



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

June 2022

In-Person and Zoom BRANCH MEETING

June 11, 2022

Check-In 11:00; Writers Table 11:15; Lunch 12:00

Business Meeting 12:25; 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.

How to Be the Best Ambassador for Your Book: Pitfalls to Avoid, Practices that Pay Off

Featuring

Betsy Graziani Fasbinder (In Person)

Whether pitching to an agent at a writers' conference or telling Cousin Angie about your book at a backyard barbecue, the very best person to create passion for your project—from agents and editors, potential readers, fans, and even super-fans—is You. By learning a few simple skills, you can be the best possible ambassador for your book, your ideas, and your causes. And, you can actually enjoy yourself doing it.

What we will Learn:

- A handful of instantly usable skills and simple mind-shifts to help you speak about your book and project in a way that engages listeners
- Tips for sounding more confident than you may feel, and becoming more confident than you are
- Guidelines for choosing and delivering effective readings
- Extra bonus tips for being a guest on radio and podcast interviews
- Extra, extra tips about how best to annoy your bookstore, podcast, or radio host so they'll never want you back



Betsy Graziani Fasbinder 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 and non-profit organizations throughout the U.S. and abroad. Her book, *From Page to Stage: Inspiration, Tools, and Public Speaking Tips for Writers*, is an invaluable resource for not only writers, but all wanting to increase their speaking effectiveness to audiences of any size. She is a podcast producer and host, with *The Morning Glory Project: Stories of Determination* now in its third year. She is also the author of *Fire & Water* and *Filling Her Shoes*.

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

Zoom – Members \$10.00 – Guests \$15.00

President's Message: Linda Hartmann

Writing the Waves

Dear CWC Mt. Diablo Branch Membership,

I want you to know what an honor it has been to serve as your president over the past 2.5 years. The first month after my presidency began, the media informed the world about the pandemic. Strangely, I think that made this presidency all the more memorable!

Thank you for supporting our notion that we would not let this writing community dissipate due to the pandemic, even when asking members to take on learning new skills, Zoom to hybrid meetings, and how to use the chat function!

It has been an incredible ride to help support this writing community, all that we stand for and give back to others and each other, living our motto of "Writers Helping Writers." To see the world through the eyes of the students who enter the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and the Young Writers Contest has been an emotional, heartfelt endeavor that broadens my perspective on life. When I hear my colleagues read from their writing during Open Mic events, I get to know them more deeply. Through sharing at Writers Connection, I learn the struggles and solutions that writers have had and are willing to share.

When I entered the room of the Mt. Diablo Branch of CWC the first few times, it was to see and hear what I could learn from the Featured Speakers, Workshop Leaders, and the Discussion Leaders at the Writers Table. I had no idea how much fun involving myself in the club by volunteering my time would become. I have made new friends and connections I will treasure for life. I learned much more than the meetings alone had to offer. What a gift! Thank each one of you for that gift. Opportunities abound in this club, and the more involved you are, the more you hear about and enjoy them.

Next year, one of the new offerings you can look forward to are Ekphrasis Workshops, with an extensive exhibit and reception of the work performed, discussed, and displayed at the Orinda Library in May 2023. For those of you who are new to the concept of Ekphrasis, be sure to read the upcoming news items and attend the business portion of our monthly meeting in June – to learn more about the project for Ekphrastic Reciprocity - or words to expound upon the visual arts - and the visual arts to respond to and illustrate the literary word. This project is in conjunction with the Lamorinda Arts Council and the Lamorinda Arts Association. Information about the Ekphrasis program will also be provided in an upcoming CWC News!

The branch has some critical decisions to make for next year. We would love to hear from you and have you attend board meetings or write to the president@cwcmtdiablo.com with your ideas.

As we hope for the world to settle into a joyful state of "new normal," I wish all of you a healthy, happy summer and much joy. Through stormy seas and calm bay waters, keep writing the waves!



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Member Events, News, and Salutes



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

<https://cwemtdiablo.org/newsletter/>

Michael Barrington

On May 11, Michael made a lunch presentation to 90 the Moraga SIRS (Sons in Retirement.) The title of his presentation was, "Why do I write? How do I write?" It was well received, but he admits he failed to bring sufficient copies of one of his books! Through this event, he was put in touch with two book clubs and will offer to join them for discussion if they decide to select his book.

Lucinda Jackson & Michael Barrington

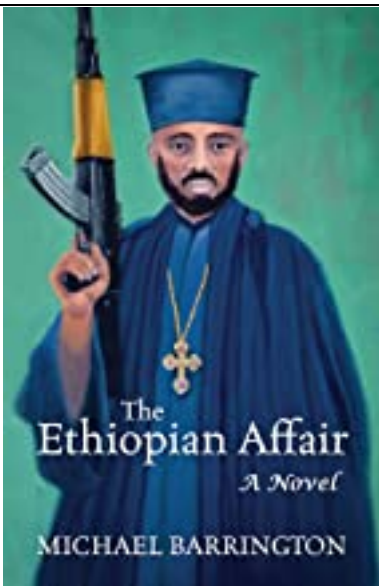
On May 14th, Michael and Lucinda were invited to attend and sell their books at the 14th Annual Walnut Creek Library Foundation's Authors Gala.

Lucinda Jackson

Lucinda Jackson, author of *Just a Girl: Growing Up Female and Ambitious* and *Project Escape: Lessons for an Unscripted Life* was recently featured in the American Chemical Society's *Industry Matters* newsletter talking about her new book and the big retirement question: "What Do I Do Now? –

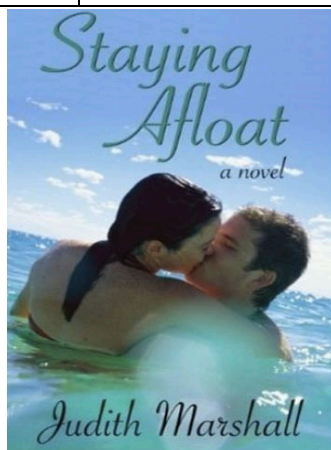
https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/industry/industry-matters/5th-quarter/what-to-do-now.html?sc=220101_indnews_IMPdirect

Michael Barrington's novel released in April, 2022:



The Ethiopian Affair: Is there a plot to kidnap the US Ambassador to Ethiopia? Two super code-breaking agents a man from M16 and woman from the CIA, with the clock ticking, struggle with their emotions and mutual attraction while their whirlwind investigation takes them through Somalia, Kenya, El Salvador, Egypt, England and the USA, raising more questions than answers. Is Al Qaeda involved? Can the Ethiopian police be trusted? Who is the Orthodox priest? Limited and ambiguous information and half truths lead to a wild goose chase, into dead ends, and causes several missteps as their search takes unexpected twists, turns and surprising revelations, Participating in a CIA rendition session is both frightening and shocking. This page turning suspense novel reaches an unusual, dramatic and unanticipated conclusion. But will the agents live to tell the tale? Or will the M16 record just show, "Case Closed."

The Ethiopian Affair, by Michael Barrington



Available on [Amazon](#)

Judith Marshall

Author of *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever*

Her new novel, *Staying Afloat*, explores how sex and love can cause a perfectly sane devoted wife and mother to lose her moral compass. Can a woman ever really know her heart until she faces tragedy?



April, 2020

Young Writers Contest Awards

YWC WINNERS 2022 Chart by Marlene Dotterer



POETRY 6TH GRADE	POETRY 7TH GRADE	POETRY 8TH GRADE
1st Place Dominic Ghafouri: Hunt Stone Valley Middle School, Alamo Teacher: Renee Doran	1st Place Evelyn Van Huysen: You Prospect Sierra School, El Cerrito Teacher: Matthew Williams	1st Place Sienna Wong: <i>My Hand</i> Diablo Vista Middle School, Danville Teacher: Bonnie Meyers
2nd Place A. Sapra: Giraffe Iron Horse Middle School: San Ramon Teacher: Celeste Granger	2nd Place Sharanya Roy: <i>Ocean Blue Walls</i> Gale Ranch Middle School, San Ramon Teacher: Dylan Vaughn	2nd Place Anya Houston: <i>Our World</i> Joaquin Moraga Middle School, Moraga Teacher: Kristen Anderson
3rd Place Mason Haywood: Clutch Sequoia Middle School, Pleasant Hill Teacher: Heather Still	3rd Place Olin Xia: <i>Silence and Stars</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Sydney Maxwell	3rd Place Sienna Wong: <i>The Trials of a Veteran</i> Diablo Vista Middle School, Danville Teacher: Bonnie Meyers
PERSONAL NARRATIVE 6TH GRADE	PERSONAL NARRATIVE 7TH GRADE	PERSONAL NARRATIVE 8TH GRADE
1st Place Betty Rose: <i>Myself Again, But Even Better</i> Stone Valley Middle School, Alamo Teacher: Lauren Haynes	1st Place Avery Liu: <i>Eroded into Space</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Sydney Maxwell	1st Place Eric Niu: <i>An English Journey</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Melissa Parker
2nd Place Mishel Rahman: <i>The Unnoticed Being</i> Stone Valley Middle School, Alamo Teacher: Irma Volnec	2nd Place Sarah Wang: <i>Personal Truths</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Sydney Maxwell	2nd Place Rajesh Zubin: <i>The Waves of Resting War Heroes</i> Joaquin Moraga Middle School, Moraga Teacher: Ben Wayne
3rd Place Vedit Shivadevuni: <i>The Crawl of Death</i> Windemere Ranch Middle School, San Ramon Teacher: Diana Kaplenko	3rd Place Anaiah Singh: <i>Sea Serpents</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Melissa Parker	3rd Place Leighton Tanaka: <i>Whistle</i> Stanley Middle School, Lafayette Teacher: Rebecca Thompson
SHORT STORY 6TH GRADE	SHORT STORY 7TH GRADE	SHORT STORY 8TH GRADE
1st Place Isla Yates: <i>The Harvard Experiment</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Sydney Maxwell	1st Place Ariel Liu: <i>Summery Blue Skies</i> Windemere Ranch Middle School, San Ramon Teacher: Sheri Herauf	1st Place Kamilynn Luu: <i>A Frosted Flake</i> Sequoia Middle School, Pleasant Hill Teacher: Ernesto Minglana
2nd Place Mishel Rahman: <i>Innovation</i> Stone Valley Middle School, Alamo Teacher: Irma Volnec	2nd Place Georgia Paulson: <i>The Waiting Room</i> Sequoia Middle School, Pleasant Hill Teacher: Sara Perlberg	2nd Place Isabella Wang: <i>Rest in Peace</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Melissa Parker
3rd Place Nishna Nadipally: <i>The Mission Within</i> Windemere Ranch Middle School, San Ramon Teacher: Louie Michaud	3rd Place Shree Sabbineni: <i>Roses's Journeys</i> Dorris-Eaton School, San Ramon Teacher: Melissa Parker	3rd Place Leighton Tanaka: <i>Whistle</i> Stanley Middle School, Lafayette Teacher: Rebecca Thompson
HUMOR ALL GRADES		
1st Place Alexandra Perelman: <i>A Typical Day at Our Art Class</i> Foothill Middle School, Walnut Creek Teacher: Christopher Hoshaw		

Young Writers Contest (YWC) Awards (cont'd)

Young Writers Contest Awards Ceremony held 21 May 2022

Congratulations to the Young Writer Winners!!

By Linda Hartmann



Photograph by Cindy Leonard

22 of the Winning Students (a few of them won two awards!!)

If only the entire membership could have attended the Young Writers Contest Awards Ceremony on May 21, 2022! You would have been impressed by the winners in every category. This year was the 27th successful year that the California Writers Club – Mt. Diablo Branch has sponsored the Young Writers Contest. It is a contest for all middle schools throughout Contra Costa County; public, private, home, and chartered for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students.

The students enter their original writing into four categories: short story, personal narrative, poetry, and humor. Each award winner receives a package with a certificate with their name, title of the piece, grade, category of award, a monetary prize, an anthology of the winning works, and a lively awards ceremony from the branch.

This year in attendance were: 22 winning students, many proud parents and family members, twelve judges, and six teachers, many of whom had more than one winning student to celebrate! Three of the students won two prizes – can you imagine?

The event took place at St. Stephens Parrish in Walnut Creek, where a handful of dedicated judges volunteered to decorate the night before, bring in some of the food and beverages, and try out the AV equipment. Twelve judges attended the ceremony, and each helped with different roles to make the event a success.

Young Writers Contest (YWC) Awards (Cont'd)

Marlene Dotterer, Ceci Pugh, Margie Witt, Cindy Leonard, Stanford Stewart, and Linda Hartmann were on decorations, food, photography, and AV technical, with Marlene and Linda as Masters of Ceremony. Dita Basu ensured the correct pronunciation of each name. Janet Clark and Barry Hampshire assisted Ceci with the food and beverages. At the same time, Chloe Laub, Susan Berman, and Michael Barrington attended the host table, greeting attendees, providing them with programs, photo tips, club brochures, and accepting donations for anthologies. Lyn Roberts ensured everyone was managing their assignments and handed the awards to Linda in the correct order.

Beginning the ceremony was a slideshow produced by Linda, with one slide for each winning piece. Slides showed grade and category, name of author, title of the piece, student photo (if available,) quotation(s) chosen by judges who read their work, and images that depicted the essence of each piece. Although intended to include music, the slides would only show silently. One could have heard a pin drop in the large room during the slideshow.

We staged a photography studio in front of the Tri-folds with a listing of each grade, category, winner, title, and teacher with the school name. Cindy Leonard took photos of the students for the branch website and photos with the families were taken by Margie Witt.

Following the awards presentation, all students were invited to the microphone and read excerpts of their writing. How awe-inspiring! Many of these students have the gift of writing and the gift of reading in a meaningful, profound way.

It is with mixed feelings that Marlene now steps down as the chair of this contest, but with everything else she has taken on, it is certainly understandable. Unless we have a volunteer for her role, this will be the last year for the Young Writers Contest. She is willing to continue with the submission aspect of the activities for now, and will mentor a new YWC chair. As you can see there is a large support team as well.

Again, enormous appreciation to Marlene Dotterer who has orchestrated the contest for the past eight years, and to all who helped make this 27th year memorable.

The Mt Diablo Young Writers Club (YWC), established in 1995, for Contra Costa County middle-schools inclusive of students from all public, private, charter, or homeschools. Students submit their writing for recognition, certificates, cash prizes, and inclusion in a printed anthology of the winners' works. **The contest needs a new Chair if it is to continue. See Open Positions for the YWC in the section below.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –

Job Descriptions and Mentoring Provided

What would YOU like to do for your branch?

The branch only works when members volunteer.

OPEN Positions within the Mt. Diablo Branch as of May 2022 - - Please write to president@cwcmtdiablo.org if interested in any of the following positions:

Executive Officers:

***Vice President:** - follows and trains one year+ to learn the roles and responsibilities of the president, substitutes for the president as needed, and aspires to become president The VP is part of the Executive Committee that include the President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Board Chairs and Representatives:

* **NorCal Representative** - attends the quarterly NorCal meetings with the representatives from the 14 Northern California Branches and acts as liaison between the Mt. Diablo branch and NorCal. NorCal specializes in such group activities as Leadership Conferences, local festivals, conferences and writerly events where CWC may be represented with a booth and possibly interest others in the club.

* **Social Media Chair** -- develops and maintains CWC-Mt. Diablo presence on Facebook, Twitter, etc. (Chair is a board position and may choose to work with a committee)

* **Writers Table Chair** - board member involved with canvassing and tracking details related to member's interest & availability to be a Discussion Leader for a Writers Table session on a specific topic and date either individually or with a panel. Can work with or without a committee to help them. (Currently there is a small committee)

Young Writers Contest positions: (positions are during the spring time of year for a limited period of time; the Chair is year round)

ABOUT the Young Writers Contest: The YWC is a local contest for middle-school students throughout all of Contra Costa County to submit their writing for recognition, certificates, cash prizes, and inclusion in an Anthology of the winners printed works. The contest has been ongoing every year since 1995, and we want so very much for it to continue. The contest desperately needs more volunteers if this is to occur.

***Young Writers Contest Chair** - Responsibilities include:

- ☐ Organize the committee and provide start dates and deadlines for various tasks (publicity, submissions, judging, award ceremony venue, catering, program, preparation of prize packages, anthology, and slideshow).
- ☐ Approve expenditures.
- ☐ Send an email to teachers on the Constant Contact list, announcing the start date of the contest and another email at the end to thank them for participating.
- ☐ Receive and answer emails from students, parents, and teachers. Technical issues would be passed on to me.
- ☐ Work with the webmaster (me) to approve letters and forms to be sent to winning students and parents.
- ☐ Supervise and organize to make sure all the tasks are completed on time.

Young Writers Contest Anthology Coordinator ** Organizes and assembles the documents and formatting for the annual YWC Anthology of winners (April - Early May)

Young Writers Mail Merge - helps with Certificates, Letters, Envelopes, etc. (April - Early May)

Young Writers Contest Slideshow Producer ** - (mid-April thru mid-May) Produces a slideshow representative of each of the winning pieces.

Young Writers Contest Judges/Jurors - A team of jurors each year takes part in reading and judging the work submitted by the students in middle-school throughout Contra Costa County divided by school grade and category of writing submissions. It is great fun! (mid to late March thru mid-April) Usually takes a few days or so of reading depending on your pace. Jurors do not need to be board members.

****(Note** that the anthology and slideshow are amazing additions made over the last few years. A new chair would be free to discard them and make up their own plans for the ceremony and prize packages)

NOTE: The Young Writers Contest occurs in the Spring for a limited period. The Chair is year round.

OPEN Positions within the Mt. Diablo Branch (cont'd)

YWC Anthology Coordinator - Organizes and assembles the documents and formatting for the annual YWC Anthology of winners (April - Early May)

YWC Mail Merge - helps with Certificates, Letters, Envelopes, etc. (April - Early May)

YWC Slideshow Producer - (mid-April thru mid-May)

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(The anthology and slideshow are amazing additions made over the last few years. A new chair would be free to discard them and make their own plans for the ceremony and prize packages.)

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Positions: (Dec-Jan annually)

ABOUT: Founded in 1923, The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards funded by the Scholastic publishing company and donors, administered by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, is a competition which recognizes talented young artists and writers from across the United States and its territories. The branch earns a significant monetary amount if we assemble a specified number of judges.

Awards are given to students age 13 through high-school seniors for exceptional writing. There are 11 different writing categories. The winners are celebrated locally and nationally (at Carnegie Hall) with medals, scholarships, publications, exhibitions, and a few residencies. Students are from schools throughout the United States and territories as well as U.S. military schools worldwide. Many successful writers began with Scholastic Awards, such as Stephen King, John Updike, Bernard Malamud, Joyce Carol Oates, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Joyce Maynard, Ken Burns, and Amanda Gorman. The Awards program turns 100 in 2023. Just think of the celebration and guest speakers!

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Coordinator - Assists Scholastic Chair in making appropriate assignment to judges, helps recruit judges, is involved in training judges how to access their assignments for reading, trouble-shoots with judges and chair as needed, tracks timelines for the group (mid-December - mid January.) Ideally this person will be in-training for the Chair position the following year.

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Judges/Jurors - A team of jurors each year takes part in reading and judging the works submitted by students. Whenever possible, jurors are assigned the category/ies they have chosen. Readers elsewhere are also judging the same works for equity and fairness to the awards. The highest ranking then float to yet another tier above the initial groups of jurors for additional review for awards. Jurors do not need to be board members.

***NOTE:** Some of these roles are board positions; the ones with asterisks * preceding the title of the position are required to serve on the board; for others, the chair needs to be a board member, but the committee members are optional. Contest judges/jurors (terms used interchangeably) are not required to be board members, though many of them are. Please contact President Linda Hartmann for any questions or if you have an interest in any of these positions at <mailto:president@cwcmtdiablo.org>

Thank you for your consideration!

Please contact <mailto:president.cwcmtdiablo.org>
if you are interested, or would like more information.

Call for Mt. Diablo's 2022-2023 Branch Officer Nominations

by **Andrew Benzie**, Membership Chair

At our June 11th CWC meeting, the attending membership will elect officers for the Mt. Diablo Branch Board for the CWC year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Currently, the slate is as follows:

President—Barry Hampshire
Vice President—Linda Hartmann
Treasurer—David George
Secretary—Frances Stephenson

Members of the club may nominate themselves or another member for any of these four officer positions. If you have a nominee who you feel should be added to the slate, please first confirm that the nominee is willing to stand for the office. Forward the nominee's name and a brief description of the qualities that make them an appropriate candidate to me through the "Contact us" link on the Mt. Diablo branch website.

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/>

Alternatively, members can add a nominee to the slate just prior to the election at the June meeting. Again, the potential nominee should have confirmed they are willing to stand.

I look forward to the election of the officers who will guide the club over the next year.



Members' (Short) Works

Members, See your writing in print!

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

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



The Trip from Timber Cove Bob Poirier

Mark loaded Roshay, his forty-pound German shepherd, into the white Equinox and left his Timber Cove home at 2:15 Sunday afternoon. There was plenty of time to reach San Francisco before the Golden Gate Bridge traffic backup. He refueled at the 76 station just south of Bodega Bay and was 20 minutes further south on CA-1 when the traffic report came on the radio.

“There is a multi-car accident with fatalities on CA-1 South at the intersection of Valley Ford Road. The CHP Major Accident Investigation Team is on the way. Expect major delays.”

He waited for a break in the traffic, turned left at a convenience store driveway, stopped the car, and opened the Waze app. At the first refresh, the app suggested an alternate route using CA-116, about forty minutes north.

An hour later, on CA-116, just before reaching Guerneville, he received another Waze alternate. He picked up River Road, skirting the Russian River, and headed towards Rio Nido. Ahead on his left toward Mt. Jackson, he could see the aftermath of the Walbridge Fire. A couple of miles past Rio Nido, Roshay signaled she needed a potty break. He took the next left, drove a couple of hundred yards into a large grove of redwood trees, then took a right into a roughly maintained access road. He backed into a carved-out section of the road and let Roshay out of the vehicle.

Roshay sniffed the air, then ran further up the access road and around a slight bend. Mark could hear her barking ferociously, so he sprinted up the road. The dog was barking at a man in camouflage hunting clothes sitting against a tree a few feet off the road. Mark approached cautiously from the side.

“Hey,” he said. “Are you okay?”

The man swiveled his head and stared at Mark. An eye was missing, his face was covered in gore, and there were deep gashes across his body. He murmured something that Mark could not hear. Mark grabbed Roshay’s harness and shushed her.

“I’ll help you up,” Mark said as he walked closer. “My car’s just a few yards down the road. We can get you to a hospital.”

“It’s a trap,” the man whispered. “It’s using me as bait.”

The man retrieved three aluminum-shafted, fixed-blade, 28-inch broadhead arrows from a quiver at his side and gave two to Mark, who carefully took the razor-sharp broadheads, then reached down to help the man.

“No,” the man said with surprising force. “I’m all torn up inside. Save yourself.”

With that, he took the arrow he had kept, placed the broadhead against his heart, and forced it into his chest. Then, with a cough and a loud grunt, he died.

Roshay’s low growl snapped Mark out of his reverie. He followed Roshay’s line of sight and spotted two red eyes twenty yards up the road. A large black bear, fur burned nearly all over its body, stood and roared. An arrow was sticking out of the center of its chest while another was embedded in its side. Mark recoiled from the stench of burned fur and flesh.



Members' Short Works (cont'd)

Mark knew how to deal with bears. Don't run. Back away. Speak low with confidence. He backed down the road toward the Equinox. The bear dropped to all fours and followed.

When the bear picked up the pace, Mark turned and sprinted for the SUV. The bear was gaining on him when Roshay, growling ferociously, attacked it from the side. The bear hesitated, turned, and swatted the dog, who squealed in pain and disappeared into the brush. It was enough of a distraction to allow Mark to dive under the Equinox, scoot on his back to the center of the undercarriage, and make himself as small as possible.

The bear looked underneath the vehicle, then used its paw to sweep underneath it. The claws, fully extended, tore at Mark's shirt.

With limited movement, Mark passed one of the arrows over his chest to the hand nearest the bear. On the next swipe, he jammed the broadhead into the bear's paw. The bear hesitated long enough for Mark to wiggle the shaft and force the arrow through the paw extending it several inches.

With a roar of pain and frustration, the bear tried to withdraw the paw but caught it on the undercarriage. Then, with another roar, the bear twisted its paw and jerked it free. Mark saw the bear shuffle away from the vehicle, sit down, and gnaw at the arrow.

Mark shifted his body further away from the bear, and when he was at the edge of the vehicle, he scrambled out from under it. He opened the driver's side door and threw himself inside. He locked all the doors and started the Equinox.

He was slowly driving back toward River Road, looking for Roshay, when he spotted her in the rear-view mirror, limping toward the vehicle. Mark stopped, opened the rear tailgate with the overhead button, and waited for Roshay to catch up.

The bear suddenly appeared behind Roshay, limping but gaining on her.

Mark turned, pointed his index finger at Roshay, and shouted, "Bang!" as loud as he could. Roshay immediately fell on her side and played dead, just as he had taught her. As soon as she was down, Mark put the vehicle in reverse, used the backup camera to center Roshay in the vehicle's path, floored the accelerator, and hit the bear at twenty-five miles an hour. He drove over the bear and went two car lengths past it. Then, as the bear struggled to stand, Mark accelerated forward and hit the bear again, driving the chest arrow deeper into its body. He reversed the Equinox and was ready for another run when the bear sat on its haunches for a few seconds, then rolled over on its side and was still.

Mark called Roshay, who stood slowly and shakily approached the car. He opened the driver's side door, reached down, picked her up by her service dog harness, placed her in the passenger's seat, and closed the door. Mark felt all over her body but could not find any wounds or blood. When he looked up, the bear was standing in front of the Equinox.

As the vehicle slowly moved forward, the bear leaped on the hood and locked its claws into the hood opening. It hung on with one paw and began banging on the windshield with the claws on the other. Mark accelerated to forty miles an hour, then stopped suddenly. The bear rolled but kept its grip. Mark repeated the maneuver as the bear locked eyes with Mark, who watched the light slowly dimming from its eyes.



Members' Short Works (cont'd)

Mark turned onto River Road, where a CHP officer stopped him just before reaching Trenton. After a quick conference call with headquarters, the CHP officer called a tow truck. After taking several pictures of the tow truck operator removing the bear with a small crane, the officer allowed Mark to continue to San Francisco.

He called Kristin as soon as he was on US-101.

"You won't believe the commute I had," she said when she answered the phone. "I have never seen such a traffic mess. How did your detour go?"

"Nothing special," He said. "I'll tell you about it when I get home."

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/>

Writers Table: June 11th at the Monthly Meeting 11:15 a.m.

What is the new "Facebook Reels" offering? How about "Stars"?

Presented by David George

Have you wondered as an author how best to take advantage of newer social media technology to promote your books? Are they serious when Facebook says we can make as much as \$35,000 *per month* from new Reels content just based on clicks and follows? If you have never heard of Facebook Reels and other related social media platforms, or are curious how to supplement your income in this bold new world, tune into the CWC June Writers Table. David George will explain the fundamentals of the product and how you can take advantage of FB Reels to promote book sales and boost your monthly income.



David George has written several dozen short stories and poems exploring the ironies he experienced during his 35-year high tech Marketing and Sales career, and his encounters with the wildlife of semi-rural California. His writing has been published in local newspapers, periodicals, and ***Grandparent Magazine***. He has won several awards, including First Place in the Jack London Writing Contest. David is a monthly eco-friendly gardening techniques columnist for the Diablo Gazette.

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 **June 22 12:00 pm–2:00 pm PDT**

Chicken Pie Shop
1251 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(plenty of parking available)

To Register:

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



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 already in volunteer positions or who are considering volunteering for their branches. If you are interested in helping with the conference or being an attendee, contact Andrew Benzie through the “Contact us” link on the Mt. Diablo branch website.

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/contact-us/>

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



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 Poetry and Screenwriters Summits is **Saturday, July 23rd**, all day. Be sure to **let Linda Hartmann know by June 13** at the latest if you are interested in having your name included in the lottery pick for either of them (Valued at \$195)

Some Things to Do (cont'd)

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.

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.

Please register at www.cwcmarin.com/events for the Zoom Link.

Diane Vickers, Program Chair

Speak or Listen at Mt. Diablo's 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

Wednesday, June 15th, 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 and listeners are also welcome.

2022 Young Writers Contest First Prize Winner

6th GRADE POETRY

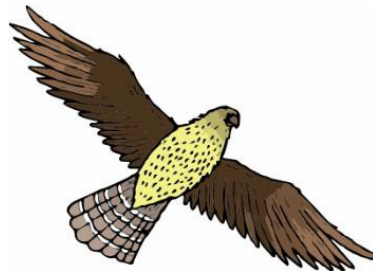
FIRST PLACE

HUNT by **Dominic Ghafouri**

Stone Valley Middle School, Alamo

Teacher: Renee Doran

The rattlesnake sits in wait
Its keen eyes scanning the rocky plateau
It lies low in the tall bronze grass
Waiting
And waiting
And waiting
A small field mouse scampers into view
Its dark eyes search the dusty ground
Hoping for just a few seeds to diminish its hunger
And a meager puddle to slake its thirst
Searching
And searching
And searching
The rattlesnake coils its serpentine body
Its needle-like teeth filled to the brim with a deadly venom
It takes a last look to see if the mouse is still there
Then it strikes
The doomed mouse looks up just to see the jaws hurtling towards it
The snake meets its mark
Its jaws close around the mouse and it retreats back into the brush
The majestic hawk circles above
It catches sight of the snake
The hunter now hunted
The hawk swoops down
And down
And down
The hawk hits its target
It flies away once more with the snake thrashing in its claws
The sun sets over the plateau
And all is quiet



Young Writers Contest Fundraising

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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 as of May 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 Hartman

Cindy Leonard

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)

Uyen Chau Nguyen

Marianne Lonsdale

Robert Poirier

Patty Northlich

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

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

Janet Clark

June Gatewood

Margie Witt



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/>

On May 21, 2022, the Mt. Diablo Branch hosted an awards ceremony to honor the students.

All program expenses are supported by individual donations, grants, and the honorarium the branch receives by participation in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

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