



# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter  
Elisabeth Tuck, editor

January 2022

## In-Person and Zoom BRANCH MEETING

January 8, 2022

**Check-In 11:00 Writer's Table 11:15 12:00 Lunch**  
**Business Meeting 12:40 Speaker 1:00**

Register online at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/> Once registered, you will receive a link to join the Zoom meeting.



## ***What it Takes to Finish a Book*** ***(How to Stay the Course and Get it Done!)***

featuring

**Brooke Warner**



This talk will support writers and authors who are working on book projects to stay the course, give themselves the much-needed high-fives along the way, and remember that the journey is indeed the reward. Finishing a book requires support. Sometimes all it takes is a shift in perspective, someone saying the right thing in the right moment. This session will include what Brooke Warner has learned in her coaching and shepherding thousands of authors through the writing and publishing process—and will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

### **This session will cover:**

- The role of confidence in your writing process
- Why facing your fears is the key to getting it done
- The importance of releasing perfectionism
- The power of accountability



**Brooke Warner** is publisher of She Writes Press and SparkPress, president of Warner Coaching Inc., and author of *Write On, Sisters!*, *Green-light Your Book*, *What's Your Book?*, and three books on memoir. Brooke is a TEDx speaker, weekly podcaster (of "Write-minded" with co-host Grant Faulkner of NaNoWriMo), and the former Executive Editor of Seal Press. She writes a monthly column for *Publishers Weekly*.

**In-Person – Members \$25.00 – Guests \$35.00**

**Zoom – Members \$10.00 – Guests \$15.00**

## *President's Message:* Linda Hartmann



### Writing the Waves

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to all CWC-Mt. Diablo Members!

I'm hoping you were able to stay well and vibrant during the Holiday Season while a new coronavirus variant swirled its way around the world. Continuing to do what you can to stay safe and keeping well, in addition to vaccinations and boosters, is what we hope you will be willing to do until the pandemic reaches better levels of control. Just think, if everyone did their part...

I have been thinking about that phrase a lot lately: "If everyone did their part." Just think about what could be accomplished in this world. Every end-of-year, I go through a few 'rituals' to ensure I do my part. I will share these with you because there is a nice feeling when our contributions are intentioned, knowing we are doing enough, when possible.

Each year, I review my accomplishments, ability to give to time or resources to causes or to those more vulnerable, and try to decide where I stand with myself, my family, those close to me, causes, and how they match with values, time, and goals identified. Time is a great equalizer. No matter how much I wish I could have 72 hours each day to get more done, this is unattainable. It is how we choose to spend our time that makes all of us different. Equality in the "what we have or have-not" is forever lacking, but it is our use of our resources that we feel good about that matters. What can we repurpose, donate, downsize, or give to improve elsewhere? What causes might we consider? What are we involved in? What would we like to see? The saying "Be the change you want to see in the world" is one that has stuck with me.

Although I try to give as much as possible throughout the year of my time and resources, it is at the New Year that I do the actual check-in.

Doing one's part at least lightens the load for the whole and can unburden some feelings about things you cannot control in life. This planet and its inhabitants are full of needs, as is our own community. It is uplifting when you know you are doing at least some of what you can to improve life for others, your family, an organization, or a cause you care for deeply. Your shoulders feel a bit lighter, and your day becomes brighter.

We can apply this to our goals in life, too. When we chip away at our goals that matter to us most, we feel better. We know we have accomplished something. Because of these periods of coming together and building, we move our goals from one state of being to another. In writing, for example, building from writing 1,000 words in a week to writing a collection of poems, a short story, or even a book over time is an incredible feat. It happens by beginning somewhere. Sometimes, the beginning is the hardest, and if we cannot get past that, the things we care about will not occur. Start small. Commit 10 minutes of your day. If you can do that, it adds up.

For example; what does an organization like this club bring to you? How does it all work? Members willing to try, learn, and help in small ways means some grow into leaders of committees, the community, or work with the board. If we are to continue our success, we will need additional help. The pandemic has set us back, as has attrition due to retirement, surgeries, illness, and worse. We are now holding on to the status quo, wondering if we will ever grow all the exciting and new ideas we could enjoy, if only for a bit of extra help of the gift of time. No one comes along alone. Training is always provided. Perhaps you will think about it, as you are bringing in your new year, making your resolutions, or giving lists. Your club is essential to your writing community. Let's thank all who work so hard to make it happen, and I hope to see more of you step-up soon! After the January meeting, please stay to hear more about what is needed. We do not want our branch to discontinue programs, rather to maintain, and expand. Right now we risk having to pull back. With some additions to the talent pool, a huge positive change could be made. If this speaks to you, it would bring change not only your life, but the lives of so many, while being consistent with your writing values and goals! When you are having issues and need help, you can reach out and ask for help, as you are part of this community. Please contact me if you are thinking of giving even a little of your time, as it would be a greater gift than you realize!! [president@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:president@cwcmtdiablo.org)



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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://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>

### Harlan Hague

*Along Came Jenny*, a western romance by Harlan was released in early December. Josh, haunted by his Civil War memories, in 1867 signs on a cattle drive from Texas to the Kansas railhead. In the drive outfit, he finds Jenny, an unlikely trail cook, who gives him hope that he did not leave his soul on an Alabama battlefield.

Harlan Hague, Ph.D.  
Award-winning author  
<http://harlanhague.us>



## 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/>

### Stephanie Denman

Interviewed by Heidi Eliason

#### What do you like about writing?

Writing is like starting with a piece of clay that I shape and mold until I eventually create something appealing and intriguing. It starts out as a blob and becomes recognizable. Writing also helps me explore possibilities, continue traveling on paper and document milestones.





## ***Be Interviewed (cont'd)***

**Stephanie Denman** Interviewed by Heidi Eliason

### **What part of the writing process is most difficult for you?**

Getting to the chair and keeping myself in my seat. I'm easily distracted and tend to prioritize dusting, vacuuming, helping my son with his homework, and any other chore before creative writing.

### **Are there any resources, tools, or events that you have found especially helpful for writing or publishing?**

The Writing Salon in Berkeley offers a class called "The Round Robin" that I've taken several times to generate a critical mass of content. Each Sunday, for six weeks, participants receive writing prompts for the upcoming week and an exchange partner. A sample prompt might be "apple" or "I haven't forgotten." Participants are expected to commit to the class for 20–30 minutes each day, with 10–12 of those minutes going toward their own writing and the other 10–20 minutes commenting on their partner's work. It's a great way to stay disciplined and generate new material.

### **What are you currently working on?**

A memoir of my experience living in Paris and the South of France. While my other 30-year-old friends were growing their careers, getting married and starting to have kids, I quit my job, moved to Paris to be with my boyfriend, split up with him and decided to stay, despite being broke with no working papers and no job prospects. Down and out but determined to make it on my own, like Mary Tyler Moore, these are stories about my journey weathering French customs and incidents with mediocre French.

### **Who or what has influenced you the most as a writer?**

Good writers inspire me with their use of language and research. Some of my favorites include Thomas Hardy, Marcel Pagnol, Andrea Camillieri, Ruth Rendell, Elizabeth George, Amor Towles, and Donna Leon. Bad writers also inspire me by their confidence and by the fact that they can get published. My mother-in-law is a published author and I admire that she was able to write while raising a family of five.

### **How have your background, previous work, and/or experience contributed to your writing?**

I've always been a voracious reader and writing is an extension of my love of the written word. Travel has been a huge part of my adult life and those experiences fuel my writing as well.

### **Approximately how long have you been a CWC member?**

Four months.

### **How has your CWC membership helped you or your writing?**

Not yet but I imagine it will.

### **Do you have published works?**

I have published a few short pieces and read them on KQED radio. I need to hunker down and market what I have in stock.

### **Do you have any advice for new writers?**

Be curious. Write when it's hard and keep going.

### **How do you define success as a writer?**






Success for me would be getting essays and my memoir published.

### **What are your future writing goals?**

My biggest goal this year is to finish my book.



## Upcoming programs

Feb 12 	Joey Garcia	<i>How to boost your book and platform</i>
Mar. 12 	Constance Hale <b>WORKSHOP</b> <i>Writing Character</i>	Constance is a San Francisco–based journalist and the author of cheeky writing manuals, a book for adults on hula, and a picture book for children set in Hawai‘i. Her articles have appeared in the <i>New York Times</i> , the <i>LA Times</i> , and many magazines. In 2019, she published <i>Writing Character</i> , a book chock-full of thoughts, tips, and prompts that is part of the Lit Starts series, produced by The Writers Grotto. She is an energetic workshop leader, and she covers the writing life at <a href="http://sinandsyntax.com">sinandsyntax.com</a> .
Apr. 9 	Stephanie Chandler	<b>Stephanie</b> is the author of several books including <i>The Nonfiction Book Publishing Plan: The Professional Guide to Profitable Self-Publishing</i> and <i>The Nonfiction Book Marketing Plan: Online and Offline Promotion Strategies to Build Your Audience and Sell More Books</i> .
May 	TBD	
June 	Betsy Graziani Fasbinder <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.



## Members' (Short) Works

Members, See your writing in print!

Send your **short** works to be included in the Mt Diablo branch newsletter to:

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

### “THE DRONE”

Fiction by **Robert Poirier**



It was the ideal gig for Charlotte Baker. She had completed her last course, a 3.0 unit elective toward a Drone Studies Program certificate, for a Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Associates Degree in Water Treatment and would start a similar program under the GI Bill at UC Davis in a month.

Charlotte had noticed a TikTok challenge to use high-volume, fifty-inch long river boards to river surf the Feather River south of the Oroville Dam on the next scheduled water release. The release would increase water flow from 2,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 10,000 cfs.

Charlotte convinced her faculty advisor, a retired State Water Project executive, to hire Charlotte to use a drone and patrol a five-mile section of the Feather River where it passed through the Lake of the Woods State Wildlife Area between Highway 99 and Highway 70. This area was the beginning of the California Aqueduct that supplied water to the rest of the state. She would alert the State Water Project emergency contact number if she noticed anything unusual.

## Members' (Short) Works (cont'd)

### "THE DRONE"



Her budget for the assignment included enough money to select two late-model DJI quadcopter drones with a seven-mile range, thirty-minute flight time, high-definition zoom cameras, and spotlights. She named the drones Alpha and Bravo.

Alpha was on the third sweep, just at dusk, when Charlotte spotted unusual activity on the same bank of the river, about a mile downstream from her position. She set Alpha to quiet mode, brought it back to the spot, and engaged the close-up feature. A man was standing, head bowed, holding a shovel, a few feet above a large, freshly dug hole a few yards up from the riverbank. She watched him make the sign of the cross, move a couple of paces to his right, and repeat the *signum crucis*. He then turned back to the hole where she saw what looked like a garbage-bag wrapped body.

She quickly set Alpha to return-to-home mode. The digger, who must have seen the drone in his peripheral vision, drew a small semi-automatic pistol and fired several rounds at it. A shot nicked a blade, and Alpha wobbled and crashed about a third of the way to Charlotte's position, just below the trees on the boulder-strewn hillside.

The digger followed the drone's path, spotted Charlotte, and started towards her. Alpha, which now had a video recording of the digger on a SanDisk 128GB memory card, also had a label with Charlotte's name, address, and phone number. A few seconds after the digger fired, Charlotte started down the embankment but quickly realized she could not get to the drone and back to her position before the digger would be within firing range.

"Sometimes the only way out is through," her US Marine squad leader used to say. She stayed and used the drones as weapons.

Charlotte launched Bravo but had lost sight of the digger in the near darkness. She circled Bravo around the area where she had seen him last, spotting him a few yards from Alpha. She hovered Bravo and zoomed the camera in for a close-up. The digger reached for his pistol again, but she jerked the control joystick, and the drone accelerated away from him before he could fire. The digger followed Bravo's flight for a moment, then reached into his backpack and pulled out what Charlotte realized were military-grade, night-vision goggles. He continued up the embankment towards Alpha.

She monitored the man's movements as she hovered Bravo out of pistol range until the digger reached Alpha. When the man picked up Alpha and turned it over to read the label, she started Alpha at maximum throttle. The drone quadcopter blades ripped into the digger's face. He screamed, flung the drone away from him, and stumbled backward down the embankment.

She returned Bravo home for a battery change then called the State Water Project emergency contact number to report the sighting. The call went to voice mail. She left a message with the exact GPS coordinates then called 911, giving the operator the same information.

A few minutes later, she heard a noise to the right and above.

*Damn, I let him outflank me.*

She launched Bravo and sent it circling the area until she spotted the digger holding the damaged night-vision goggles against his face. She disabled Bravo's obstacle avoidance feature, turned on the spotlight, and sent the 1.25-pound drone at maximum speed toward him. The spotlight blinded the man, who tore off the goggles just in time for the quadcopter blades to catch him full in the face. He screamed, fell to his knees, and raised his arms.

"I quit," he cried. "I can't see. Please, no more."

"Face down," Charlotte yelled. "Don't move. Keep your hands where I can see them."

"Okay, okay," he whimpered. "Thank you. I have tried to quit, but the voices kept telling me I had to continue. I'm not a monster."

"Whatever," she said dismissively. "Don't move your hands, or I'll bang you with one of these rocks."

"Please, I have an older dog at my house," he continued. "She hasn't done anything wrong, but they will probably put her down. If I okay it with the police, could you take care of her? I can have my lawyer pay you."

## Members' (Short) Works (cont'd)

### "THE DRONE"

"Okay," Charlotte said. "Just don't move."

The California Highway Patrol arrived fifteen minutes later and took the digger into custody.

"I'll confess to everything," the digger said. "Just let the girl take care of my dog."

During her interview with a CHP detective, Charlotte mentioned there might be more bodies on the hillside. The detective called for a forensic team and cadaver dogs. The dogs alerted to three additional gravesites.

Charlotte received a \$50,000 reward for the arrest and capture of the digger who had kidnapped and killed all four victims. In addition, the water district awarded her a full-ride scholarship to UC Davis and promised her a job after graduating. The drone manufacturer asked her to be a part-time spokesperson while she attended the university.

The digger, who recovered the use of one eye, hung himself in his jail cell a few weeks after his capture. A few days later, an attorney contacted her. The digger had left her \$25,000 and his small cottage in Davis. Charlotte lived in the cottage with the dog until she graduated.



### JOHN GRISHAM'S BOOK *SOOLEY*

Reviewed by Frances Stephenson

Because John Grisham is best known for his legal thrillers, I was curious as to how he would approach a novel about a basketball player. I was quickly drawn into this fast moving, fictional story about a young man from South Sudan who comes to the attention of an NBA talent scout. *Sooley*, John Grisham's latest fiction novel, was published in 2021 by Doubleday.

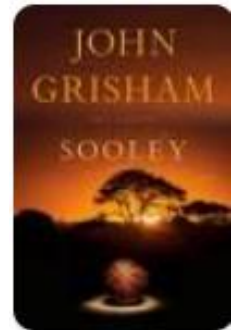
The story begins as twenty local basketball players from around South Sudan gather at the University of Juba gym to try out for Coach Lam's Under 18 national team. The players have been sent by secondary schools because of their interest and talent in the sport. Five players will be selected to travel to America and play on the team. Coach Lam selects Samuel Sooleymon because of his raw talent, determination, and drive. He is also 6' 2" and still growing at seventeen. The coach is from South Sudan himself and feels that basketball can make a difference in the lives of these young South Sudanese players.

During the basketball tournaments in Florida, Coach Lam receives a phone call from South Sudan with the news that Samuel's village has been ambushed by rebel soldiers. During the attack, Samuel's father was killed and his sister is now missing. Samuel is unable to return to South Sudan and accepts a scholarship to North Carolina Central, a college with a mediocre basketball team. Sooley, as he is affectionately called, becomes the star player. His underlying focus is to help his mother and two brothers leave the refugee camps in Uganda and immigrate to America. The story becomes a tale of the underdog overcoming unbelievable odds to achieve his dreams.

The characters are well-developed and drive the story. I was able to follow the growth of Sooley's skills through the graphic descriptions of the basketball game narratives and also follow his relationships off the court with his fellow teammates and coaches.

There is a twist in the plot at the end of the story that was unexpected and brings Sooley's career to an abrupt end. A new character is introduced and forms a brief relationship with Sooley. This new character, unfortunately, is not developed, and this leaves for the reader unanswered questions. I was caught off guard.

I recommend this novel for its character development and its vivid descriptions of the basketball game. I could not put the book down. It's a good read.



**Guest Voucher Program:** <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>

Give a friend \$10.00 off a General Meeting or Workshop (Zoom or in-Person).

1. Invite a guest who has never attended Mt. Diablo meeting.
2. Request a voucher for your guest for \$10.00 off a Zoom meeting or workshop.
3. We will email your guest a voucher number and link to register for the meeting. We'll also notify you that we've done this.
4. Your guest registers for the meeting, enters the voucher number, and receives a \$10.00 discount.

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## ***Warning From A Fellow CWC Member***

As a member of California Writers Club I feel that it is important to warn our group and other writers that I recently had an event that revealed a fraudulent film production scam. It is called Filmways Pictures Agency out of the UK. They have an elaborate scheme to take your money (several thousand dollars) with an agreement to "put your story into the hands of the right people" and have your book produced into a movie.

So, I referred all this to my son-in-law who has friends in the movie industry. They became very interested, researched this company, and found it to be fraudulent.

My book by the way has had great reviews and is called *Wings Over Normandy*---a WWII story.

Happy Holidays from Harry Gael Michaels



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## ***CWC BackFence Discussion Board Moves to Facebook***

by David George

The CWC BackFence online Yahoo discussion group was originally established in 2006 for Mt. Diablo branch members to seek help from fellow writers, ask or discuss writing-related questions, and share news. Participation was expanded in 2010 to include Tri-Valley and Berkeley branch CWC members also. The motto of the BackFence is *Members Helping Members*.

The Mt. Diablo Branch board decided to move the BackFence to Facebook Groups. 38 Mt. Diablo members subscribed then. They post to the discussion group much like to an individual Facebook account, but posts and replies are shared by all subscribers.

CWC Berkeley and CWC Tri-Valley branch members will be invited to join. A personal Facebook account is required. If you haven't already joined the new Facebook BackFence but would like to, click on the following link that will take you to a "How-to" guide that is now uploaded to our branch website:

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/back-fence-online-discussion-forum/>. Feel free to contact the BackFence moderator, David George at [davegeorge7@comcast.net](mailto:davegeorge7@comcast.net) if you have questions or issues.

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## ***Reminder About Legally Downloadable Books from a 2019 article***

Starting at midnight on January 1, 2019 tens of thousands of books (as well as movies, songs, and cartoons) entered the public domain, meaning that people can download, share, or repurpose these works for free and without retribution under US copyright law.

Per the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998, “corporate” creations (like Mickey Mouse) can be restricted under copyright law for 120 years. But per an amendment to the act, works published between 1923 and 1977 can enter the public domain 95 years after their publication.

The year 2019 marked the first time books published in 1923—including by Virginia Woolf, Agatha Christie, and Robert Frost—became legally downloadable since digital books appeared.

So, how do you actually download these books?

It depends on the site. Try several. For instance, ReadPrint.com, The Literature Network (mostly major authors), Librivox (audio books), Authorama (all in the public domain), and over a dozen other sites all have vast selections of free ebooks.

There are also a handful of archiving projects that are doing extensive work to digitize journals, music, and other forms of media. A blog post from Duke University's Center for the Study of the Public Domain listed some of the most recognizable works published in 1923, as well as links to download these books on digital archiving projects Internet Archive, HathiTrust, and the Gutenberg Project (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>). For example:

- Edgar Rice Burroughs, *Tarzan and the Golden Lion*
- Agatha Christie, *The Murder on the Links*
- Winston S. Churchill, *The World Crisis*
- Robert Frost, *New Hampshire*
- Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*
- Aldous Huxley, *Antic Hay*
- D.H. Lawrence, *Kangaroo*
- Bertrand and Dora Russell, *The Prospects of Industrial Civilization*
- Carl Sandburg, *Rootabaga Pigeons*
- Edith Wharton, *A Son at the Front*
- P.G. Wodehouse, *The Inimitable Jeeves* and *Leave it to Psmith*
- Virginia Woolf, *Jacob's Room*
- E.E. Cummings, *Tulips and Chimneys*

HathiTrust, has uploaded more than 53,000 works published in 1923. Over 17,650 of them are written in English. Similarly, Internet Archive has uploaded over 15,000.

Project Gutenberg has over 58,000 free downloadable books.

For academic papers, Reddit user nemobis uploaded over 1.5 million PDF files of works published in academic journals before 1923. To find something it will be easier if you know which academic paper you're looking for and check the paper's DOI number (Digital Object Identifier.) Then search for the DOI in one of nemobis's lists—one list includes works published until 1909, the other includes works published until 1923.

Most of the organizations mentioned rely on volunteer efforts, so they differ in the number of books available for download.



## Some Self-Publishing Resources

Complements of **Heidi Eliasaon**

### Publishing Websites:

[Barnes & Noble Press](#)

[Ingram Spark Self-Publishing](#) (download the free guide)

[KDP Publishing \(Amazon\)](#)

[KDP Publishing Create a Book](#)

[Smashwords Self-Publishing](#) (worldwide distribution of ebooks)

### Information Websites:

[TheCreativePenn.com](#)

[JaneFriedman.com](#)

[Kindlepreneur.com](#)

[SelfPublishingFormula.com](#)

[NonfictionAuthorsAssociation.com](#)

### Editors:

[ebooklaunch.com](#)

[Editorial Freelancers Association](#)

[Reedsy.com](#)

[RunawayPublishing.com](#) (Heidi's editing website)

Lyn Roberts (CWC Mt. Diablo branch)

### Cover, Bookmark, Business Card Designers and Book Formatters:

[ebooklaunch.com](#)

[Andrew Benzie Creative Design](#)

### Website Creation and Domain Hosting:

[GoDaddy.com](#)

[NetworkSolutions.com](#)

[WordPress.com](#)

[WordPress How-To Videos and Guides](#)

### Facebook Groups:

[Aspiring Memoir Writers](#)

[Author/Publisher/Editor/Book Readers](#)

[Free Promotion of Books & Authors, Book Reviews & Beta Reading](#)

[Independent Authors](#)

[Memoir Writing for Geniuses](#) (you don't need to be a genius!)

[National Association of Memoir Writers](#)

[The 5-Day Author Ad Profit Challenge](#) (Amazon ads free course with Bryan Cohen)

[Travel By Book](#)

[Writers and Authors Promotions](#)

### Writing and Publishing Books:

*Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear* by Elizabeth Gilbert (for inspiration)

*Dreyer's English* by Benjamin Dreyer

*How To Write a Book Proposal* by Michael Larson (not needed for self-publishing but good info)

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## Self-Publishing Resources (cont'd)

[Merriam-Webster.com](http://Merriam-Webster.com) (includes a thesaurus)

*On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King

*Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook* by Helen Sedwick

*The 12 Fatal Flaws of Fiction Writing* by C.S. Lakin, et al.

*The Art of Memoir* by Mary Karr

*The Chicago Manual of Style* by The University of Chicago Press

*The Copywriter's Handbook* by Robert W. Bly

*The Nonfiction Book Marketing Plan* by Stephanie Chandler (much applies to fiction)

*The Nonfiction Book Publishing Plan* by Stephanie Chandler, et al. (much applies to fiction)

### Getting Reviews:

[Entrada Book Review](#) (enter to win a free editorial review)

[Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com)

[Goodreads Book Review Club](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities Young Writers Contest

Our contest for middle school writers opens for submissions on January 15, 2022. I encourage everyone to consider helping with this popular and beneficial contest. If you are new to our branch, read about the contest and explore our pages dedicated to winners and award ceremonies at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>.

### OPEN POSITIONS

#### Judging

Chloe Laube is our Judging Coordinator, and she'll be pestering... er... chatting with members in the next month or two, to see who wants to read and judge the entries. Sometimes there's a waiting list since previous judges always want to return, so get your name on the list.

If you are new to judging, don't worry – we'll train you. Our judges work in teams for each category/grade, so you won't be on your own. Categories are **Poetry, Short Story, Personal Narrative, and Humor**.

**When:** The judging period is April 1 – 15, 2022.

**Time to complete:** Depends on the number of submissions received. This is rarely more than 30 pieces in any given category/grade.

#### Administrative Tasks

Once the winners are chosen, we need help with preparing materials for the Awards Ceremony in May.

#### Tasks

1. Creation and printing of certificates for winners **(1 hour)**
2. Printing of envelopes for winners - to hold cash prize **(30 minutes)**
3. Creation and printing of certificates and envelopes for Honorable Mentions **(1 hour)**
4. Assembly of Awards Packets and mailing of Honorable Mention certificates – this can be a group effort **(3 hours)**

## Volunteer Opportunities Young Writers Contest (cont'd)

**When:** April 17 – May 10, 2022

**Time to complete:** The approximate time needed to accomplish the task is listed next to each item in the list above.

**Equipment needed:** A computer with MS Word and a connected printer.

**Skills needed:** Requires knowledge of **Mail Merge** in MS Word. **\*I will teach a class on how to use Mail Merge for anyone who is interested, even if you can't volunteer at this time.**

### **Anthology preparation**

Every year, we create and publish an anthology of the winning entries. Help prepare the anthology for publishing.

**What:** Copyedit and layout of document. Help find errors!

**When:** April 17 – 27, 2022, a few hours total time

### **PowerPoint Presentation**

Every year, we create a presentation featuring our winners and their pieces. [Go here to download last year's presentation](#). Make sure the sound is on!

**What:** Create presentation

**When:** April 17 – May 10, 2022, 10 – 20 hours

**Skills needed:** Knowledge of Powerpoint or other slide show program

## **Learn to Use Mail Merge in MS Word**

**When:** January 18, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** On Zoom

Contact **Marlene Dotterer** at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/contact-us/>

This class is open to any branch member who would like to learn Mail Merge, even if you can't volunteer at this time.

You will need a computer with MS Word and a connected printer with paper.



### **Some Things to Do**

#### **SUBMIT TO THE CWC LITERARY REVIEW:**

- The *Literary Review* began accepting submissions November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The updated submission guidelines are on the state website: [www.Calwriters.org](http://www.Calwriters.org)
- The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2022**

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





## An Easy Way to Discover Speakers Other Branches Are Offering

From Jordan Bernal, president of the Tri-Valley Writers branch

As of January 1, 2022, statewide CWC branches' meetings with speakers will be added to the "Event" page on the state website: <https://calwriters.org/events/> or via the first page on the Mt. Diablo website: <https://calwriters.org/events-month/month/2022-01/>

Keep in mind that branch meetings happen throughout the month and postings on any given day will not include all 22 branches' speaker meetings for that month.

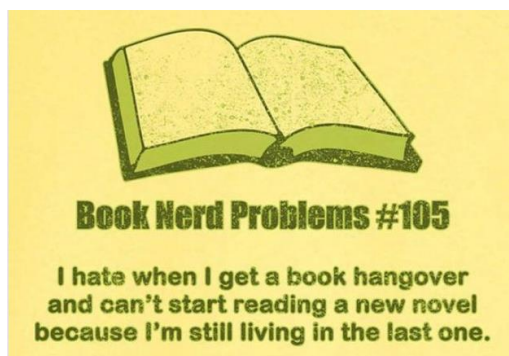
There are also a plethora of interesting pages and posts on the state website that might interest you.

## Volunteer to lead a Writers Table

These are short (40 minutes or so) informational or practice session prior to our regular meetings. Led by Mt. Diablo members, these sessions cover topics of interest to writers. Volunteer to share a writing, publishing, editing, research, etc., skill that works for you. Contact: <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/contact-us/>



Australian Xmas Tree



*California hills by Jill Hedgecock-- >*



## ***Speak or Listen at Open Mic Night***

Open Mic is FUN  
and Inspiring!

You'll be amazed  
(*blown away, actually*)  
by the talent in our club.

***WE HAVE TWO OPEN MIC EVENTS EACH MONTH.***

***Please register to attend. See our Events Calendar for upcoming events.***

### ***Zoom Open Mic***

Wednesday or Thursday after the second Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our virtual open mic session. Sign up to read or as part of the audience. We'd love to hear your work!

Readers have 5 -7 minutes for reading and Q&A.

This event is open to the public. All writers are welcome to read.

### ***In-Person Open Mic***

Our next meeting is Thursday January 20, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

Experience the stimulation of a friendly audience! Meet us at noon for an optional lunch.

Reading starts at 1:00.

Chicken Pie Shop

1251 ARROYO WAY

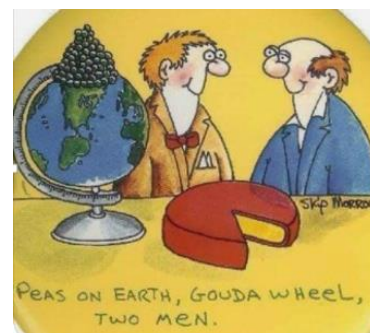
Walnut Creek

<https://chickenpieshopwc.com/>

This event is open to the public. All writers are welcome to read.

**[Click Here to Register](#)**

The moment you realize 2022 is pronounced "2020 too"



# 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 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 Kirkhoff** 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**

