There will be a box for you to indicate where it was published when the webmaster has time to make the last two items listed here.

Let's have another great year for the Mt. Diablo branch!!

OPPORTUNITY: Become the Newsletter Editor

As with other volunteers in the branch, I have been doing this task for several years and it's time for someone else to put their flair into the publication.

I have enjoyed putting this newsletter together and recently have figured a way to make it far easier to do, however, after at least 7 years I wholly believe it's time for new blood. I was branch president for a while but when Marlene became president, she brought so many new and great ideas. The newsletter is more than ready for change.

I have held on for so long because doing this is **fun** in many ways:

- I've come to know and care for many branch members.
- I pretty well know what's going on in the branch and to an extent, statewide.
- The board is very supportive.
- Others write the articles and stories. I just fit them in.
- I've learned about non-profits.
- I've learned and been able to experiment with new technical skills (as you can see, all I use are a laptop and MSWord!)
- I've had fun with free clip art.
- I get to read the entire newsletter!
- I get to insert cartoons, jokes, and editing hints.



I will continue through June this year (no meetings or newsletter in July or Aug) but welcome anyone even vaguely interested to step forward now, ask questions, and let's talk about possibilities. I will wholly support anyone who steps up. I have the job tasks documented. There's a documented newsletter policy. The job is flexible. I will support you as little or as much as you'd like. I will volunteer to edit the newsletter before you send it for publication. Lyn Roberts has been a great help to me in that respect (when I finish in time to ask for her help!)

Twice in the past couple of years I've almost talked someone into taking this over. The first changed to a branch nearer her home; the second became our current president instead!

Contact me at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>

Some things to Do (cont'd)

Resources for Writers

Barry D Hampshire
CWC Mt Diablo – Membership Chair

Reserve time on Saturday, March 27th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 p.m. For the second time a few of the Mt. Diablo committee chairs will be presenting “CWC Resources for Writers” on Zoom.



No matter if you are a new or seasoned member, there are resources and opportunities that the club and our branch can offer to members. Many of these opportunities are unknown. Even those of us, all seasoned members, who have prepared this material, have learned new details that we had not known previously. So, here is an opportunity for all of you to learn how being a member of the CWC and the Mt. Diablo branch can benefit every one of us.

Look for further details in forthcoming Newsflashes and on the website. The cost is zero, but you will need to register so the link to the Zoom meeting can be sent to you.

We hope to see you there. Stay safe and keep writing, editing, publishing, and engaging with life at a social distance.

Speak or Listen at Open Mic Night



The votes are in and it's unanimous:
Open Mic Night is
FUN and Inspiring!
Be prepared to have your socks knocked off,
because when you hear
what our own member-authors have written,
you'll be **amazed**
blown away, actually, by the talent in our club.
See for yourself.
Come **read**
for yourself by signing up for a future date!



The next Open Mic Night is **Thursday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m.**
on Zoom of course.

Register online at

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/register-for-open-mic-night/>

Or just open the website <https://cwcmt Diablo.org> and click on the link in the pop-up.

It's that easy!

Young Writers Contest First Prize Winner

SHORT STORY – 6TH GRADE

“Wyum’s Pen” by Liam Hancock

Teacher: David Wright

School: Charlotte Wood, Danville

“Qudel, bring out some meal for the chickens,” father called to me that night under the dim, flickering candlelight at the dinner bench.

I was expected to reserve a greater portion of my meal for the animals every night we had dinner. When the harvest wasn’t good, we fed the animals rather than ourselves. It was the way our ancestors had gone about things, and the ones before them, and the ones before them. No child quite knew why we were so obliged to honor creatures that seemed inferior to us, but Father, Mother and even Ren-Jacho, my eldest sister, told of spirits that had come upon our desert village before the trail of tears to tell us to treat the animals as ourselves.

“These are things you must come to understand,” everybody implored me. “The desert winds will look kindly upon your soul once you do.”

So I brought my plate around the side of our adobe cottage to the chicken pen. They were quiet that night, as they always were when darkness defeated the stars. I brushed my greasy hands on the loose strap that wrapped around my waist.

“Heyakia,” I whispered softly, splitting the bread into small portions to avoid a violent plucking over the food. “Heyakia, *chickańias*.”

My favorite bird emerged first. A long time ago I called him, Wyum, meaning Lord of the Blue Sands in my culture’s language. He had a long, shimmery stripe of turquoise feathers than ran down his breast like a stream flowing from the mountains. He had large, wild eyes and a little stubble on his chin that kept growing no matter how many days I spent rubbing the hairs off.

His wife, whom my sister called Sevuelita, marched from her pen right behind Wyum. Sevuelita had a temper, that bird. She ruffled her feathers much like a mighty eagle when she was famished. When she was feeling brave, she would step right over Wyum to get her meal.

And finally, waddling behind Sevuelita came their fat, ugly chicks. I declined to name any until they morphed into something bearable to look at. As for the time being, they were nothing but strange balls of puffy down with mud-crusted beaks.

“Wyuuuum,” I crowed, dropping the bread inside of their pen. “Eat your meal!”

Curiously, Wyum took small, awkward steps over to where the bread bits lay in the sand. Following closely behind were the chicks with bulging eyes and expecting mouths. Reliably in tow was Sevuelita, who preferred to eat last.

The chickens were my favorite of animals, for they reminded me of my family. Father was a loud, rambunctious man with a belly that seemed blown up by the winds. He burped a lot because he drank a lot, but when he was sober, and only when he was sober, was he a decent man. Wyum was much like this, because his own stomach, well, let’s just say he was well fed. He was also a very energetic chicken, and I often came to the pen to find him running for the picket fence, trying to escape.

Sevuelita was like my own mother, for she had a very cold attitude and a tight face. She looked after her children just enough but would peck them whenever they showed false manners or acted rash.

Then the children... well, I didn’t see much of me or my sister in those hideous little things. Obviously, I told nothing of my opinions to my family because they thought that all animals were more sacred than man even the dung beetle that rolled its feces across the desert floor. And the conniving kit fox that slayed plump prairie dogs on the savanna.

The ways of my people were very confusing.

Once the chickens had plucked up the last of their meal, I said a prayer of safety over the pen and bade goodnight to Wyum and Sevuelita. When I brought my dish to the washbasin outside, Mother was rubbing oil off of my sister’s plate.

“Is Sevuelita well?” she asked, taking my platter.



Young Writers Contest First Prize Winner (cont'd)

"Wyum's Pen" by Liam Hancock

"Yes, and so is everybody else," I assured her.

"So Wyum isn't attempting escape again?"

"No, Mother," I said wearily. "May I go inside now?"

She nodded in approval and I happily turned to leave. Mother assumed me responsible for Wyum and his chicks, and my sister responsible for Sevuelita. Most of the time, though, that turned into me caring for all of the chickens (reluctantly, at that), because neither of us shared as much of a fascination with animals as we were expected to.

When I entered our cottage, I noticed that only one candle burned in Ren-Jacho's room at the end of the hall.

"Renny?" I called.

All that came in response was a sharp *shhhhh* from my sister. I ducked my head into Renny's room and saw her reading through a travel brochure for a city named Portland in America. When she spotted me spying, she shoved the slim paperback under her bedding.

"You don't have to hide those from me," I said. "We're in this together."

"I know, I just feared you were Father," she whispered, motioning for me to sit near her. "He's really... *unstable* right now."

I knew what she meant. She liked to use that word instead of saying *drunk*.

"By the god Oasia, he must only drink date beer on those fields," she spat bitterly.

"Yup," I agreed. "Cause he comes home *unstable* almost every evening. But don't worry, once I become a man and you become a woman... we'll find a way out of here."

We scarcely knew how, in those days, but we had a good amount of time before that day came. Once we were elders of the tribe, we could do whatever we wished. Yet for now, we had to hold on and put up with this animal nonsense for a couple years more.

Renny sighed. "Well, you should rest early because Father will be in a harsh mood tomorrow," she warned.

I nodded. "Goodnight," I said.

"May Moundi look fondly upon your soul," Renny hummed, taking up her travel brochure once again. This was a standard blessing we gave one another at night, when our moon goddess, Moundi, examined our deeds done from the day and decided if our next day would be good or bad.

Well, apparently Moundi saw nothing fondly of my soul that night, because when I awoke to the rooster's cry, my father was dead.

Immediately, the whole village made haste in covering his body and bringing him into the desert. I hadn't much time to cry. At least that's what I told myself, because nobody else in my family did either. I hoped that the reason I kept things together wasn't because I didn't miss him, because the village would claim me to have a heart of stone.

We made a procession far into the desert, as we always did when one of our own passed on to the bounty of Oasia, our god of the beautiful afterlife. A priest in gazelle skins lead us over red rocks and beige sands, motioning his way with a magical wand. Mother told me it was magical, so I had to believe her for the time being. We were right behind his sandaled feet, our faces painted with mourning images. My modest waist cloth had been weighed down with glamorous jewels, and my hair was quickly snipped so it reached nowhere past my neck. It was all so much for one morning, but I made no protests.

We reached the Holy Oasis by sunrise. It was a transition place, the passage between our world and the next. Only the priest with the scepter and the mourning family were allowed inside, so it was my first time. Palm trees towered high, and the sands were cooled by clear waters that trickled from an arched stone. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, and it was hard to believe that my father would deserve such paradise in his life after death.



Young Writers Contest First Prize Winner (cont'd)

"Wyum's Pen" by Liam Hancock

They told me he had died from over-drinking, which didn't surprise anybody. His room had been piled high with bottles of alcohol that were stained with little remaining droplets of date beer and wine. It was a sour death, I believed, and he should be buried in the deep desert after how many times he had hit me and my sister from being so dirty "unstable."

Then the priest lay his body, wrapped in a linen cloth, into the stream, and I remembered Wyum, the chicken with a beautiful blue stripe and the wild eyes. Wyum, the chicken who had bounded to escape the pen and I realized that Father had tried to escape his own pen. The pen where he'd been trapped drinking and drinking, the pen where I'd always chastised his habits, the pen that had held him his whole life. And then I remembered those nights where he had slung me up onto his legs and told me whimsical tales of mighty dragons and beautiful women and the god Oasia. That's when I knew it... yes, he most definitely deserved this Oasis here, more than anybody else in the world. And when I got home, Wyum was going to be freed.



1. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. A backward poet writes inverse.
11. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
12. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects.



Photo by Ardash Gupta

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 February 2021

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

David George in honor of Lee Paulson
Susan Berman

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

Robert Lane

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

Linda Hartmann

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

Judith Ingram
Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff in honor of Susie Wilson
Patrick Hancock
Aline Soules Danard Emanuelson
Kathy Urban in honor of Susie Wilson

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

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

Daniel Cheung Dorothy Kerwin
Nanette Cooper McGuiness June Gatewood
Patty Northlich Chloe Laube
Robert Boyle

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

Lee Paulson	George Cramer	Al Garrotto
Marjorie Witt	Linda Todd	
Marlene Dotterer	Laura Blackwell	
Maya Das	Ana Luengo Palomino	
Joanna Pace	Robin Abbott	
Chris Stafford	Pavan Kumar Katragadda	

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 submission is free. Check our branch website for details:

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/young-writers/>

In May the Mt. Diablo Branch hosts an awards ceremony to honor the students--if there's no pandemic! All program expenses are supported by individual donations and grants.

Please list my membership in the following donor club: _____

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ My donation is in honor/memory of: _____

To pay via PayPal click "buy now" on the Mt. Diablo website: <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/young-writers/>

Or 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 Memoriam



Celebrating Ellen Louise Aubry

1947-2021 (Ellen died January 27, 2021)

* * *

In Ellen's own words – a quote from her unfinished novel *The Grandview Arms*:

Betty speaking about Mac

"...It makes me feel an odd sense of panic. I didn't know her well, but loved the music of her writing... To go away and take such a gift out of the world, seems like a sacrilege to me... Am I doing enough to open up my own life?"

* * *

Ellen Aubry, MA, author of "A Suitable Place" and "Hardship Duty" in the anthology *Beyond the Window* (2017), and "My Soul's Gone Away,"

RumbleFishPress.com's story of the day November 18, 2017. She had a story

"Loud and Clear" in the anthology, *Voices of the Valley: Journeys* (2018), and "The Building: 1901 Providence Avenue" in the June 2020 issue of *Stonecrop Magazine*. "Chapter 3: Needing Help," a novel excerpt, appeared in *Litbreak Magazine* on November 22, 2020.

Ellen is the author of *The Great Fiction Book Proposal: Make it Happen*, available on Amazon. The work is a guide to writing a book proposal for fiction writers.

She graduated from the University of Denver's Professional Creative Writing Masters' Program with an emphasis in fiction.

* * *

Following are tributes to Ellen from those who knew her and work:

I'd hoped to be celebrating the publication of Ellen Aubry's outstanding novel. Instead, I'm honoring her life, that of an outstanding writer and friend. Ellen came early, stayed on track, and left all of us the wiser about our own work. I miss her talent, her attention, and her laughter.

Camille Minichino

Ellen was a writer, but she also was a listener. She listened – astutely – to fellow writers reading their own work. She listened to her dog – even to a building. We hope that she continues to hear our compliments and our thanks for how she shared her talent and exuberance.

Brian Shea

Ellen was an excellent writer, who was passionate about the craft. She was generous with her time, sharing a critique in her direct and honest style. I will miss her.

She was a long-term member of our writer's group, and we enjoyed her. I will remember her hearty laugh, her home baked treats and her grit.

Donna Darling

Ellen Aubrey was an excellent example of persistence and discipline. She completed her Masters and found publishers for her books and stories. Her writing drew you in, taking you there in the setting and caring about the characters she created. We were short story judges for the California Writers Club. In January, she emailed the news that we would be neighbors at Rossmoor soon. She seemed too busy, too active to suddenly be gone. Oh, Ellen, we hardly knew ye.

Susan Lawson

In Memoriam

Ellen Louise Aubry

If I had to pick a word or two to describe my friend Ellen Aubry, it would be high-energy. She moved fast and spoke quickly, but when she wrote it was with carefully chosen words and poetic sentences.

I'm going to miss the energy, class, and laughter she added to our writers group.

Jo Mele

I'm having a very hard time believing that our dear Ellen has passed. She was such a vibrant soul and such a positive member of our writing group. I loved how outspoken she was – all to our advantage. She said whatever she thought. Her suggestions helped me so much. We miss her already. May she rest in peace.

Nancy Hurwitz Kors

We are shocked and saddened by the death of Ellen Aubry. She was a shining light in our critique group – a fine writer and an inspiration to us all.

Lyn Roberts

Ellen was a terrific writer, but more than that, she was a terrific person. I remember when we were able to gather face-to-face in the writing group, she and I would look at each other around 11:45 in the morning, grin, and start a joint campaign to break for lunch. We'll all miss her very much.

Chuck McFadden

The last time I talked to Ellen about her completion of a Master's Degree in Creative Writing. She told me it wasn't about the degree, it was about being a better writer. And she was. I miss her.

Billie Hansen Dupree

Ellen was inspiring, both as a gifted writer, and as a woman who was determined to do the hard work required to polish and market her writing. We will all miss her energy and contributions to our close-knit group.

Ann Damaschino

I always admired Ellen's writing being in the same writers group. We were amazed to find out that we both graduated in 1965 from high school in Richmond, Ca. We grew up separately but together living through the same history at the same age. I feel a piece of me is now missing.

David Flower

