



# The Write News

## Mt Diablo

A Monthly Newsletter  
Elisabeth Tuck, editor

October 2021

### WORKSHOP – You choose: In-Person or Online\*

October 9, 2021 – Workshop 9:00 am to 12:00 for those in person lunch 12-1 p.m.

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

## *Emotional Mastery*



Featuring  
**Susanne Lakin**

The emotional landscape of fiction is the greatest challenge for writers, yet it is perhaps the most important element because readers read to care. And they can't care about characters unless writers effectively, evocatively, and masterfully show emotion in their characters.

In this workshop, you'll be given tools to show emotions in your characters. You'll be given techniques to help spark emotional response in your readers.



#### *What You Will Learn:*

- The 3 key ways to show emotion in your characters and which one is the most powerful
- What the action-reaction cycle is, and why you must understand it to be an emotional master
- How to recognize complex emotion and transfer that to the page
- What microtension is and why it's essential for emotional mastery

**C. S. Lakin** is an award-winning author and blogger at Live Write Thrive ([www.livewritethrive.com](http://www.livewritethrive.com)). She has twenty novels and ten published books on writing crafts. She works full-time as a copyeditor and writing coach. In addition to teaching and speaking at workshops, Lakin offers online courses for writers and editors at [www.cslakin.teachable.com](http://www.cslakin.teachable.com). Lakin is also the fiction track coordinator of the San Francisco Writers' Conference and facilitates intensive, online critique groups for successful commercial fiction writing. Check out her blogs and websites here: [Live Write Thrive](#), [The Self Publisher](#), and [Critique My Manuscript](#).

**\*WORKSHOP FEES: IN-PERSON CWC Members \$45.00 Guests \$55.00**  
**ZOOM ONLINE CWC Members \$35.00 – Guests \$45.00**

**\*\*TIMES: 8:30-9:00 CHECK IN; 9-12:00 3 hr. WORKSHOP; 12:00 - 1:00 LUNCHEON**

at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. **Reservation Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, Oct 6th.** 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: Linda Hartmann**Writing the Waves*

During the recent Autumn Equinox, I took photos of the full moon with spectacular halos surrounding, and clouds drifting through its brilliance. I suddenly realized fall was **here**. Barely recovered from the 2020 holidays, are they now approaching again? Moving around in another orbit, Earth, has circled the sun. I am always bewildered by how quickly time moves.

And so we begin October, a month that brings a new form of renewal-- time for the harvest of the summer growth, a period of change for nature when leaves turn color and fall, more dramatically in some places than others. In the Northern USA, often, the days are flush with falling leaves, chilling weather, and growing anticipation for the upcoming holidays.

When a shift occurs in the temperatures from heat to cool, and daylight hours decrease, trees are affected too. Chlorophyll which gives leaves their green color is essential in photosynthesis. Plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar. It is the lifeline for survival on Earth, as are our oceans. Chemicals such as carotenoids, flavonoids, and anthocyanins become more prominent in leaves and plants after the Autumn Equinox, and this results in the vibrant ambers, reds, and yellows of autumn. During this severe drought, please remember to take good care of your trees.

There are many significant days in October. Oct. 1st is World Smile Day, Oct. 2nd is Name Your Car Day, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> is GOE Day: Growth, Overcome, and Empower, a day for healing and creativity. The GOE elements achieve the seemingly impossible by promoting self-expression, writing, art, and making connections. That sounds like what CWC is all about!

In October I look forward to The Nobel prizes. This year the announcements occur Oct. 4-11, with the Peace Prize always being Dec 10, on the date of the Awards Ceremony and anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.. Here you can learn how they make the choices: <https://www.nobelprize.org/nomination/literature/> Here's information on the prize in general: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/facts/facts-on-the-nobel-prize-in-literature/> Rudyard Kipling was the youngest person to win at the age of 41 for *The Jungle Book*. Who will win this year?

Don't forget, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> is National Publicist Day!

**This October in our Club we will be hosting our first hybrid meeting!** The board has been working hard overcoming the technical challenges. We hope the **workshop with Susanne Lakin** will go off without a hitch, but if there is a hiccup here or there, please offer your feedback and cheer us on as we aim for a successful hybrid forum moving forward. This will allow people to attend either in-person or virtually via Zoom, and includes speakers and workshop leaders as well! Of course to the best of our ability we will be following local, state, and CDC guidance for Covid-19 to maintain safety. Please see the branch website for guidelines when you register!

Happy autumn to YOU!



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## *Covid-19 Guidelines for In-Person Meetings*

- CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch will abide by all state and local guidelines to ensure attendees' safety.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, not feeling well, or are uncomfortable with in-person meetings, we ask that you attend via Zoom.
- Proof of vaccination is required at entrance to the restaurant.
- Masks must be worn at all times when not actively eating or drinking.
- Zio Fraedo's staff will comply with Contra Costa County Health Dept. guidelines.
- The room will be laid out per Contra Costa Health Dept. guidelines, to allow for safe distancing. Our workshop leader will be allowed to present without a mask at the required distance from attendees.
- Attendees are required to wear a glove on the serving hand while in the buffet line. Gloves will be provided.
- Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer will be available as needed.



## *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. <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>

### **Joni Keim**



Joni states of her book, *Angels for Our Children* "It was a special collaboration indeed. While written by myself, age 70+, it was illustrated by my nephew, Dominic Keim, age 15. This young man has been drawing since he was about 7 years old and we all knew he had a special talent and a special calling. I am honored that he agreed to join me in producing this book."

*Angels* celebrates the characteristics and responsibilities of angels that take care of children especially well, such as protecting, guiding, and comforting. It is for all children and the child in all of us. Children experience many adventures and challenges. Knowing about angels, especially specific angels, may be helpful along the way. This book is designed to be read TO children by a patient and loving adult or young adult.



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

Welcome New Members

**Dan Beltramo**

**Todd Bequette**



**Gary Carr**

**Stephanie Denman**

**Helen Reznick**



### *Upcoming Programs*

<p><b>Nov. 13</b></p> 	<p><b>Allyson E. Machate</b> <b>Polishing Your Work for Publication</b></p>	<p>Ally Machate is on a mission to help authors make great books and reach more readers. A bestselling author and expert publishing consultant, Ally has served small and “<b>Big Five</b>” publishers, including Simon &amp; Schuster, where she acquired and edited books on staff. Her clients include authors with such companies as Simon &amp; Schuster, Penguin Random House, Rodale Inc., Chronicle Books, Kaplan Publishing, Sourcebooks, and Hay House, as well as independently published bestsellers. Ally leads a diversified team of professionals who specialize in helping serious authors to write, publish, and sell more high-quality books. Learn more at <a href="http://www.thewritersally.com">www.thewritersally.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Dec. 11</b></p> 	<p>Three of Our Own  TBD</p>	

If you've heard a great speaker on writing/publishing/editing topics, email our speaker chair, Lucinda Jackson at [programs@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:programs@cwcmtdiablo.org)

### *Erratum*

Last month's list of volunteers on the Writers Table Committee should have included **Judith Marshall**.



## *You in the Newsletter – Short Story*

### **The Professional** by **Robert Poirier**



Michael Wilson considered himself a consummate professional. He took on each assignment with a high degree of focus and strived for customer satisfaction.

This assignment was no different. Wilson signed on to his web account, reviewed and accepted the new rush project, and downloaded the instructions and photos onto his phone.

His look for this assignment was simple: a gray shoulder-length wig, an off-white pussycat-bow blouse coupled with an A-Line midi skirt, and a paste-on dental cap to close the gap in his two upper front teeth. As a compact, naturally slender man, with a close shave, he could easily pass for a middle-aged woman.

He reviewed the instructions and photos on his ride to the eleventh floor, exited the elevator, and walked down three flights. He silently repeated his mantra.

“People like you because you’re a nice person.

You can do this.

Piece of cake.

In and out in under two.

One in the chest is always best, then two in the head, and you know they’re dead.”

Wilson retrieved the silenced .22 semi-automatic pistol from the specially designed holster on his inner thigh just above his knee and chambered a round. The instructions specified that at 4:15 p.m., the target apartment would be unlocked and empty except for the target. Four minutes early and pistol in his hand, he listened at the door for a few seconds then entered.

The target, standing at the kitchen island between two stools, looked up and saw Wilson. Terror crossed her face as she reached for a photo frame, held it in front of her, and screamed “Pogreshen” twice before Wilson shot her in the center of her chest. She coughed once and sat down hard against the island. Wilson crossed the room and shot her twice in the forehead.

He tucked the pistol under his arm, snapped two proof-of-death photos of the target, and texted them to the instructed phone number.

He felt bewildered when a phone on the island counter vibrated. His gaze traveled to the photo on the floor next to the target. He could see a similarity between the two subjects in the photo.

Movement in a doorway twelve feet to his left caught his attention. A woman, closely resembling the dead woman, stood with what looked like a softball in her hand.

*Not too late*, he thought as he reached for his pistol. *I can kill this one and still get out in under two minutes.*

Everything seemed to slow. Wilson watched as she shifted her feet, brought her arm back, took a step forward, and threw an underhand softball. The seven-ounce, twelve-inch ball, traveling at seventy-five feet per second, slammed into his chest in less than half a second.

Wilson’s head bounced off the island counter as he collapsed backward into a sitting position. His gun hand fell to his side and the pistol slipped out of his grasp. Twitching and gasping, he watched as the woman walked to him.

“It’s called ‘commotio cordis,’” she said softly. “Blunt force interrupts the heart’s electrical signals.”

## Short Story (cont'd)

### The Professional by Bob Poirer

She sat next to him and moved the pistol away from his body.

“You will be able to think and hear for a couple of minutes, and then you’ll die. I won’t try to resuscitate you.

“I was an Army medic for two tours in Iraq. I met my husband over there while I was a pitcher for the Army fast-pitch, softball team. We were married between tours. He was killed by an IED three years ago. Turns out he was a trust-fund guy and left me well off.

“I’m an orphan. No living relatives in this country. I did DNA research, found a cousin in Serbia, and invited her to live with me. I have been learning Serbian since then. ‘Pogreshen’ means ‘wrong one’ in Serbian.

“She was my only living relative and would have inherited everything. But, apparently, she did not want to wait and tried to speed up the process. I’m sitting here with you because I don’t think anyone should die alone.

“Ah, the light is going out of your eyes. I saw it a dozen times in the sandbox. I hope you find peace,” she said.

*Very unprofessional*, Wilson thought as he slipped into darkness.

The woman called 911.



### Joni Keim’s haiku for her book, *Angels for Our Children*

An angel is near  
She visits when I call her  
She hugs me in peace

The word “Britain” rhymes with the  
word “written”

The word “Fridge” has a “d” in it but  
the word “refrigerator” does not.

You fill out a form by  
filling it in

## *The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for 2022*

### *A Call to Mt. Diablo Members for Jurors*

**The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**, the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens is around the corner. Teens in grades 7 to 12 (age 13 and up) are allowed to enter in 28 categories of art and writing. They are allowed to submit their own creative works in the following **categories of writing**:

Critical Essay	Personal Essay and Memoir
Dramatic Script	Poetry
Flash Fiction	Science Fiction and Fantasy
Journalism	Short Story
Humor	Senior Portfolio (for graduating seniors only)
Novel Writing	

The following is courtesy of the Scholastic Arts and Writing website:

Entries are selected for awards without knowledge of the student's gender, age, ethnicity, or hometown by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts. Many Scholastic Awards alumni with a variety of backgrounds and experiences have lent their expertise as jurors, including Michael Bierut, Philip Pearlstein, Edward Sorel, Red Grooms, and Gary Panter. Other luminaries who have served as judges include Langston Hughes, Robert Frost, Judy Blume, Billy Collins, Paul Giamatti, Francine Prose, Edwidge Danticat, David Sedaris, Lesley Stahl, Nikki Giovanni, Roz Chast, Wangechi Mutu, Andres Serrano, Kiki Smith, Jill Kraus, Shinique Smith, Rashid Johnson, and Waris Ahluwalia.

Jurors look for works that exemplify the Awards' core values: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

**ORIGINALITY:** Work that breaks from convention, blurs the boundaries between genres, and challenges notions of how a particular concept or emotion can be expressed.

**TECHNICAL SKILL:** Work that uses technique to advance an original perspective or a personal vision or voice, and shows skills being used to write something unique, powerful, and innovative.

**EMERGENCE OF A PERSONAL VOICE OR VISION:** Work with an authentic and unique point of view and style.

This contest is open to all schools (public, private, homeschools, & charter) throughout the US, its territories, and Canada.

Last year Mt Diablo had 16 jurors and finished everything on time! The number of students and submissions grows every year, so this year we will need a few more. It is so much fun and fascinating to read the perspectives of the youth of today and how they perceive our world. If you are interested in participating as a juror or a coordinator/juror, you will be assured a wonderful experience. Our branch earns a generous stipend for participating that is applied to the annual Young Writers Contest of Contra Costa County middle schools, and hosted by our branch. If you can help, **please contact**

**Linda Hartmann** at [president@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:president@cwcmtdiablo.org)

**PS: For those of you who volunteered to help juror last year, a surprise has arrived from Scholastic for you. I will write to you separately soon (approximately October 6<sup>th</sup>) to make arrangements on how best for you to receive this gift of great appreciation.**



## Things to Do



### Submit to the 2022 CWC *Literary Review*

By Elisabeth Tuck

Currently the status is “The submission window for 2022 is not yet open.” If all goes as planned, we hope to open October 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022 with the goal of the printed book being in hand in June. A schedule like this is what we had for years until Covid interrupted. We’re trying to get back to what seemed to work well. Submissions will be one per submitter. Categories are poetry, fiction, non-fiction, memoir, and humor. Humor doesn’t have to be a special category. You can write a humorous memoir, poem, fiction, or non-fiction.

Again, as we did for 2021, we will have a team of experienced poets judging poetry. Anita Holmes, a talented poet, from the Southern California High Desert branch will manage poetry and I will manage prose. Anita will gather poets to judge poetry, and I welcome anyone interested to contact me about judging prose. We will have guidelines for judging. You may also submit if you judge since submissions aren’t judged in the branch they came from. Judges do not know the author or the branch. They’re just reading for the best of what we expect will be an excellent set of submissions this year. If you submit, you may choose to have or not have judges’ feedback sent to you when the contest is over.

The new state president. Roger Lubeck, is from the Redwood branch. They produce a branch anthology annually so he’s experienced in finding good submissions. My advice is that when the contest is announced, READ and FOLLOW the submission guidelines just as you would for any outside contest. The first CWC advice I ever heard was my first meeting where Penny Warner advised just that: Read and follow instructions. At the time people sent paper manuscripts. She warned against colored paper, fancy script, bribery presents in the envelope, etc. Just write your best piece. Some helpful hints are: Even though you have worked hard on a piece, put it away for a while before rereading. After a while, read it aloud so you can hear if there are problems. Ask another good writer to read your piece and give you feedback. If you are weak on punctuation, spelling, etc., take advantage of MSWord’s highlighting to warn you of problems. Do some research on punctuation you’re not sure, or find an editor willing to help. Members of my critique group have agreed to review some submissions before they are sent in. I hope anyone in the branch who feels comfortable reading others’ works will raise their hands to help their fellow branch members. I will help anyone who feels they have polished to the best of their ability but still wants confirmation or comments—if I have time. The wise person will plan ahead and not wait until the last minute.

We should begin to see the 2021 issue in mailboxes soon if not already.

PS: Yes I have been informed there is an error ON THE COVER of all places. Well. Volunteers are human.



## You in the Newsletter!—Book Reviews

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://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>

Please no advertising of members’ books. Newsletter policy doesn’t allow it, but you certainly may review a fellow member’s book you enjoyed.

## Have You Joined the Fun with Open Mic Yet?

By Linda Hartmann

Lyn Roberts and Marlene Dotterer have been chairing Open Mic events for CWC-Mt. Diablo members since January 20, 2021! While we were sheltering-in-place due to the pandemic, this seemed like the perfect time to give their idea a try. Not only has it been delightfully successful, but a popular event for readers and listeners. They began with one Zoom meeting in the evening once monthly on alternating third Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The event has become so popular that for the past three months, an additional third Thursday in-person luncheon and Open Mic event has taken place at a lovely venue in downtown Walnut Creek at the Chicken Pie Shop: 1251 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, CA 9459.

For Zoom and in-person events, each reader has five minutes to introduce and read their piece then there are two minutes for questions and answers. Feedback is all positive; what you liked about the piece, what resonated, or what you enjoyed. It is a fun and exciting way to practice and hear your work read aloud to others for feedback.

The Chicken Pie Shop meetings begin with an optional lunch at noon, with readings starting at 1:00 p.m. This venue has proved to be a fabulous place for our group to meet. There are large open dining areas with distinct separations. The areas can be used depending on the size of our group. One area includes a small stage and audio set-up, although we have always brought our own speaker and microphone that is easily managed for our group to hear without bothering the rest of the restaurant. The food is tasty, and the menu is so varied that there is something for everyone. Ordering food or drinks is up to each attendee but not required. We encourage everyone to support the venue as much as possible, but the staff does not mind if you stop in to listen and only have a little something to wet your whistle.

The branch has just extended the Open Mic sessions to the public, so have your friends sign up to attend to read or listen in. Groups vary in size, and the readings differ in genre and subject from person to person. Everyone who has attended agrees it is time well-spent, and there's lots of enjoyment. Revel in a social, in-person, literary event with your colleagues and friends. Beware of becoming hooked!

The sessions scheduled for October are:

Wednesday, October 20th, ZOOM - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 28th, In-person - Noon lunch (optional) reading at 1:00 p.m., end @ 2:00 p.m.

### Chicken Pie Shop

1251 ARROYO WAY Between N. Broadway and Southbound Civic Drive

Walnut Creek

<https://chickenpieshopwc.com/>

This is a public venue and member of the public may be present. Masks are required except while actively eating, drinking, or speaking at a social distance for the event. You must show proof of vaccination per current regulations. For more information about that, please read specifics at this link. [http://cchealth.org/REGISTER-FOR any OPEN MIC EVENT via <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/register-for-open-mic-night/>](http://cchealth.org/REGISTER-FOR-any-OPEN-MIC-EVENT-via-https://cwcmtdiablo.org/register-for-open-mic-night/)





## 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AUTHORS' FAIRE



Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Doors open at 9:30 – Brunch Served at 10:00

**ROUND HILL COUNTRY CLUB, Alamo**

3169 Roundhill Rd, Alamo, CA

**Tickets: \$75.00 per person and includes valet parking and a served brunch.**

**Advanced reservations required.**

We regret that we will **not** accept Credit Card payments for this event.

Please mail your check to:

**ALAMO WOMEN'S CLUB – Authors' Faire**

**P.O. Box 151**

**Alamo, CA 94507**

**And an important note: Please include YOUR contact information. IF we must cancel, due to Covid, we will contact you regarding your payment.**

Seating WILL be assigned - Pay Together – Sit Together - 8 per table

Please include all checks and the names of each guest at your table.

**Masks WILL be Required**

**We will follow ALL Covid 19 mandates by the CDC, The State, and County.**

**OUR PANEL OF BEST-SELLING AUTHORS**

**Robert Dugoni**, Moderator – Mystery, Spy and Espionage and Literary Novels

**Rhys Bowen** – Historical Fiction

**Lee Goldberg** – Mystery and Detective

**Tim Tigner** – Spy and Espionage

**Simon Wood** – Mystery and Thrillers

Flyer attached. Please share with your friends and family. Advanced reservations required. We expect to sell out.

All reservations must be paid for by **October 8**. No exceptions, please. Information on our website too:

[www.Alamowomensclub.org](http://www.Alamowomensclub.org)

Sorry no flyer attached. It was hard to read when copied.

**Questions? Please contact:**

Jerilyn Strong, Co-Chair

[jeristrong@gmail.com](mailto:jeristrong@gmail.com)

925 718-5800

Sandi McKae, Co-Chair

[sandsmckae@comcast.net](mailto:sandsmckae@comcast.net)

925 381-1479



## *Dominican University*

As always, all our public events are free of charge. For the most part, we are still operating remotely so all of these events are virtual. The links are slow but do work.

**October 23, 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

### **Small, Bright Things - Fiction Workshop with Kim Culbertson**

Kim Culbertson will lead this virtual fiction workshop that will examine how participants can be mindful of story and approach creative ideas through this short form. [Register here.](#)

**November 10, 6:00PM - 8:00PM**

### **Composition by Juxtaposition - Poetry Workshop with Caroline Goodwin**

Caroline Goodwin will lead this hands-on, virtual class in which participants will consider how differences in tones of voice, and associative leaps, can work together in poem-building. Participants will free-write, arrange and rearrange, and ultimately share poem drafts with the group if desired. [Register here.](#)

### *Putting together a Writing Sample for Applying to MFAs, Grants, and Fellowships*

MFA Information Session with Judy Halebsky

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 6:00-7:00pm PDT

[Register Here](#)

The writing sample is often the most important part of an application to MFA programs, grants or fellowships. This session shares insights into how selection committees read the writing submitted and offers strategies on how to show your best work. Led by MFA Director Judy Halebsky. An admissions counselor will also be available to answer application questions.

### *The Nuts and Bolts of Applying to the MFA in Creative Writing Program*

MFA Information Session with Judy Halebsky

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 6:00-7:00pm PST

[Register Here](#)

## *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.

### **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://cwcmtdiablo.org/writerstable/>



*Alamo Women's Club COAT DRIVE****TOGETHER WE GIVE***

November 3, 2021, 2-5 pm

**Curbside Drop Off - Covid-safe - Alamo Women's Club****Clubhouse - 1401 Danville Blvd, Alamo****Get Ready Now!**

**One Warm Coat** accepts coats, sweaters, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, kid boots – for men, women, children and infants.

*Clean and good conditioned items – Please.*

*Your generous donations WILL make a difference. Help keep others warm.*

[www.alamowomensclub.org](http://www.alamowomensclub.org)

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

**Here's something to try:** Write what your book (one of your books) is about in Haiku. (Traditional Japanese haiku consist of three phrases that contain 17 syllables in a 5, 7, 5 pattern.) I'll put your haiku and your book title in the October issue.

Here are examples taken from *One Hundred Great Books in Haiku*. Guess what the books are. I'll tell next month. Last month I gave you three haiku of famous books. No one tried to guess what books they described.

A mad scientist  
Creates a ghastly Monster  
Who just wants a hug.

***Frankenstein***

By Mary Shelly

Morning: Pond gazing.  
Afternoon: Berry picking.  
What a hectic day.

***Walden Pond***

by Henry David Thoreau

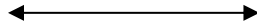
Will she inherit?  
Which suitor will she marry?  
When will tea be served?

***Portrait of a Lady***

by Henry James

## Young Writers Contest

\*\*\*2021 POETRY – 7TH GRADE\*\*\*



**1st Place**

***The Melody of Growth***

**Anya Houston**

**Teacher: James Flowers**

**School: Joaquin Moraga, Moraga**

I hear the daisies growing, they shoot and rise and reach  
Lily white hands tremble and sprout, outstretched, trying to hold on  
Before the slender knuckles grow too wide, before the fingertips reach too far

In center of it all, cloaked and deceived by its fellows in change rests a mind, glittering in gold, a host of  
the worker bee's sustenance

When wintertime comes with its drowning rains and brooding clouds  
The mind is deserted by its fellows in change and turns from gold to grey  
Dark thoughts that swirl  
Life plays a game, tossing out an experience here and there  
Words and actions that help new petals grow  
The mind, now grey, splits in two and screams like a beast, clawing in utter rampage  
As the day disturbs the sleep, as a winter flood rises

As summertime encounters the mind begins to expand and return to gold  
Nearby daffodils sing a slowing swan song, providing lyrics that are welcomed and tangible  
Allowing the mind to heal  
Noontide breezes sail, swaying the mind to sleep so it can help itself against the wilting heat

I hear the daisies growing and far away, down below, a body runs frantically to and fro  
Feet stretch and toes connect with the sodden soil that rests under all  
Constantly supporting, and giving an even ground to stand, to balance, and to run from times that  
trespass through the woods and teach the daisies the way of the world  
While the mind tries to gravitate with the feet and toes to the ground  
To hold steady while earthquakes shake the world and lay cracks in the carefully crafted plan

I hear the daisies growing as the muscles thicken  
As threads of ligaments weave together to prevent a break

I hear the daisies growing as they feel the flow of the water, as they learn the ways of the sun  
With the waves and because of the rays a package of nutrients is formed, wrapped, and presented  
Awaiting the hands that hold and the mind that sings

I hear the daisies growing as I hear their whimpering pains at the thoughts of change  
I hear their laughter and smiles at the thoughts and feelings of a new age  
I hear the daisies growing as they sprout, reach, and rise

# 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 September 2021**

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

David George in honor of  
Lee Paulson Humor award  
Susan Berman

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Robert Lane

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

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

Kathy Urban in honor of Susie Wilson  
Aline Soules in memory of Ina Coolbrith  
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George Cramer  
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**The Gertrude Atherton Guild (\$10 - \$24)**

Dennis Yee in honor of Natasha Yee  
Johnathan Singh in honor of Ali Singh  
Marjorie Witt  
Ravinder Ramchandani



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 a May awards luncheon depending on Covid 19 & its offshoots: Delta & Lambda. All program expenses are supported by individual donations. Thank you for considering membership in one of the above donor clubs.

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\*\*\* Please list my membership in the following donor club: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledge my gift in honor/memory of (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

To pay via PayPal click “buy now” on the Mt. Diablo website: <https://cwcmtdiablo.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