



# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter  
Elisabeth Tuck, editor

December 2021

Saturday December 11, 2021—11:00 to 2:00pm

IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

**FESTIVE HOLIDAY BUFFET**

**Published authors are welcome to bring their books to sell and sign\***

*How To Decide What Publishing Model is Best for You*

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## THREE OF OUR OWN: What You'll Learn

Definition of the three main types of publishing: Self-publishing, Traditional, and Hybrid  
What the pros and cons are of production, distribution, marketing & publicity, and finances  
How to decide what works for you and what it takes to get there



### Heidi Eliason

- Freelance writer, editor, and consultant, self-published her first novel, titled: *Confessions of a Middle-Aged Runaway: An RV Travel Adventure* (2019)



### Todd Bequette

- Criminal defense attorney, has traditionally published two novels: *Good Lookin': A Joe Turner Mystery* (2021) and *Blood Perfect* (July 2022)



### Lucinda Jackson

- Speaker, consultant, and founder of LJ Ventures, used a hybrid publisher for both of her books: *Just a Girl: Growing Up Female and Ambitious* (2019) and *Project Escape: Lessons for an Unscripted Life* (April 2022)

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**Sign-in** 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. **\*Members display and sell their books from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.** Check-in through lunch.

Business Mtg. 12:45, Speakers 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill.

**Reservation** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo website for attendance in-person (\$25 members/ \$35 guests) or on Zoom (\$10 members/ \$15 guests) at: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.org>.

## *President's Message:* Linda Hartmann

### Write the Waves



Dear CWC-Mt. Diablo Members,

Once again, we approach the holidays, and another year will soon be behind us. If you are like me, you will say to yourself things such as “How is it already December? Is it possible another year has zipped by so quickly? There is so much still to be done to reach my goals AND prepare for the holidays!”

December is full of holidays and celebrations. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Boxing Day, Ōmisoka, Winter Solstice, something not listed here, or simply celebrate life and holidays in your own way, there are lights and festivity that abound. This year, celebrate the profound history of our CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch on December 11th either at Zio Fraedo's or on Zoom! We will make it festive and fun either way. Authors attending in person are encouraged to bring their books to sell and sign during the first hour and during lunch. This is a fantastic opportunity to procure some items for your gifting list while supporting your peers concurrently. Wear your ugly holiday sweater, dress up or down, add a festive background to your Zoom, or whatever makes you feel celebratory. Let's have some fun!

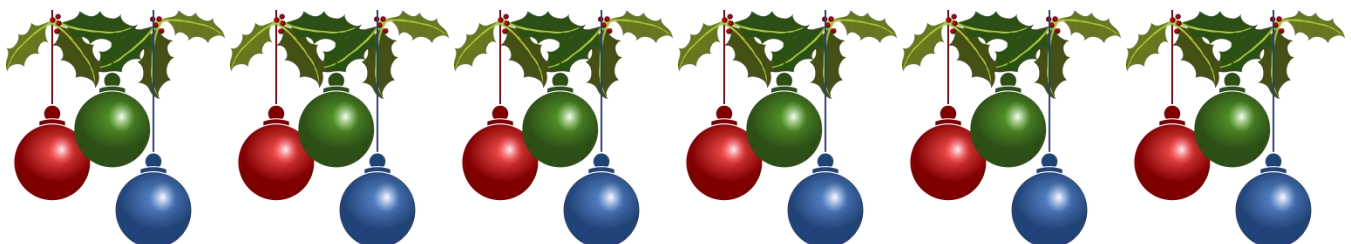
December 11th is also International Mountain Day, educating people on mountains' roles in providing fresh water, food, clean energy, and recreation. The theme for this year is “Sustainable mountain tourism.” There is much to see, learn, and do to sustain our own Mt. Diablo.

When I think about what our branch has accomplished in 2021, I see a lot to be proud of. The Board of Directors voted to begin the fiscal year with hybrid meetings, allowing members to choose whether meeting in person or on Zoom is best for them. It enables members who cannot meet in person to stay connected and for others to enjoy the camaraderie of being together again. Our team is lucky to have specialized members, Marlene Dotterer and David George, heading up this new endeavor's technical aspects. We encounter and work to overcome new glitches each time we meet. We practice with the speakers and other board members who tell us what they see and hear from the perspectives of virtual (via Zoom) and in person. Thank you for bearing with us as we grow into this new technology. Last month it brought us the well-known Ally Machate (The Writer's Ally) speaking from miles away in Maryland. We no longer need to limit ourselves to local speakers.

As December commences, concentrate on celebrating, family, friends, your writing, reading, and try to fit in a bit of time to relax and reflect on the past year. These past two years have been challenging in many ways for all of us. Think of what you envision for the New Year, and know you have your “family” of writers right here. You can join in on any of the activities and add ideas of your own.

As you contemplate your year, I hope that you have attended some meetings, learned new skills, accomplished writing and reading that have expanded your strengths and enhanced your creativity. Some of you participated in NaNoWriMo and made it to 50,000 words! Let's try to think about and even list the things we DID get done this year while continuing with our never-ending “To-Do” lists! Try this, and you will see what you achieved in 2021. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

**REMEMBER TO BRING BOOKS YOU'VE WRITTEN  
TO DISPLAY AND SELL AT THE DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING.**



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## 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/>

(Ed. Note: Ken donated to Mt. Diablo's Young Writers Contest in honor of a writer he greatly respected as you will read in Ken's article here.)

### Ken Kerkhoff

Thank you for the opportunity to honor Pejathaya, who was a good friend, an all-time scholar, a progressive farmer, an environmentalist, and a wonderful storyteller. He was loved by everyone who knew him.



S. M. Pejathaya, the Storyteller



Pejathaya was born in 1946 on the southwest coast of India. He watched ships sailing near the Malabar Coast and dreamed of joining the Indian Navy. Circumstances wrecked that dream around the time his country suffered from a food shortage. He took up agriculture with a vengeance and participated in the Green Revolution.

Pejathaya (pronounced *pay ja tai ya*) became the manager of a bank-owned farm in 1969. His curiosity about agriculture brought him to the district agriculture office in the town where I had just begun work as a Peace Corps Volunteer. The assistant director of agriculture called the two of us into his office together, assuming that Pejathaya was also an American volunteer. Wearing blue jeans and a denim jacket, Pejathaya's style and mastery of English made him appear American. From that day until he passed away in 2015 we were best friends.

In 1971 Pejathaya married a planter and became manager of his wife's coffee estate. Starting with no experience in growing coffee he studied furiously and soon became widely known for his creative intercropping and technical approach to planting, irrigating, harvesting, processing, and marketing of coffee.

When he commuted the long distance from Bangalore, where his daughters were schooled, to the coffee estate, he would spend days alone in his bungalow. He began writing articles for agricultural journals. People liked his writing, and soon he wrote for local newspapers. His research in water conservation and power generation from methane gas and solar capture became regular reading by many. Eventually, Pejathaya published five books in the language (Kannada) of his state (Karnataka).





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

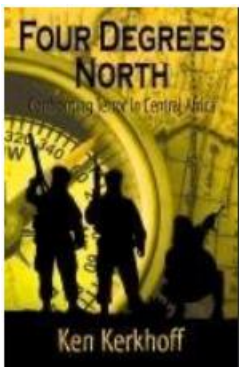
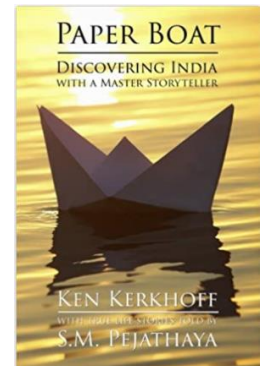
Pejathaya brought his family to the United States in 2012. We rented a large van and traveled all over the Bay Area, walking the Golden Gate Bridge, visiting Napa wineries, tasting the charms of San Francisco, visiting farms, and sampling lots of Indian cuisine.

Publishing an anthology of his short stories in the United States became Pejathaya's dream. He asked me to edit his collection of seventy stories and get them published in the U.S. The time difference between Bangalore, India and Walnut Creek is thirteen-and-a-half hours. My late evening briefly coincided with his breakfast. We conferred through email, but occasionally talked by phone. He and I worked hard to reconcile his style with what the U.S. literary agents wanted. After numerous rejections, Pejathaya suggested that we combine some of his short stories with my nearly finished memoir about Peace Corps India.

The result was a book titled *Paper Boat, Discovering India With A Master Storyteller*, which was published in 2015. Every other chapter features one of Pejathaya's unique stories.

This book is available at Reasonable Books, in Lafayette, as well as on Amazon.

My good friend Pejathaya passed away in 2015, just as we were planning a marketing tour in English-speaking areas of India.



Ken continues to write, now in historical fiction and young adult genres. His most recently published book is *Four Degrees North, Confronting Terror in Central Africa*. It is a historical fiction, based on Ken's experience living and working in Cameroon and Nigeria. This book is available at Reasonable Books, Amazon, and IngramSpark.

## Be Interviewed

These interviews help Mt. Diablo Branch members get to know you, your work, and your thoughts about writing and the writing process. If you would like to be interviewed, let us know through this link:

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>

### Marlene Dotterer Distinguished Service Award Interview Interviewers: Sai Balaji and Heidi Eliason



**< Sai: First I want to say congratulations on receiving the Distinguished Service Award for your achievement. For people who don't know what the award is or what you have to do to achieve it, can you explain?**

**Marlene:** The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is the branch's version of the Jack London Award which the state gives to members in branches of the California Writers Club (CWC) that have nominated someone who has been

exceedingly helpful to the branch. The DSA is a way of honoring volunteers who have done something a little over the top—more work than the basic branch volunteer jobs entail. Something a little more.



Mt Diablo's Webmaster  
Marlene of the many hats

## *Be Interviewed (cont'd)*



**Sai: What is the most challenging part of earning this award?**

**Marlene:** The award is not very specific, so you just do the work that needs to be done. At least that's what I've done. If I can do something, then I get it done. Other people just do their jobs and I don't think we really think about it, we just do what needs to be done.

**Sai: Did you have any other members help you with the work that you did?**

**Marlene:** My goodness, yes. I think the award I got was mainly for the work I did getting the Zoom meetings up and running after the pandemic started. There were many people involved in that because it required running the meetings, so it took everyone to help.

**Sai: How has receiving this award affected you or your work?**

**Marlene:** I certainly appreciate that they noticed that I did a lot of work in addition to what I was already doing. It's always nice when others notice that you've done something good, I guess.

**Sai: Do you have any advice for those who might want to win this award?**

**Marlene:** I think the best way to win awards like this is: just to see what needs to be done, and if it fits with your skills and you can do the work, jump in and help with things. If you have a good idea that the branch hasn't already implemented, or if you have contacts or people you know who you can encourage to help, such as putting us in touch with someone who can give us a big grant or can run an entire program for us, or something like that, it can really make a big difference in what the club does and how we do things. I think that's what is needed.

**Heidi: Can you tell us about your history with the CWC and what your experience has been with the club?**

**Marlene:** I think I joined in 2010, and that was before I published anything. I was writing my first novel. I thought the meetings were incredibly helpful for me at the beginning. I think for the first few years I just went to meetings and workshops. I had joined a critique group with three people in the Tri-Valley branch, and they were always volunteering. One was president, someone else was the membership chair, and someone else was the program chair, and then the next year they would be doing something else. For years they would just switch jobs and they were doing something in the branch every year. That kind of rubbed off on me.

I wasn't sure what I could do, but then the membership chair at the Mt. Diablo branch was leaving and she needed someone to take her place. There was a notice in the newsletter, and I decided I would jump in. That's how I got started helping out. I learned how to be membership chair, and it just went on from there. After a couple of years I took over the Young Writers Contest. It was going to go away because the people who were doing it had been doing it for several years and needed to stop, and there wasn't anyone else who was going to do it. The clock was ticking down, and the president was going to put the gavel down and say it was going away, so I decided I would try it. Famous last words—I've been doing it ever since then. I think that was 2014.

**Heidi: So you saved the Young Writers Contest, that's great!**

**Marlene:** Well, they had been doing such a good job that it was easy to step into what they had done. Since then it has all changed. I love to do web stuff and I love to play around with forms and create forms. When we could no longer use Submittable for the Young Writers Contest, we had just gotten our new website, which I was fairly instrumental in getting going. I said I would do the contest on the website and make my own forms, and I've been doing it ever since. I'm glad I was able to do it, because I really like doing that part.

**Heidi: Didn't you also have some other positions on the board?**

**Marlene:** I was president for three years. So I was membership chair, then I took over the Young Writers Contest, and I was president, and then the webmaster. I'm still doing all of that now except for president and the membership chair.

**Heidi: You have really helped the club a lot. What is the best thing that has happened to you because of your membership with the club?**

**Marlene:** It may sound a little silly, but making friends, because I didn't have any friends in Pleasant Hill. All of my friends were in Berkeley because I was working in Berkeley and living there. Then when I married and moved out here, I saw my friends in Berkeley, but they were over there in Berkeley. Joining the club has let me meet so many people and we talk often and do things together sometimes. I didn't have that before. It's just nice to have this group.

## *Be Interviewed (cont'd)*



**Heidi:** And they're writer friends.

**Marlene:** Yes, they're all writers, and of course, I've learned so much because of the speakers. Everyone has such good ideas. The people who critique your work are so amazing. They know so much! That has been amazingly helpful in getting every book published. Even if they don't know the answer they can say, "Just keep at it, don't give up." Because if you don't give up, you'll accomplish something.

**Sai:** What is one thing you would like to change about the CWC Mt. Diablo branch?

**Marlene:** I really liked your ideas about different kinds of optional meetings like the games, and the writing prompts, and things like that. I would really love to do that and have that happen. I'm so glad we got the open mic started, because I've been wanting to do that for years. It's because it was on Zoom that it was easier to get started. We didn't have to worry about finding a place, but we've actually been able to find a place to meet in person, and that's a big deal. I really hope that your plans about the other meetings come to fruition because I think that would be so much fun, to play games with each other—even if it's on Zoom—to do the writing prompts, or just meet to write for a while, or do a critique thing—whatever would be fun to do.

**Sai:** Is there anything that the club members would be surprised to learn about you?

**Marlene:** After all of these years, probably not. I'm pretty open, and I have a lot of surprising things in my background, but I've talked about a lot of them at various times. Everyone is always surprised to find out I have five children. Most people don't have that many. I have five children, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Heidi:** Is there anything more about your work that you want people to know, or do you want to talk about your books or where you are in your writing process?

**Marlene:** I like all of my books, but it's been five years or so since I've published anything. I haven't even been able to finish anything. I have several things in progress and would love to be able to get to them. I honestly need people to step up and volunteer, like if someone could take one of my jobs, so that I can go back and do a little bit of writing.

**Heidi:** That was actually my next question. What can the other members do to help you?

**Marlene:** **Volunteer.** Don't be afraid to learn a new skill. For instance, I've been asking for years for someone to help make certificates for the Young Writers Conference. It's just printing off certificates with names and titles using mail merge. There may be another way of doing it, but that's what I use, mail merge. No one knows how to do mail merge, and no one thinks they can learn it. I was going to offer a class on how to do it, and I was going to put it in the newsletter next month. Things like that, just for people to step up. I know people don't have time, but I don't want people to be afraid to volunteer.

**Many Hands Make Light Work**







**Heidi:** So no other specific tasks that you can think of right now?

**Marlene:** Well, there's a lot. I really need a web person who can back me up on the website, but that's a very definite skill that most people don't have, but if someone does, I would love to have that. I do have a few people that help on the web, Andrew Benzie and Phyllis Houseman take care of some of the pages and update things like the current meeting page and author page. That is very, very helpful, but they don't get into the running of the website and the back end of it, and that's where you need a lot of computer skill and knowledge of that kind of thing, so hopefully someday. It's an easy website; it's WordPress, so it's not anything hard.





## Upcoming Programs for 2021-2022

<b>Jan 8</b> 	<b>Brooke Warner</b>	<i>What It Takes To Finish A Book</i>
<b>Feb 12</b> 	<b>Joey Garcia</b>	<i>How to boost your book and platform</i>
<b>Mar. 12</b> 	<b>Constance Hale</b> <b>WORKSHOP</b>	<i>Writing Character</i>
<b>Apr. 9</b> 	<b>Betsy Graziani Fasbinder</b> <i>How to Be the Best Ambassador for Your Book: Pitfalls to Avoid, Practices that Pay Off</i>	Betsy is an award-winning, genre-jumping author, a licensed psychotherapist, and an in-demand communications trainer. She has coached public speaking for the reluctant and the downright phobic in fortune 500 companies, non-profit organizations, throughout the U.S. and abroad, working with executives, as well as with authors, activists, entrepreneurs, politicians, and thought leaders.

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



## You in the Newsletter

Since we're writers we should also be readers. The Write News is always open to publishing book reviews by members. Any book you enjoyed is fine as long as it's within CWC guidelines of no proselytizing ETC To submit a book review, let us know through this link: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>



Review of the book *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert  
 by **Frances Stephenson**,  
 Secretary of the Mt. Diablo CWC branch

The historical fiction novel, *Moloka'i*, transported me into a world that I have never experienced, a quarantined leprosy settlement on the Hawaiian Island of Moloka'i. I was drawn into the lives of the isolated and sick patients living at the settlement. The author, Alan Brennert, has written a moving story of the life, love, and strength of his characters who created a supportive community for themselves, watching out and caring for each other.

The story begins with the diagnosis of leprosy and subsequent arrest of the seven years old protagonist, Rachel Kalama, and her uncle, Pono Kalama. Both are fictional characters. As was the tradition in the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, lepers were isolated in an actual leper colony at Kalaupapa. Rachel is now cared for by a group of Catholic nuns. As a reader, I was drawn emotionally into her struggles and the horrors of the disease as it ravages a patient's body. She was shunned by members of her family and later, she and her husband were forced to give up their daughter to adoption. Because Brennert does capture in his writing the challenges lepers' face, I both laughed and cried throughout the story. I appreciated the humanistic approach the author took toward the leprosy patients. They were given a voice as ordinary people with a cruel disease.

## *You in the Newsletter (cont'd)*

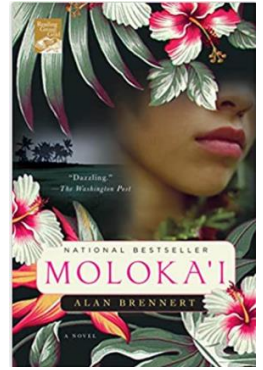
The political events of the twentieth century and medical advances in the treatment of leprosy touched the lives of the residents at Kalaupapa, and Brennert weaves these historic occasions into the novel. The research in the treatment of leprosy, which offers hope to Rachel, the American take-over of Hawaii, and the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II were all seen from a Hawaiian perspective.

Brennert adds to the richness of the story by including Hawaiian words, discussing the foods served in a Hawaiian feast or luau, and sharing Hawaiian legends.

I felt Brennert successfully blended both fact and fiction in this novel. The setting of the story was true to history while most of the main characters were fictional. At the close of the book, Brennert listed those people who actually lived at the leper settlement.

I enjoyed reading *Moloka'i* and recommend it as a good historical fiction novel.

Book Review by Frances Stephenson, member of the Mt. Diablo branch, California Writers Club

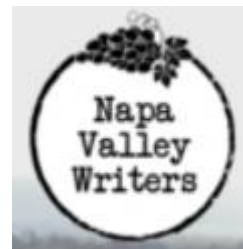


## *CWC Jack London Award Winners Cont'd from Nov. newsletter*

(Ed. Note: These are included so you can see that there are 22 CWC branches around the state [11 in this issue] and what volunteers in other branches are doing. These people have been honored by their branches for their various efforts.)

### **Michael Wycombe Napa Valley Writers**

Michael was raised in England and trained as a scientist before immigrating to the US to pursue a career in computers and technology. After several startups, and senior and executive management positions, he moved to Napa to quit the rat race and pursue his writing goals. Michael serves as the webmaster and was a board member while branch secretary.



### **Cathy Chase North State Writers**

Over the last five years, Cathy has served as Vice President and President. Her sense of humor and insistence on making member meetings fun has influenced the branch's steady increase of members. When the Camp Fire devastated her community and displaced a number of members, Cathy's efforts to encourage new membership continued. She takes the lead in branch fundraising, book signings, and member anthologies. Cathy worked with community leaders to coordinate the Chocolate Festival's "All About Books" and Chico's Thursday Night Market. She is also the branch expert at finding monthly speakers, and coordinates and leads the North State Writers critique group.

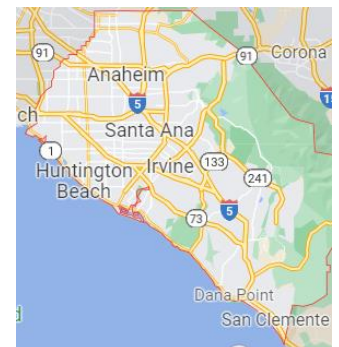
### **Brian Michael Gaps Orange County**

Brian Gaps started a Meetup group promoting the Orange County monthly meetings. This brought a steady crop of new guest visitors each month. The Meetup group now has 750 members and has provided the majority of new membership sign-ups for the past three years.

When Orange County was able to hold in-person meetings, Brian became actively involved in arranging the meeting room before and after meetings. This involved chairs, tables, podium, projector and screen, guest speaker needs, signage, and room décor.

In 2019, Brian was elected Vice-President. He worked proactively with President Jonathan Yanez to make sweeping improvements to the branch, including policy changes, restructured admission pricing, improved online marketing, guest engagement, and drafting board member role descriptions.

In a technical capacity he has made improvements to the website design, added functional links, created a guest email signup, handled search engine optimization (SEO) for the website, created Mail Chimp templates for monthly email communications, provided backup support for MRMS, and offered individual instruction on the use of Zoom. He continues to solely maintain the Meetup group.





## CWC Jack London Award Winners Cont'd from Nov. newsletter

### Roger C. Lubeck, Ph.D. Redwood Writers



Roger C. Lubeck is the President of California Writers Club and the Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors of Redwood Writers, and the 2020-2021 Membership Chair. As a Redwood Writer Roger has brought enthusiasm, encouragement, humor, and fun to club events. His efforts have focused on writing opportunities and publishing among branch members. He is a strong supporter of community education regarding the craft of writing.

Roger has served as an associate editor on five Redwood Writers anthologies. He created Redwood Writers Press (RWP) and he continues to manage RWP's Kindle Direct Publishing site, the Bowker ISBN site, and the Library of Congress Number Online website for RWP.

Since joining Redwood Writers, Roger has been responsible for the club's audio-visual equipment, served as one of the club photographers, and produced a number of flyers, bookmarks, and programs. Roger served on the club's Sonoma County Fair planning committee and he has been a strong supporter of the club's participation at the county fair. Finally, Roger has been a presenter in four workshops and at three monthly meetings.

In his career, Roger has been a university teacher, business consultant, workshop leader, facilitator, public speaker, speechwriter, researcher, parent trainer, and dogcatcher.

### Dr. Marcia Ehinger (pronounced "EE-in-grr.") Sacramento



California native Marcia is a retired physician (pediatrics, women's health, and genetics.) As a writer, a proofreader, and a student of writing, she is an undeniable asset to the Sacramento branch. For more than three years she has served on the board.

She has presented "early bird" topics at monthly meetings (e.g., Poem in Your Pocket Day), and helped with programs, critique groups, and beta reading. Before COVID, Marcia was that member who always spotted guests and collected their emails for later contact. She remembers names and is a walking memory log.

One of her most important roles is serving as content editor of the branch newsletter, *Sacramento Writer*, for which she unilaterally summarizes presentations, articles, member news, and other items. She pre-formats speaker descriptions and photos so the webmaster can post them.

Currently she serves as the branch Anthology Co-Chair. To get started, she conceptualized the theme, researched cultural meanings, and wrote an essay to further develop the theme. Marcia brings a smile, a helping hand, and positive energy to any topic or meeting. She is truly a Sacramento branch treasure.

### Pat Avery San Fernando Valley



The board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club proudly nominates Patricia Avery for the 2021 Jack London Award.

Pat first became acquainted with the San Fernando Valley branch through a Life Writing class she was taking with instructor Rita Brown, long-time club member and 2019 Jack London Award recipient. At Rita's suggestion, Pat began attending meetings and volunteered to be the Hospitality Chair. When another member stepped up to hospitality, Pat filled the vacant Secretary's position. When the club's Treasurer retired from the position, Pat agreed to take it on, in addition to being Secretary.

Today, along with the Treasurer's position, she assists as a critique group co-coordinator and is an active member of two critique groups, which she hosts on Zoom. She also volunteers to coordinate the writing prompt sessions at monthly membership Zoom meetings.

Past club president Andrea Polk says, "Pat has been a quiet leader, taking on and volunteering to perform a host of responsibilities with grace and assertive suggestions. If she says she will do something, she does it and does it very well."

## CWC Jack London Award Winners Cont'd from Nov. newsletter

### Scott Evans

#### San Joaquin Valley Writers

The San Joaquin Valley branch is happy to nominate Scott Evans for the 2021 Jack London Award. Scott created, engineered, and captained the University of the Pacific Annual Conference on Creative Writing for several years, and plans to continue after the pandemic. Scott also introduced local writers to the California Writers Club and organized CWC's newest branch. His branch members appreciate all his efforts. Writing is a solitary activity, but needs the input of fellow writers to be its best. Through his hard work Scott has provided this for San Joaquin Valley.

Scott is the editor of the *Blue Moon Literary and Art Review*. In addition to many articles and papers, he has published numerous thrillers, murder mysteries, and nonfiction works. He is retired from the faculty of the University of the Pacific.



### Lisa Meltzer Penn

#### San Francisco Peninsula



Lisa Meltzer Penn joined the SF Peninsula branch in 2007 after attending the Jack London Writers Conference. She is the Founding Editor of *Fault Zone* anthology series and recruited and mentored subsequent editors. Her editorial involvement continues to the present. Lisa arranged for *Fault Zone* readings at local libraries, bookstores, cafés, and the San Mateo County Fair. She has been active on the branch board since 2009, serving as President and Secretary. She received the branch's Louise Boggess Award in 2013 in recognition of her service.

Lisa brought the "Bay Area Generations" reading series to the branch and teamed up with the San Mateo County Library to create their virtual Story Café featuring CWC published authors. This year, she partnered with Shuffle Collective to present a virtual panel discussion, "Inclusion, Confusion & Authenticity in Writing," free to all CWC members. She's been the leader of a popular weekly "Shut Up and Write" group since 2018.

Lisa is the author of multiple short stories (many in the *Fault Zone* series) and specializes in literary fiction with a twist of magical realism. Her novel is undergoing a final pass before heading out to agents. She loves her CWC community!



### Tatyana Grinenko

#### South Bay Writers

Tatayana Grinenko has been an asset to South Bay Writers ever since she joined the branch in February 2017. She was elected to the board a few months later and has remained active ever since. Her sunny disposition makes members and nonmembers feel welcomed.

In 2000, Tatyana emigrated from Russia with her family and settled in Silicon Valley. She is currently working on a fantasy novel.

Her background and career in digital marketing has strengthened South Bay Writers' presence. Despite the obstacles of 2020, she's helped the branch continue to attract new members.

During the past four years, Tatyana's responsibilities have expanded. She manages South Bay's website, updating it each month with the latest speaker information and relevant announcements of new events. She is also the club's Publicity Chair. She sends out PR and posts updates on the club's Twitter and Goodreads accounts. In addition, she manages and updates South Bay's Constant Contact email list. Thanks to her diligence, South Bay's Zoom meetings have been drawing 60-plus viewers.

## *CWC Jack London Award Winners Cont'd from Nov. newsletter*



### **Patricia Boyle Tri-Valley Writers**

Patricia Boyle began volunteering for Tri-Valley Writers in 2014, serving two terms as Vice-President, then President from 2016 to 2018, and Newsletter Editor from 2018 to 2020. When the pandemic hit, Patricia stepped up to the challenge to be VP once again. While President, she initiated Tri-Valley Writers Partners Program, teaming new members with volunteers who answer questions about the branch and welcome their partners at meetings. She also started the “Pull Up a Chair and Write” sessions at The Corner Bakery in Pleasanton. A retired teacher, Patricia is a champion for Tri-Valley’s High School Writing Contest and an advocate for the branch’s youth members.



### **Joan Raymond Writers of Kern**

Joan Raymond has what we call a “servant’s heart.” Since she joined Writers of Kern back in 2012, she has held almost every position on the branch board. Beyond that, she is willing to help with any and all tasks. Why? Because she not only loves writing and helping writers, but she loves Writers of Kern. Joan has been an example of strength in adversity and an encourager to the highest degree.

Joan’s service to Writers of Kern includes one year as secretary, one as treasurer, and six as president and program chair. She’s led critique groups since 2012, and was the senior editor for the 2019 and 2021 WOK Anthology. Joan earned her M.A. in Creative Writing/English in 2017. Along with writing, she is a freelance editor and creative writing instructor. She has three published novels.

Writers of Kern is honored to have Joan on the branch board and looks forward to many more years of having her as a friend and mentor.

## *Things to Do*

### **A Call for Members to Judge Teen Writing for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards 2022!**



**The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**, the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens (founded in 1923), is **seeking additional judges from our branch**. Teens in grades 7 to 12 (age 13 and up) enter in 17 categories of art and 11 categories of writing.

This contest is fun, a fantastic way to help teens, and to see what the leaders of tomorrow are thinking about today. The contest judging begins late December and ends in mid-January 2022. Usually, jurors are finished with their assignments early by setting aside a few designated times for reading. We try to give you the categories of your choice and know which types you do not feel qualified to read, so you will not receive those.

This contest holds a lot of meaning for our branch. We have been involved with Scholastic for many years, helping students win awards, medals, scholarships, honorable mentions, publications, and even residencies for their work. Students write only in English and are from all private, public, charter, and home schools throughout the United States, its territories, Canada, and U.S. military schools across the globe. Entries are selected for awards without knowledge of the student’s gender, age, ethnicity, or hometown by some of the foremost visual and literary arts leaders.

The \$2,500 honorarium we receive goes to fund the impressive annual Young Writers Contest sponsored by CWC-Mt. Diablo for all middle schools in Contra Costa County. Thus, we pass on to local students many similar opportunities to hone their writing skills.



## Things to Do (cont'd)

Students submit their creative works to the Scholastic contest in the following **categories**:

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	

Selections are based on three core values:

- Originality
- Technical skill
- Emergence of a personal voice or vision



Many writers we read today received their start by submitting to Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, including Stephen King, Truman Capote, Frances Farmer, Bernard Malamud, Sylvia Plath, Kay Walkingstick, John Updike, Alan Arkin, Hugh Gallagher, Joyce Carol Oates, John Lithgow, Dan Fogelberg, and Joyce Maynard, to name just a few. Many jurors are luminaries, and some are past winners of the Scholastic Awards paying it forward, including: Francine Prose, Robert Redford, Paul Giamatti, Langston Hughes, Judy Blume, Paula Poundstone, Lesley Stahl, and Billy Collins.

Last year we had 16 jurors and finished everything before the deadline! Training is provided. The number of students and submissions grows every year, so this year we will need a 3-5 additional, as jurors or back-up jurors if required. It is fascinating to read the perspectives of the youth of today and how they perceive our world. If you are interested in participating as a judge/juror or a coordinator/juror, you will be assured a wonderful experience. **Please contact: Linda Hartmann at [president@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:president@cwcmtdiablo.org)**

For more information, please see: <https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/>

P.S. For those of you who volunteered to juror last year, in addition to your name on their website, a **surprise gift** arrived from Scholastic for you. Hopefully you have found it in your mailbox with my hope that it will serve as inspiration to continue as a judge for this transformative awards contest.



**LEAD A WRITERS TABLE:** As writers, we all have unique skills or perspectives we could offer to our community. What do you bring to the craft or business side of our industry? What tips and tricks have you learned along the way? Is it something that inspires you with ideas for writing, something that encourages you to work at writing, a way to begin or to finish? Do you use any software, the internet, or reference books? What's the best tip you've absorbed and honed? Do you have a publishing or marketing idea to share?

*Writers Table* is an opportunity for our members to engage by way of mini-presentations at our monthly meetings in which we motivate, teach, and discuss topics relevant to writers. It is also a great way to hone your speaking/leadership skills. Would you like to lead a Writers Table session? We'd love to hear from you. Please reach out by emailing Kymberlie at [kymberlieCWC@gmail.com](mailto:kymberlieCWC@gmail.com)



## Things to Do (cont'd)

### California Writers Club - Mt. Diablo Branch

#### #Newsflash:

#### News and Opportunities for Members

#### Open Mic Events in December!

Let's celebrate! What holiday(s) do you observe this time of year? Do you have a story that takes place during your holiday? Bring it on!



**December 16, 7:00 p.m.** Join us on Zoom! Bring your own eggnog and cookies.

Readers will have 5 minutes to read, with two minutes for Q&A.

These events are open to the public. Invite your friends!

[Click Here to Register](#)

### SUBMIT TO THE CWC LITERARY REVIEW

The submission window for the Literary Review opened November 15 and will close Jan 31. 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.

Prose submissions will be one per submitter. Maximum number of words: 2500

Poetry will be 2 per submitter. Maximum number of lines per poem: 50

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.

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. You may submit if you judge since submissions aren't judged in the originating branch.

The guidelines for judging (aka rubrics) are in the FAQ at <https://calwriters.org/publications/#about>

When you submit, you choose to have or not have judges' feedback sent to you after the contest ends.

I hope anyone in the branch who feels comfortable reading others' works will raise their hands to help their fellow branch members by reviewing pieces before they are submitted. 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.

## *You in the Newsletter*

### **Members, see your writing in print**

Send your short fiction, non-fiction, book reviews, articles, etc. (up to 750 words, preferably less) to be included in the Mt Diablo branch newsletter to: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>

This is good writing practice. Being published in a branch newsletter does not preclude that writing from the *Literary Review*.

A California scene captured by Jill Hedgecock





Check out these local, independent book stores:

### Reasonable Books

<https://reasonable.online/>

3645 Mt Diablo Blvd Suite C

Lafayette, CA 94549

(925) 385-3026

### Flashlight Books

<https://www.flashlightbooks.com/>

1537 N Main St,

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

(925) 278-1797

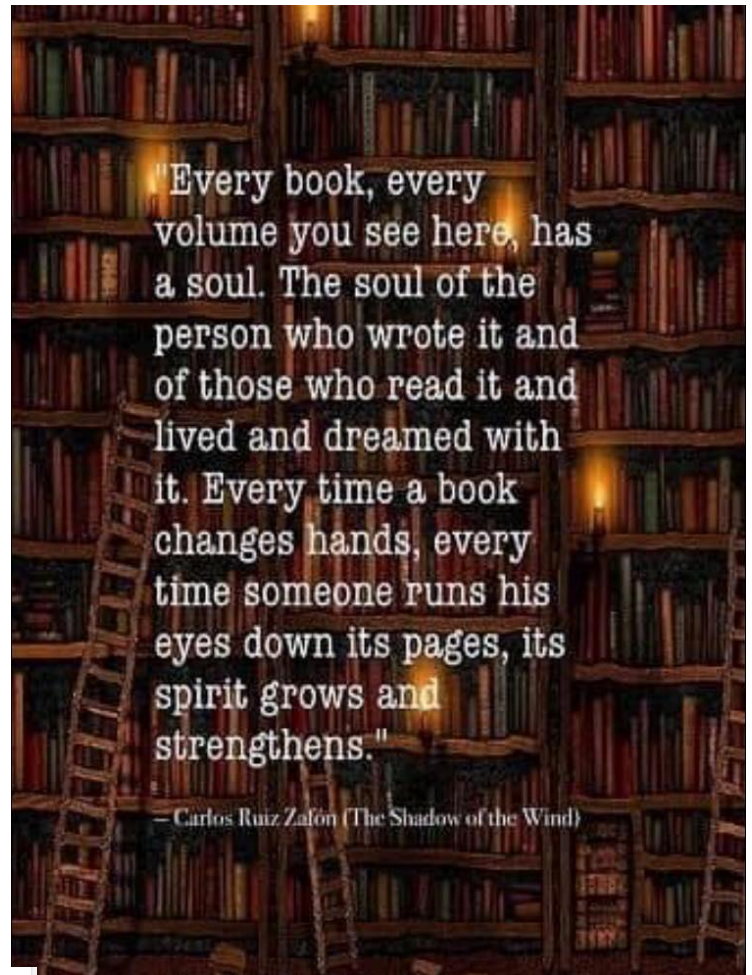
### Bel and Bunna's Books

<https://belandbunnasbooks.com/>

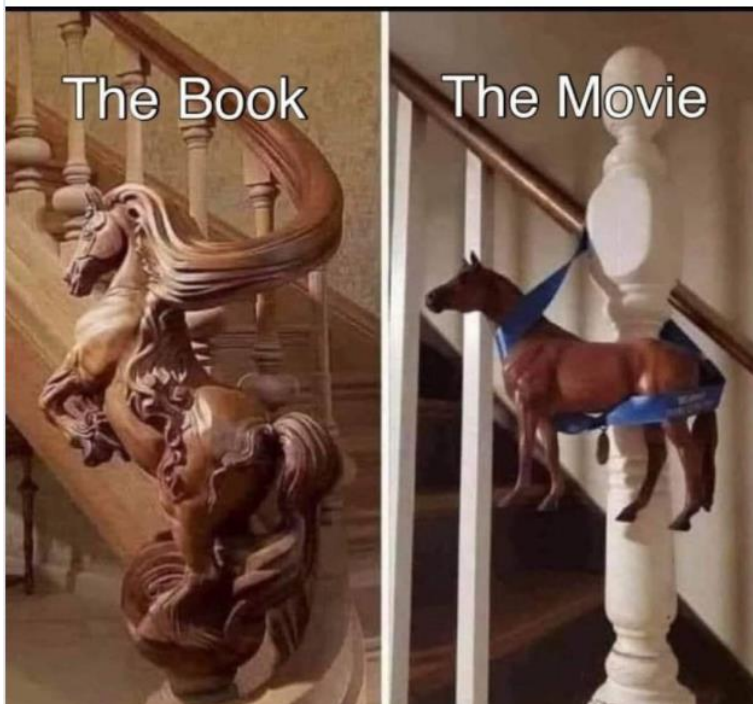
3581-C, Mt Diablo Blvd,

Lafayette, CA 94549

(925) 298-5512



Just about sums it up....



*All the best for the season to all*



Check out a 1913 advertisement that used Jack London's visage

October 18, 1913

THE LITERARY DIGEST

717



JACK LONDON —  
*Able Seaman*

JACK  
LONDON  
*Royal  
Tailored  
Man*

COPYRIGHT, 1913, THE ROYAL TAILORS

## "It's funny what a difference a few Clothes Make!"

When Jack London picked out a Royal Fabric for a 2 piece Fall suit a few weeks ago, the fancy took him that he wanted a hat made of the same material. "Nothing easier!" said the local Royal dealer. And straightway he measured the London head and the London crown—sending those measurements to us along with the London body dimensions.

We cut and tailored the hat just as we did the suit, to exactly dovetail the specifications given us. Perhaps it may, or it may not be to your taste to wear a hat that matches your suit. But the point is: Royal Service gives you exactly what

you want—exactly as you order it. There is no such thing as "partial satisfaction" in a Royal Tailor transaction. A Royal deal means complete satisfaction or no sale.

You select the fabric you want. You pick out the style and cut you want—and if any little individualities are wanted, not shown in the fashion plate you select, you dictate the desired changes to your local dealer—and we edit them into your suit! The Royal Tailored Man is the type of man who appreciates exact perfection—and gets it in his clothes.



**SIX BIG FEATURES**  
WHICH MAKE US  
THE ROYAL TAILORS  
OF THE WORLD  
1. All the Best  
2. All the Latest  
3. All the Best  
4. All the Best  
5. All the Best  
6. All the Best

We pay  
\$1 A Day For  
every Day of  
Delay When a  
Royal Garment  
is not finished  
on time



The Garment  
comes but once  
in the life of a  
man



The Clothes That  
Real Men Wear

The Royal Tailors  
Chicago *Joseph Nelson* New York  
President



Royal Tailored-To-  
Your-Order Clothes

## 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 Nov 2021

JACK LONDON FOUNDER'S CIRCLE (\$500+)

**Susan Berman**

THE JOHN STEINBECK SOCIETY (\$250 - \$499)

**Robert Lane**

**David George** In honor & support of **R. Lee Paulson** Humor Award

JOHN MUIR MEMBER CLUB (\$150 -

\$249) **Ken Kerkhoff** in honor of **S. M**

**Pejathaya**

INA COOLBRITH LAUREATE CLUB (\$100 - \$149)

**Kathy Urban** in honor of **Susie Wilson**

**Elizabeth Pentacoff** in honor of **Susie Wilson**

**Judith Marshall**

MARY AUSTIN WRITERS CLUB (\$50 - \$99)

**Lynn Goodwin**

**Uyen Chau Nguyen**

HELEN HUNT JACKSON GROUP (\$25 - \$49)

**Robert Poirier**

**Janet Clark**

THE GERTRUDE ATHERTON GUILD (\$10 - \$24)

**Marjorie Witt**

**Ravinder Ramchan**

**Jonathan Singh** in honor of **Ali Singh**

**Dennis Yee** in honor of **Natasha Yee**

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**