



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

April 2022

A ZOOM BRANCH MEETING*

April 9, 2022

**Check-In/Break Rooms 11:00, Writer's Table 11:15 – 12:15,
Ten Min Break, Business Meeting 12:25, Speaker 1:00 – 2:00**

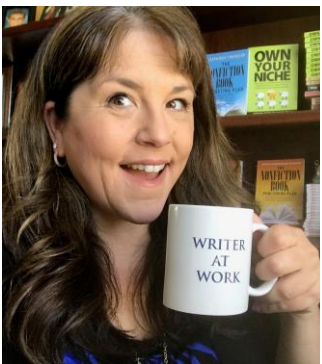
Register online at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>
Once registered, you will receive a link to join the Zoom meeting.

Advanced Book Marketing and Launch Strategies

Featuring

Stephanie Chandler

With these powerful, proven tactics, you will be able to reach more readers, grow your platform, and ultimately sell more books:



- **Build a pre-sales strategy with beta readers for feedback, buzz, and reviews**
- **Utilize easy content marketing tactics to build your email list**
- **Access online resources for massive exposure**
- **Leverage podcasting, blogs, and video that get results**
- **Plan your own speaking tour—online and offline**
- **Promote with Facebook strategies you haven't heard anywhere else (really!)**

Stephanie Chandler is the author of several books including *The Nonfiction Book Publishing Plan* and *The Nonfiction Book Marketing Plan*. She is CEO of NonfictionAuthorsAssociation.com, a vibrant educational community for experienced and aspiring writers, and NonfictionWritersConference.com, events conducted entirely online since 2010. A frequent speaker at business events and on the radio, she has been featured in *Entrepreneur*, *BusinessWeek*, and *Wired* magazine.

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- **NOTE – this meeting will be EXCLUSIVELY on Zoom**

Zoom Meeting – Members \$10.00; Non-CWC Members and Guests \$15.00

President's Message: Linda Hartmann

Writing the Waves

Dear Members,

I chose the President's Message title in February of 2020 when I knew there would be an expectation to write for the monthly newsletter, "The Write News." In keeping with our logo with the boat, ocean, and open book or journal, I chose "Writing the Waves," as I often think that it is the rock & roll, with flows of waves in life, with and without anchors, that drive writers to write. Like the saying "Sail on" from Joaquin Miller's oft-quoted poem, there is much to read into just a few words.

We have finally passed the second anniversary of the pandemic, that began with a startling lockdown for our area and many others across the world. What did this mean to each of you personally and our club - our writing community? How could this not have affected each of us in many ways? Although it was great to have stories, poems, and memoirs published in Survivor, our Pandemic 2021 Literary Review collection for all branches, I would love to read some of what each of us has written during this time. The pandemic does not have to be the theme, but there is something about writing about global issues, loss, and change, akin to a time capsule for later generations to find and gain information.

Can any of you claim you were not affected? Have you not grieved the loss of one or many? Have you been prevented from seeing someone you love from an outbreak in the facility where they are cared for and live? I am sure many of us have suffered such losses. I can only hope you write and submit them internally via the Newsletter, Open Mic, Writers Connection, or externally, where it may be published, or as a journal entry as time capsules of your own.

As a club, I felt fortunate to have taken classes virtually on Zoom and was familiar with that technology. Lucky for all of us, the board approved proceeding with our meetings with that platform. We and other branches are moving forward now with hybrid technology, combining in-person with virtual meetings. The technology has been challenging, and what sounds so straightforward often is not. It would be nice to carry this forward, as it allows those who no longer drive to attend from home, for those who have moved to other states to remain engaged, and for us to bring in speakers that are not local. We will be weighing the pros and cons soon at the board level and would appreciate hearing from you about whether or not this makes a difference in your level of participation. If you have feedback, please pass it on to me at president@cwcmtdiablo.org so we may include it in the deliberations.

All are invited to the board meetings to observe, chime in, or present ideas. Please let us know if you would like to attend. They are held once a month on Zoom, and you can find the calendar for them on the home page of our website in the Calendar of Events - front page!

Initially the Writers Table for this month scheduled a presentation about beta-readers. The topic for April 9th will instead be: Make the Most of Your CWC-Mt. Diablo Membership: Learn what we offer and where to find it. The beta-reading event will occur soon; it is ready to go. With significant revisions to our website and the addition of new members, we thought it timely for this review of Members Benefits and how to access them most pertinent now. We are sure that both new and long-time members who use the website regularly will learn boatloads! Stay-tuned for more on beta-reading soon!



CONTENTS

- p. 3 - 4 Member Events: Barry Hampshire, Joanna Kraus, Lucinda Jackson
- p. 4 – 5 Be Interviewed: Suzy Orpin
- p. 6 Upcoming Programs;
- p. 6 - 7 Young Writers Contest
- p. 9 - 10 Members' Short Works: Linda Force; Bob Poirier
- p.11 - 14 Some Things to Do: Find a Critique Group; Writers Connection meeting; NorCal Leadership Conference; Find Other Branch Programs; Advertise in the Bulletin; ; SF Writers Conference; Open Mic; I
- p. 15 Young Writers Contest Donor Page

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/>

Barry Hampshire

Having listened to many presentations on launching and promoting a book, I realized I needed a Blog in addition to the website I've had for a number of years.

I'm inviting you to take a look at my Blog with its first couple of posts. This gives you the chance to be one of the very first people to post a response. Come along, don't be shy. Who will be the very first??

My first post is an introduction/welcome, the second is the start of a list of recent posts - this will be updated, and the third is an edited extract from my yet-to-be-published novel. Take a look around and any thoughts about the structure or the presentation will be welcomed.

Hopefully, you will add the URL to your favorites so that you can return to it.

The Blog is at <http://www.bdhwrites.com/blog>

Joanna Kraus

Joanna's new play, *Champion*, will have its premiere this spring March 31st-April 2nd at Clarks Summit University in Pennsylvania.

A winner of the 2021 Old Miner Children's Playwriting contest, the play was inspired by the true story of an athlete who was bullied and then achieved international acclaim. Can 12-year-old Robin do something amazing and make her family proud? When she joins a water-polo club she's unprepared for the hostility she encounters. But with determination plus rigorous training, she becomes a skilled goalie, confronts a vicious teammate, finds friendship and ultimately self-acceptance.



Joanna's children's books: *Blue Toboggan; Bravo, Benny; Oh, Little Ham of Buffalo, A Korean Adoption Memoir; The Blue Jeans Rebellion; Five Plays for Young Audiences; Dog on Trial*

CRAFT

The phrase meaning *to study carefully* is **pore over**. It comes from a little-used sense of the [verb](#) *pore*—namely, *to meditate deeply*. In modern writing, this sense of *pore* rarely appears outside this phrase.

Pour over is of course a meaningful phrase in its own right, but it has nothing to do with studying. It's what you do, for example, with milk to a bowl of cereal.

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

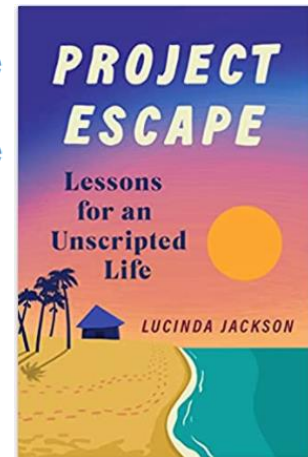


Lucinda Jackson, a harried scientist and business executive, sets off to make a break from her corporate decades and have an "extraordinary" retirement. She launches into a five-phase "Project Escape," complete with a vision, goals, and a scorecard of success to deliver this next chapter. ... [Google Books](#)

Expected on: April 12, 2022

Author: [Lucinda Jackson](#)

Genres: Biography, Autobiography, Travel literature



Be Interviewed

Suzy Orpin
by Heidi Eliason





- Approximately how long have you been a CWC member and why did you join?
I've been a member of CWC for about 5 years. I joined because I was looking for a group of like-minded people to share with and learn from.
- How has your CWC membership helped you or your writing?
My membership prompts me to stay on task and focus on my writing journey. Having a monthly check-in is a good way for me to set goals. I have found a lot of support and comradery in this group.
- What have you written and has any of your work been published?
I have published a series of Women's Fiction novels available on Amazon. There are 5 books in the series and another set of 5 Cookbook Companions to complement the characters and plots. Both sets are available in print and eBooks, and the novels are also in audio.
- If your work was published with a traditional publisher, how did you find your publisher? If your work was self-published, why did you decide to publish your work yourself?
I originally self-published as an exercise in the logistics of writing/marketing. I had some (small) interest from traditional publishers after the second book, but I wanted to have full control on where I took the series and companion pieces. Self-publishing was a great experience for learning, and I will continue to publish a selection of books this way while seeking traditional publishers for a new series.
- Do you have a website?
Yes, www.sgorpin.com. It's been a huge undertaking trying to get this together as a non-technically minded person.
- What are you currently working on?
I'm starting a new series which leans more to the mystery/intrigue side.



Be Interviewed (Cont'd)

7. In which genre(s) do you write?
My current series is Women's Fiction with strong female characters and intrigue.
8. How have your background, previous work, and/or experience contributed to your writing?
I'm from Toronto, Canada and I draw on my early life experiences to mold my characters. I work in Berkeley teaching adults career skills, and this developed a curiosity about life choices, outcomes, and challenges. I love questioning the 'what if' of life.
9. What do you like about writing?
I've always been an avid reader and daydreamer. I love weaving tales and reworking the plots to explore the meaning of life and emotional aspects.
10. Who or what has influenced you the most as a writer?
I had a wonderful childhood where I was encouraged to be creative. This freedom allowed me to experiment with my writing style and discover what resonated. In my early years I loved science fiction because anything seemed possible. I try to take that approach with my writing now and avoid tropes and formulas.
11. How do you define success as a writer?
Honestly, the moment I held my first book in my hands I felt successful. It was an accomplishment to have created something from beginning to end. I've spent a lot of time honing my skills, building an author platform, and learning marketing but I define success as having a finished product. My ultimate goal is to make a living as a writer but I'm excited to have my stories out in the world for now.
12. What part of the writing process is most difficult for you?
Writing the outline is difficult because I want to jump in and start writing but I also crave organization. I hate writing the synopsis too because I feel like there are so many good bits I want to add in and then I go off on a tangent.
13. What kind of research do you do, if any, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a story/piece of work?
It depends on what I'm writing. For the Women's Fiction I research locations and facts about an area or event. For a mystery I spend a lot of time on forensic evidence. My cookbooks take the most work with recipe testing, rewrites, and beta testers, plus tons of tasting.
14. Are there any resources, tools or events that you have found especially helpful for writing or publishing?
Online groups, especially on Facebook, are great. I take Masterclasses online and at workshops and conferences to improve my writing skills and meet other authors. For tools, I use Pro-writing aid and Vellum which are invaluable before I hire the professionals.
15. Do you have any advice for new writers?
My best advice is write the story that speaks to you. Let it be horribly bad and then spend time cleaning it up, editing, and checking for the beats needed for a great book. Don't hold back or you will never finish. Publish it on Amazon since no one really buys it without a ton of advertising. This is a great hands-on lesson in publishing, and you can learn along the way.
16. What are your future writing goals?
My future goal is to start my new series in mystery while also completing a few more Women's Fiction novels I have outlined. I'm at a point in my life where I want to travel and write as I please.

Upcoming programs

May 	Grant Faulkner on Zoom <i>The Power of Writing with Abandon</i>	
June 	Betsy Graziani Fasbinder in person <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.

Young Writers Contest

Our Young Writers Contest is Going Strong Marlene Dotterer

The Young Writers Contest is our branch's community education program. The contest is held annually for middle school students in our county. You can find out about it at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>.

ALERT! *VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY*

See below for one of our urgent needs this year.

The contest opened for submissions on January 15th. Submissions began appearing immediately and continue each day. Occasionally, there is a spurt of submissions, up to 20 at a time. These submissions usually list the same teacher and grade, which tells me the teacher used our contest as an assignment. I love it when they do that.

As we near the submission deadline of March 25th, we have received over 200 entries, with 95 "accepted" entries. These are submissions which have met our entrance requirements, such as word count and formatting requirements. The requirements are listed on our web page where the students go to submit their stories and poems.

Many students love to write and they hope to submit pieces to other contests and journals going forward. It is important that they learn to read and follow each organization's entrance guidelines. Because our contest is for children in grades 6, 7, and 8, we use our requirements as a teaching tool. In other contests or publishing sites, if someone does not follow the listed requirements, the submission is rejected out of hand. The submitter never knows why their piece was not accepted or did not win.

We want to stress to our students how important it is to follow directions. I check each piece as it comes in. If something is wrong, I reject it and send a notice to the student explaining what needs to be corrected. They may fix the errors and resubmit the piece. I'll confess this makes extra work for me. At this time, I have rejected 69 submissions for errors. But I always feel a little triumphant when the student resubmits an error-free story.

After the submission period closes, it's time for me and Aline Soules, our Submissions Coordinator, to double-check our work over the last three months. We both should have the same number of accepted submissions and they must be in the same category and grade as the submission forms indicate. When we are satisfied with the numbers, Aline sends the stories and poems to our judges, who are ready for the marathon of reading and scoring.

Young Writers Contest (Cont'd)

When the judges begin sending me the winning pieces, my life gets *really* busy! Our Awards Ceremony will be held on May 21st. Before then, the winning pieces must be formatted and placed into the template for an anthology, and sent to the printer in time for us to have the finished copies before the 21st. I also like to create a Powerpoint presentation to show at the ceremony. [Click here to see last year's presentation.](#) The presentation will download automatically. You will need to open it. Make sure your speakers are on.

ALERT! *VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY*

I confess **I'd like someone else to prepare the slideshow this year.** You can basically just cut and paste this year's information over last year's. You will need to find new photos and music. I can show you how! I use PowerPoint but you can use whatever program you are familiar with.

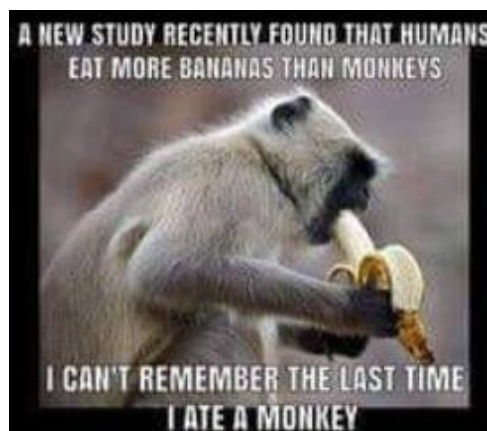
Our Awards Ceremony Prep Team (Lyn Roberts, Ceci Pugh, and Cindy Leonard) have been busy finding a venue (a gorgeous hall at St. Stephen Catholic Church) and searching out caterers and decorations. They also plan the ceremony's order of events.

Other volunteers (Heidi Eliason, Lyn Roberts, Linda Hartmann, Cindy Leonard) will help with creating certificates for the winners and students who won an Honorable Mention. I am very grateful to all the wonderful people who help pull off this great contest!



CRAFT

BE CAREFUL
HOW YOU
WRITE



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/>



EARTHQUAKES AND ENGINEERS

By **Linda May Force**



Growing up in San Francisco was exciting. I became fascinated with earthquakes when I was 10 years old. I had a pet parakeet (Chipper) who would start screeching while furiously flapping her wings about 20 minutes before earthquakes. So, I would announce to my mother “We’re going to have an earthquake soon because Chipper is going bonkers.” Sure enough, it happened.

Fast forward 20 years. I majored in structural engineering at San Francisco State University, and after graduation, joined several engineering societies including the Structural Engineers Association of Northern

California (SEAONC). This organization, in concert with the Applied Technology Council, would host simulated earthquake exercises. These were all-day affairs with about 80 to 100 participants. Each year, the location changed. I recall attending exercises at the University of California Richmond Field Station that houses the “infamous” shaking table. Other locations included The Presidio in San Francisco and Stanford University. Part of these exercises included the psychological factor on how to convince people to leave the premises of a structurally unsound building. If all else fails, threaten them! Trained SEAONC Engineers became team members of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services for Assessment of Earthquake Damaged Structures. The basic idea was for trained engineers to Red Tag, Yellow Tag, or Green Tag structures. Obviously, Red Tags signified no entry allowed. Yellow Tags were for cases where only parts of the structure were accessible and that further evaluation was needed. And Green Tags denoted safe entry to the structure.

A date that will never be forgotten is October 17, 1989 when the Loma Prieta Earthquake rocked the entire San Francisco Bay Area at 5:04 p.m. It registered 7.1 on the Richter Scale. Structures are designed to withstand strong lateral forces with a minimum design factor of 5 percent to account for vertical accelerations. The Loma Prieta was different – vertical accelerations reached 50 percent in some locales such as San Jose. That is why the overall Bay Area damage was so severe.

I was working at the Navy Public Works Center in Oakland and wanted to leave, I was applying right and left. That day I planned to get to the main Oakland Post Office to date stamp another job application. My boss was a very quiet man who hardly said a word. On that day, he walked into my office at 4:30 p.m. and started talking up a storm. I don’t recall what he was talking about and all I could think was “Would you please stop talking so I can leave?” He finally left at 4:47 and by now it was too late to get to the post office which closed at 5:00 p.m. So, I thought I’d stay and clean up my desk. All of a sudden, my chair started moving and I realized what was happening – an earthquake! I crawled under my desk. The noise was deafening with glass shattering and things falling off the walls. I caught a glimpse of a light standard across the street – it was swaying back and forth. I was on all fours and my body was levitated up and down several times with my back hitting the underside of the desk. I was never so scared in my life. After the earthquake stopped, the building started swaying and I thought for sure it was going to collapse. By this time loudspeakers were outside telling everyone to evacuate. You could not see the floor because it was totally covered with paper. File cabinet drawers were slung across the room 20 to 30 feet. A co-worker and I turned off the electricity and gas for fear of fire and made sure no one was injured. We were the last to leave.

Members' (Short) Works (Cont'd)

The next morning, I went to work and was assigned as the lead investigator for the Oakland Army Base. I took another engineer with me and the first place we inspected was the 100,000 square feet “shed” which was essentially a storage warehouse used by Navy, Army, and Merchant Marines. I had never seen such damage. It was a wooden structure with columns down the centerline with cross beam trusses. The columns were skewed and were no longer holding up the roof. And, the cross- beam trusses were shattered in classic “textbook” fashion, sheared off at the ends and crushed at mid-point. On analysis, half the building was founded in the earth and the opposite side was supported by piers. The building had literally torqued itself to death and was about to collapse. I located the superintendent and identified myself, requesting that he get his men out since the roof was an immediate threat and could collapse at any moment. I will never forget his response.

“Who do you think you are girlie to tell me what to do?”

Pointing to my badge and raising my voice I said “Do you see this badge? I am the ‘girlie’ who’s going to call the MPs to drag you out of here if you’re not gone in 30 minutes.”

He knew I was serious and started whining “What am I going to do and where am I supposed to go?” I asked “Do you have a boss?” and he said “Yes.” I retorted with “Then go see him and he will tell what to do and where to go!”

In retrospect, thinking of that day gives me pause. If I had made it to the post office before it closed, I would have hopped onto the lower deck of the Cypress freeway that fed into I-80 going north towards Berkeley. I would have been crushed to death by the upper deck pancaking onto the lower deck. I ask what made my normally quiet boss all of sudden talk so much? Were there angels protecting me? I am convinced there were.

* * *

Linda is a licensed civil engineer/land surveyor in the State of California. She specializes in seismic analysis and structural engineering forensics evaluating structural failures. She attained her Doctorate Degree at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. After leaving the federal government she was an adjunct professor at a local university. Currently, Linda is CEO of LMFORCE Management Consulting and enjoys mentoring young women thinking of majoring in engineering.

Death at the Asticou Inn - Bob Poirier

Dudley Parker was on his way back to Bar Harbor from checking the Southwest Harbor MDI Housing Authority apartment units when the call came over his truck’s scanner.

“Report of a body at the Azalea Gardens of the Asticou Inn,” the dispatcher intoned.

Parker turned off the radio, cutting short the Kenny Rogers version of “Lucille.”

“This is Dudley. I’m heading north through Somesville. I’ll head south on Route 3 and check it out.”

“Roger, Dudley. The state police will be there to investigate in about 45 minutes. They ask that you secure the scene.”

“Roger, dispatch,” Parker replied.

Twenty minutes later, Parker, a five-year volunteer with the Bar Harbor police department, swung his pickup into the Asticou Inn parking lot and met with the inn manager.

“The Asticou Inn Azalea Gardens has been here since 1956,” the manager said. “I’ve been here for ten years. Nothing like this has happened before.”

Parker grabbed the crime scene bag and walked the quarter-mile to the gardens. He could see the bludgeoned body of a young woman in a paisley blouse and long skirt lying near a footpath beside the pond. He could see damage to the side of her face, and blood pooled around her head.

Members' (Short) Works (Cont'd)

He asked everyone to move back and, with the manager, sealed off the crime scene with the yellow tape from the bag. Then, per protocol, he took pictures of the scene and the onlookers with the white Model 20 Swinger Polaroid camera from the bag. The camera, which had eight black and white photos to a pack, had a built-in flashgun, handy because of the foggy, overcast June morning.

Parker was on his second photo pack of the onlookers when he noticed a gaunt, disheveled man on the crowd periphery. People near the man had moved away as he stood there licking his lips continuously. Blood trickled down his leg from rhythmically banging a softball-sized rock against his rumpled khaki shorts.

As Parker approached, the man struck one of the onlookers with the rock. The other onlookers ran away from him toward Parker, knocking him down. By the time he recovered, he could see the man running down the path toward the parking lot. Parker followed in time to see the man leaving in a dark blue Volkswagen beetle, spraying gravel as he sped away. Parker started his truck and raced after the vehicle, quickly catching up with it in the heavy, slow-moving traffic. He stayed two cars behind as the vehicles paralleled Somes Sound on the left.

"Dispatch, this is Parker. I am in pursuit of a blue Volkswagen beetle heading north on Route 3. The license plate is Vermont, Alfa Sam Bravo one six seven. I think he might be involved with the Asticou killing."

"Roger Dudley. We'll set up a roadblock with spike strips at the intersection of Route 3 and Route 233."

A few minutes later, the dispatcher keyed her mic.

"Dudley, we just received a report that the vehicle was carjacked from a gas station in Barre, Vermont. The suspect shot the owner twice with a .22 caliber pistol. Approach with caution."

"Roger, dispatch."

There was now one car between them. Using his horn and emergency flashers, Parker persuaded the middle car to pull to the side of the road. He maintained a two-car distance from the VW. When they passed the Sound Schoolhouse driveway, the VW driver pulled to the left lane, opened the door, leaned out of the VW, and fired several shots at Parker, who swerved to the right, slowed, and performed a traffic break.

"This guy is really starting to piss me off," Parker muttered.

Sitting high in the truck cab, Parker saw a garbage truck leave Abel's Lobster Pound driveway, a quarter-mile ahead, and turn south. He used the horn to warn the VW driver now on a collision course with the garbage truck.

The VW driver closed the door but could not maneuver out of the way. The garbage truck struck the VW head-on at a closing speed of 55 miles an hour. The VW front end lifted, and the rear end, pushed backward by the much larger truck, crashed into the roadway. Sparks flew. The force of the collision separated the back seat from the engine compartment. The fuel line between the fuel pump and the filter separated, spewing gasoline all over the interior. The sparks ignited the gasoline vapors, and flames, fed by the still pumping fuel, engulfed the vehicle in less than a minute.

Parker grabbed a fire extinguisher, but by the time he arrived at the VW, he realized it was beyond saving. He tried the driver's side door, but the collision had jammed it shut. The driver, facing Parker, had a deep semi-circular dent in his forehead from contact with the steering wheel. When Parker tried the door again, the driver's eyes flew open and stared sightlessly at him. Parker could see pure evil in the eyes, shivered uncontrollably, and backed away quickly. The fuel from the ruptured gas tank pooled under Parker's feet. He sprayed the ground and ran back to his truck. A few seconds later, the gas tank exploded.

The state police arrived a few minutes later, followed by the Northeast Harbor fire department. They put out the fire and secured the area.

The driver's body, burned beyond recognition, remained unidentified. A week later, the young woman's sister identified the murder victim. She was last seen alive the day before the killing in Barre, Vermont. Her murder remains unsolved.

The memory of the driver's sightless eyes haunted Parker. He resigned from the Bar Harbor police department a few months later and became a volunteer firefighter.

Some Things to Do

Looking for a Critique Group?

Chloe Laube

As a member benefit our Mt. Diablo branch facilitates the formation of critique groups. We also connect writers with existing groups looking for additional members. All groups are independent, self-governing, and not sponsored by CWC. If you are seeking a group or want assistance in establishing a group, please send an email indicating your needs and genre to Chloe Laube at <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/critique-groups/>

Still open is a member is offering to host a new group for poetry.

Writers Connection is a social place where like-minded people, hapless authors and creative geniuses can come together and chat about the one thing they all have in common: the compulsion to write. It is open to any CWC member published or not, interested in a freewheeling, nonjudgmental, welcoming, and relaxed environment. Content will include a potpourri of any writing or associated topic: news items, agents, publishers, bouquets & brickbats. Membership is open ended, limited only by space, and people may come and go as they please. Short readings are welcome.

Join us **April 20 12:00 pm–2:00 pm PDT**

Chicken Pie Shop

1251 ARROYO WAY

Walnut Creek, CA



To Register:

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/register-for-writers-connection/>



Some Things to Do (Cont'd)

Writing & You!

Bill Stong

Taking advantage of an agreement between the California Writers Club (CWC) and the National University, the program, **Writing & You!**, was developed in the fall of 2019 to use rooms at the Pleasant Hill campus of JFK University to host writing events.

Several classes were held and were beginning to be well-attended. Several more were scheduled when California announced the first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020. Unfortunately, the future classes were canceled. In the fall of 2020, a few virtual training sessions were conducted—appropriately devoted to participating in and running Zoom sessions.

At the beginning of 2022, we re-launched the Facebook page, beginning with a series of posts—from two separate minds—on how location and writing are intertwined.

► **Tagline:** Writing: Not just words.

► **Description:** This page is dedicated to writing including craft, tips, research, tools, authors, marketing, business, and other relevant topics. Basically, a place for writers to supportively and respectfully share

Brief, weekly posts can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/WritingandYou>

For 2022, **Writing & You!** has launched multi-author postings. These began in February, with a series dealing with location(s) and writing.

Please check us out. Future offerings will be announced as they become available.

Disclaimer: Writing and You is not currently sponsored by the Mt. Diablo CWC. All this means is that branch insurance does not cover participants.

NorCal Leadership Conference

NorCal is planning a leadership conference for October this year. Currently they are looking for a location. These conferences have helped train volunteers who are in volunteer positions or who are considering volunteering for the branch. If you are interested in helping with the conference or being an attendee, contact Andrew Benzie.

San Francisco Writers Conference (SFWC) July 21-24th

From **Carole Bumpus**, NorCal Chair

Due to Covid the conference has been postponed to July.

If you had made reservations at the hotel, contact the hotel to ensure your reservations are changed.
The date for the Summit for Poetry and Screenwriters is **Saturday, July 23rd**.

[Some Things to Do \(Cont'd\)](#)

Advertise in the Statewide Bulletin

Want to reach hundreds of fellow writers with your message?

Selling a book, a service, or other specialty? Use the CWC *Bulletin*!

The next great issue will come out in June so reserve your advertising space soon.

Check out our brief advertising video now! Pass it along.

[Advertising Special \(hdcwc.com\)](http://hdcwc.com)

Bob Isbill

CWC Director of Advertising & Promotions

Chris Vogler Scheduled for Free Zoom Presentation on **April 26th**
THE ARCHETYPES OF CHARACTER: A Guide to the Eight Major Functions

Internationally famous author and teacher, Christopher Vogler, will discuss characters. Vogler is author of *The Hero's Journey* and is a renowned writing consultant.

The creation of lifelike, multi-layered, and compelling characters is among the most challenging skills a writer must master. The concept of psychological archetypes offers one key to understanding the jobs that characters must do in order to move a story along. All of us, and all the characters we create in our stories, have the inner potential to express many different identities and ways of operating in the world. The eight major archetypes identified by story analyst Christopher Vogler in his book, represent the essential functions that drive an entertaining plot and allow our characters to bring forth different levels of their being. The archetypes are a useful set of tools in the writer's arsenal of techniques, and can make your stories and characters more human, believable, and compelling to the reader. In this presentation, Vogler will outline the archetypes and how they work, and will share his recent discoveries about human character from Greek and Roman myths.

This Zoom presentation is to be held on **Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6 pm**. There is **no charge** to attend this zoom meeting sponsored by the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club. Branch presidents will be notified of the zoom access information for distribution to their branch members for this event.

HAPPY SPRING



Some Things to Do (Cont'd)

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.

Through June the **Marin Branch is offering our meetings free to members of any branch** and only \$5 for non-CWC members. Please help us spread the word. Here's our upcoming lineup.

4/27 Stephanie Chandler - Build Your Book Marketing Plan: Simple Strategies to Cultivate Your Audience and Sell More Books

5/25 Jordan Rosenfeld - Writing the Intimate Character

6/22 Mary Buckham - Writing Active Hooks: or How Many Hooks Are Enough?

More info at cwcmarin.com/events or go to www.calwriters.org find the Marin branch listed and check out their programs.

Thank you!

Diane Vickers, Program Chair

Speak or Listen at Open Mic Night

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

Thursday, April 13, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 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.

Young Writers Contest Fundraising

Sponsored by

The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs to benefit our programs in support of young writers. Your tax-deductible gift will appear in the contest program in May, and in the newsletter every month in the year you donate. Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

DONATIONS A/O February 2022

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

Judith Overmier

Susan Berman

David George In honor & support of

R. Lee Paulson Humor Award

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

Linda Hartmann

Robert Lane

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

Aline Soules

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

Lynn Goodwin

Uyen Chau Nguyen

Marianne Lonsdale

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

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://cwcmtdiablo.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://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

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL CONTEST