



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

September 2022

In-Person BRANCH MEETING

September 10, 2022

11:00 - Check-In

11:15 - Writer's Table

12:00 - Lunch

12:35 - Business Meeting

1:00 - Speaker

REGISTRATION:

<https://cwcmt Diablo.org/meetings-and-workshops/>

Reminder: This is an In-Person Meeting



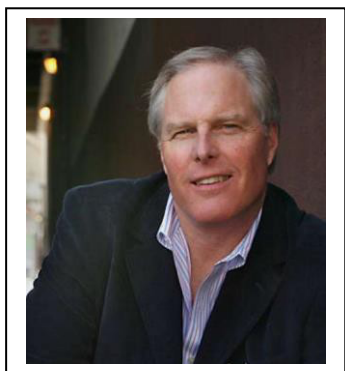
Rewrite! A Journalist Turns Author

Featuring

Duffy Jennings (In Person)

Duffy Jennings is an author and former prize-winning reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* in the tumultuous 1970s. His coverage included the City Hall murders of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the Patty Hearst kidnapping, and the Zodiac and Zebra serial killings.

The newspaper submitted Jennings's reporting on the murder trial of the City Hall killer, former supervisor Dan White, for Pulitzer Prize consideration. All told, Jennings's byline appeared on more than five hundred articles for the Chronicle. Actor Adam Goldberg portrayed Duffy in the 2007 film, *Zodiac*.



What we will learn:

- Why Being a Reporter Doesn't Make You a Writer
- Get Into Their Head: How to Write Someone Else's Memoir
- Agents, Publishers, and Self-Publishing
- Finding the Newspaper Archive in Your Computer

After his newspaper career, **Duffy Jennings** served as vice president of public relations for the San Francisco Giants baseball club for twelve years. He oversaw media relations, publications, business communications, community relations, and alumni relations. Following the Giants, Jennings ran his own public relations company for more than twenty years. He also launched and published *Los Gatos Magazine*. Jennings is the author of *Reporter's Note Book: A San Francisco Chronicle Journalist's Diary of the Shocking Seventies*, published in 2019 by Grizzly Peak Press.

In-Person – Members \$25.00 – Guests \$35.00 (includes lunch)

***President's Message:* Barry Hampshire**

Welcome to a new year of CWC Mt. Diablo branch activities with myself taking over as President. Following the election in June, you may have been aware of some strange noises. It was my mother turning in her grave. As to whether this movement was due to her delight or her state of shock is still undecided.

No matter, I am certain she would have been surprised. My sister has emphasized this state of disbelief by asking, every time we talk, "Really? You're President of a writing club?"

They had reason to doubt the sanity of my taking this position because they have known me all of my life and they know I hated writing. But in my defense, I would claim that old dogs can learn new tricks and I have fallen in love with the written word.

I may not be a good writer – too many unnecessary filler words – look at that, the "unnecessary" in that last phrase was itself unnecessary.

So, what I intend doing as President is work to encourage and support you, in your aspirations to produce beautiful, poetic, suspenseful, academic, sensual, personal, or just plain fun (please choose your particular style) pieces that will move the hearts and minds of those who are fortunate to read them.

This club is here for you and I am here to serve you.

I hope you all enjoy a productive and fulfilling year.

Barry



**THE THIRD WEEK IN OCTOBER IS OFFICIALLY CALIFORNIA WRITERS WEEK
PROCLAIMED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE (at the behest of CWC)**

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Writers Table Begins at 11:15 a.m.

BETA READING the WRITE WAY

With **Linda Hartmann**

From this workshop-style overview of what beta reading is about and how it adds amazing, surprising, and outstanding value to your final drafts and published works, you will learn the following:

- **W**hat is beta-reading?
- **R**eason – Why should I need this when I am happy with my draft?
- **I**dentify the best Beta-readers for your book & how to find them
- **T**ransmit with security
- **E**nlighten, **E**ducate, and **E**ngage yourself and your beta-readers
- **W**rangles and **W**ishes identified?
- **A**sk, the pertinent questions and **A**ssimilate
- **Y**ielding and **Y**ucks



(Have an idea for a Writers Table topic you'd like to see? Can you lead a session to share your own tips and knowledge? Let Andrew know! Go to writerstables@cwcmtdiablo.org for the form. Writers Table talks are led by any branch member willing to share writing/publishing/marketing tips that work for them and may for others.)



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:
writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org

Aline Soules

My latest publication is a poem, Night of Thick Clouds, in
The Galway Review

<https://thegalwayreview.com/2022/08/05/aline-soules-night-of-thick-clouds/>

Read this poem of Aline's in *Members' Short Works* p.



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

Denise P. Kalm

A blog entry of Denise's will appear in September on George Cramer's blog about writers: [Author George Cramer's Blog: Join The Email List For Updates \(gdcramer.com\)](https://gdcramer.com),

www.denisekalm.com



George Cramer

George attended the Public Safety Writers Association conference in Las Vegas, July 13-17, 2022.

Two of his pieces received awards: 1) Poem Unpublished: Second Place for "Sand Creek"
2) Flash Fiction Writing: Second Place for "Coming Home" Read this in

[*Members' Short Works*](#)

Additionally George was a panelist for three topics: blogging, historical fiction, and programs used by writers.

Panel # 1: Blogging Your Way to Success—Blogging has become an essential part of promoting not only yourself but also spotlighting other writings. What does it take to run a successful blog and keep it fresh and viable? Co-panelists: Marilyn Meredith, **Camille Minichino**, Ann Parker, and Thonie Hevron

Panel # 3: Using Software to Help You Write: Considering the software enhancement programs that assist writers, how useful are they and what's the latest information regarding them?

George Cramer gdcramer@outlook.com <https://gdcramer.com>



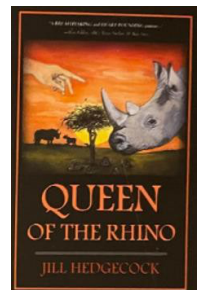
Jill Hedgecock

A photo of California poppies submitted by Jill will be the cover of the 2022 Literary Review since poppies represent the entire state.






Jill's 4th novel, *Queen of the Rhino* has just been published on Amazon. This standalone book is the sequel to her award-winning debut, *Rhino in the Room*. Her latest novel picks up after seventeen-year-old Claire's role in a dramatic effort to save two rhinos while visiting South Africa caused her to become a social media sensation known as *#QueenoftheRhino*.

When Claire agrees to travel to Kenya with her father and his annoying new wife to meet a potential donor for her Rhino in the Room Foundation, she suspects she may have been brought to Africa under false pretenses. Can Claire face her demons and unravel who is behind the sinister events in time to save the endangered rhinos she cares so much for? Dan Ashley, an ABC7 Bay Area News Anchor, calls the book: "A BREATHTAKING and HEART-POUNDING journey..." See Jill at the September 10th meeting for a signed copy.

On September 24, from 3-5 p.m. Kevin Fisher-Paulson and Jill will speak at Reasonable Books in Lafayette about how their life experiences affect their writing process and how they choose the stories to reveal in their books. See more in [*Things to Do*](#) p.



Our Upcoming Speakers

Sept 10	Duffy Jennings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Into Their Head: How to Write Someone Else's Memoir • Agents, Publishers, and Self-Publishing • Finding the Newspaper Archive in Your Computer
Oct 8 	Betsy Fasbinder	Communicating to enhance marketing skills
Nov 12	TBD	Three of our own
Dec 10 	Jordan Rosenfeld	building setting and scene
Jan 14 	Paul Zeidman	writing and marketing screenplays
Feb 11 	TBD	
Mar.11 	TBD	Workshop
Apr 8	Andrea Firth	Flash fiction and non-fiction
May 13	TBD	
June 10	TBD	

Note that November will be Three of Our Own with **members bringing their books for sale before and after the meeting**. We made this change thinking that for some, holiday shopping needs to be done earlier than December! We will still have a festive December meeting.

And if you have suggestions for a good speaker, please contact Mark Clifford at: programs@cwcmtdiablo.org



Dean Koontz interview

Here is the link to High Desert's July 26, 2022 interview with Dean Koontz, which is now posted on a CWC YouTube channel. [A Conversation with Dean Koontz - July Act 2 Meeting - YouTube](#)



Advertise in the CWC *Bulletin*

Help support CWC statewide. Link to how to advertise in the CWC *Bulletin* which has statewide distribution and a 70% open rate. <https://calwriters.org/bulletin/>



Members' (Short) Works

Members, See your writing in print!

Send your **short** works to be included in the Mt Diablo branch newsletter to: writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org



Night of Thick Clouds Ailene Soules

Low clouds hang over the black water of Loch Fyne.
Saltwater slaps the pebble beach, slick with wet
and seaweed slime, night so dark we load the rowboat
by feel alone—line, gaff, net, bait dug from sand
that afternoon.

We push the boat into the sea, climb aboard in stealth,
the boys each pulling an oar, our only light
the water itself when we lean over the side to trail
cold hands in the colder loch, luminescence
in the wake of spread fingers.

Silent, poaching past our quota, compelled by our need
for fish to salt for winter. Old Mac missing a finger
from a long-ago night of dynamiting the river mouth,
still threads lines with ease for tonight we fish
the old way—

trail nets while the boys row, hoping to catch
saith and lythe mid-depth, and later at anchor
lower weighted lines for haddock and cod deep
below the surface, gaffing fish as we pull line,
their bodies shimmering like our fingers
spread in the sea.

We drop the fish on floorboards, pull the gaff's barb
from their gills to hook another, while they flap their last
around our icy feet. Mixed water and fish blood rise,
forcing us to bail.

Clouds shift and open the sky. Moon pennies dance
on the tops of the moving waves as we reach shore
and drag the boat above tideline. We crouch low,
gut fish at the end of the stone pier, wash entrails
into the sea as fast as we can.

We haul our catch to the shed as a sliver of light
warns of dawn. We barrel fish with brine, take a few
into the house to eat with floury potatoes
and go to bed with the rising sun.



Members' (Short) Works (cont'd)

Coming Home George Cramer

I'm still running. I'm running from something; I'm not sure what. It's time to stop running.

It could have been the reception I received at the San Francisco Airport on that cold and foggy day. I had worn the uniform for what seemed an eternity. I took a cab into the city, but it had started before then. First, the baggage handler threw my duffle bag at me, and then the cabbie acted as though I was Typhoid Mary.

I'm confused. I only did what was expected of me. Why this?

Dropped at the Greyhound Bus Depot, I was treated as a pariah. People glowered at me, most backed away. One woman spat on me after saying something about babies, a killer. I had never imagined a woman could do something like that.

The bar was the same; one drink and I walked away. I found myself standing in front of a Harley-Davidson dealer. I went in—it was different. “Hi, welcome home, welcome to Dudley Perkins.” The man treated me with dignity. Maybe that's why I bought an Electra Glide in blue. I threw the uniform into a Dempsey dumpster. I didn't go back for my duffle bag.

Now five days later, I'm in Utah, stopped alongside a lonely highway. Leaning against the motorcycle, I stare at a stark rock formation in a long-dead sea bed. The trees, those with foliage, display orange and yellow leaves that shift and drop as a cold wind passes through the lonely valley. I feel as cold and lonely as the scene in front of me as I prepare to say goodbye to a world that no longer cares.

****End****



My novel, [*Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever*](#), is a tribute to enduring female friendship. In preparation for writing, I researched the subject of female friendship. Here are some of the things I learned.

The Importance of Female Friendship

by Judith Marshall

<https://judithmarshall.net/>

The importance of friendship for women

Physiologically, women have a greater need to bond with others. Whereas many men get by with loose, casual relationships with other men, women tend to look for nurturing, emotionally-fulfilling bonds with other women. This need starts in childhood and increases during adolescence, when teenage girls find support from their female peers. This helps explain why women form some of their strongest friendships in high school, which can end up being some of the longest-lasting female bonds of a woman's life.

The benefits of female friendship

Women seek each other out for emotional support and identity. We gain self-esteem, validation, and a feeling that we are not alone in our fears or feelings. Studies show that when women form supportive bonds, there are physical benefits as well, such as lowering of heart rate, blood pressure, and stress. The immune and digestive systems work more efficiently, too. It takes a lot of heat off men, too!

Members' (Short) Works (cont'd)

Keeping long-term friendships alive

It's easy to be friends in high school. You see each other every day, maybe you're even neighbors, or your parents are friends. But after school people move away, go to college, and soon life gets in the way. Before you know it, the only connection you have is on Facebook or some other social media platform. Or worse, you let a good friendship simply fizzle out for lack of keeping in touch.

Friendships are like marriages, they take work. If you value a relationship, pick up the phone and call or drop a "thinking of you" card in the mail. There's nothing like a personally signed note or card to show that you care. The bottom line is you need to take action to stay connected. Remember, our friends help us remember who we really are.

****End****

https://www.amazon.com/Husbands-May-Come-Friends-Forever/dp/0982504608/ref=cm_cr_ar_p_d_product_top?ie=UTF8



The Draftee- A True Story

by **John Schembra**

It seemed to take forever to reach the Oakland Induction Center, though it was only 18 miles from our house in San Leandro. My mother was driving me there in response to an official looking notice I had received from the Selective Service in the summer of 1969. It read, "You are hereby directed to present yourself for Armed Forces Physical Examination to the local Board named above by reporting at 1515 Clay St., Oakland, CA at 0730 hours, 13 Aug, 1969."

Why so early? I wondered why it couldn't have been scheduled for, like, ten, or later, but dutifully, I arrived at the appointed time. I was led to a large room filled with other young men and was told to wait for someone to come for us. My first experience at the "hurry up and wait" culture of the military. We all sat in silence on the rows of benches in the room, keeping to ourselves, thinking our own private thoughts.

I sat there, bemoaning my fate—inducted into the army? How would this affect my application to the California Highway Patrol? I had passed the written test, and was scheduled for an oral interview next week. I was excited, and hopeful I would become a patrol officer, cruising our great state's highways, helping citizens, and arresting bad guys. As a kid, I had watched every episode of the old Highway Patrol TV series. I wanted to be like Officer Dan Mathews, portrayed by Broderick Crawford. Guess that wasn't gonna happen. Shit! *Wait, all is not lost. I could become a Military Policeman.* A stroke of genius! Now all I had to do was hope, and maybe pray, I would be accepted to the MP school.

Earlier that morning, after a fitful night of off-and-on sleeping, I was awakened to someone sitting on my bed. I opened one eye, not willing to come fully awake at that point, and was surprised to see my father sitting there, dressed and ready to leave for work. I closed my eye as it was apparent he didn't realize I was awake. He very gently brushed the hair off my forehead and away from my eyes. He took my hand in his and just held it, sitting quietly next to me. I laid there not moving or reacting, as he sat there for a few more moments. He arose and slowly walked to the bedroom door. Stopping, he turned toward me and said, very quietly, "I love you, son. Be careful, and stay safe."

As he turned to leave, I replied, "I love you, too, dad." He paused for a moment, then walked out. If I didn't know better, I could swear he was crying.

Members' (Short) Works (cont'd)

Dad had gone through WWII in the Navy, traveling to exotic islands and ports around the world, where it seemed everyone was trying to kill him. He did not want his sons to go to war at that “funny sounding place” halfway around the world. My dad was not a religious man, but he told me, years later, he prayed with my mother that neither of his sons would get drafted, and be sent off to war. After I had been drafted, he prayed for my safety.

After 35 minutes, a soldier came into the room, dressed in starched utilities, the creases on his trousers and shirt razor sharp. On each sleeve were his sergeant stripes, three up and two down. I later learned that meant he was a Sergeant First Class. He had a patch on one shoulder that was yellow, bisected diagonally by a black stripe with a black horse's head on it.

He ordered us to go into the next room and strip to our underwear and socks. We were given a small laundry-type bag to put our clothes and shoes in, and the small shaving kit we had been instructed to bring, containing our razor, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a comb or brush. The instructions were very clear. We were to bring only those items.

A few minutes later, we stood in four lines facing a row of four desks that had a doctor sitting at each, feeling ridiculous and a bit over-exposed. Young men all, different only in our skin color, height, and weight, clutching the small bag holding our worldly possessions. One by one we were weighed, measured, poked, and prodded in every orifice; ears, nose, and throat checked, and examined for hernias, which was a real joy. I didn't know what a hernia was, and you could imagine my shock when I found out how they checked for one. They saved the hernia exam for last.

All the results were recorded on a chart. Upon making my way to the head of a line, and getting examined for whatever, I was sent to the next line to repeat the process. I did that for all four lines over three hours. At the completion of the exam process, we were told to get dressed, go back into the other room, take a seat, and wait for our name to be called. The rows of benches awaited us to plant ourselves, and we dutifully sat—a bunch of strangers with nothing to say...

End

I was drafted into the army in 1969, and ultimately sent to Vietnam for a year as a Military Policeman. Though this story isn't about that part of my life, my time at war wasn't pleasant, but had such a major impact on me that I think of those times almost every day. I wrote a book *M.P., A Novel of Vietnam* based in part on my experiences during that turbulent year.

The previous is an excerpt from the first chapter of the 15,600-word short story about the first five days of my life as a soldier, and to the best of my 53-year-old memory, every bit of it is true. To read the entire story, email me at toto@pachell.net and I will email it to you. Thanks. John



A Thank You from Rhonda Hammons

July 23, 2022. As unique odors swirled around my nostrils and the scenery sped past the train windows, BART took me ever closer to the San Francisco Writers Conference, specifically the Writing for Hollywood Summit. The train jolted and lurched. The brakes squealed then the wheels stopped. Welcome to Embarcadero Station. All the while I imagined myself, pen and paper in hand, with a producer and director auditioning actors to play the main parts in my book. I was about to learn just how to get to this important step. Come on, some of you may have fantasized something similar right?



The topics included Screenwriting: Perfecting the Mechanics, Books to Screen: Turning Books into Movies, TV and Streaming Successes, Writing for Television, Filmmaking: Breaking into Hollywood, and the Business of Screenwriting.

Members' (Short) Works (cont'd)

We were presented with screenwriting principles including ideas to develop a solid “logline” and synopsis. I learned there isn’t one format that covers a series, miniseries, and films made-for-TV. Each has its own special requirement.

In regard to filmmaking, the eager audience was informed there are many ways to get there using our own unique voices. That being said, there are certain industry standards such as using Final Draft. A must is developing relationships inside the entertainment industry. How to go about that? Well, that is where our “unique voice” must come in. It is beneficial to know characters backwards and forwards, a script is one minute per page on screen, economy of words is essential, film is visual, so no description needed in a screenplay, and always copyright work.

The information I learned was fast and non-stop akin to drinking from a firehose. To paraphrase one presenter, the most important thing is that the book is the foundation to build everything else.

These pearls of wisdom are encouraging during the long, solo writing process. I hope this encourages you too as you sit at your computer tapping away.



San Francisco Writers Conference 2022

by Linda Hartmann

The 18th annual San Francisco Writers Conference took place July 21-24, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco, near the Ferry Building and the Embarcadero BART station. It was postponed from the usual February Presidents’ Day weekend due to the pandemic. Although COVID-19 affected the conference and volunteer pool, it attracted many eager, hopeful, and published writers, speakers, and workshop leaders. Masks were required.

The main conference consists of over 100 45-minute to 1-hour sessions covering genre-specific fiction and nonfiction craft topics, routes to publishing, and panels to teach and coach attendees in writerly ways. CWC Tri-Valley hosted a Practice Your Pitch session where published writers such as Jordan Bernal offered feedback, and participants helped each other. Among the 80 presenters was a CWC NorCal panel which included Mt. Diablo and NorCal members Andrew Benzie and Kymberlie Ingalls. They spread the word about how helpful being in a writing community and organization can be to individual writers.

CWC, as a Sponsor, displayed a colorful, attractive booth in the Exhibition Hall. Linda Hartmann was the general oversight manager of the booth, with Kymberlie Ingalls, who scheduled the volunteers for shifts, primarily from Mt. Diablo, S.F. Peninsula, and South Bay branches. Andrew Benzie produced a tri-fold of photos of recent book covers from state-wide CWC branches. The booth attracted visitors from all over the state. We hope to have enticed at least a few to join our branch or another within the Club.

SFWC offered two summit passes again this year to each of the CWC branches, one for an all-day Poetry Summit, which Ophelia Leong attended, and the other an all-day Screenwriting Summit attended by Rhonda Hammons. The Poetry and Jazz party that followed where many read new poetry to an audience.

On Thursday and Sunday, Master Classes bookended the main conference with writing and publishing experts, including two of our past speakers, Brooke Warner and Jordan Rosenfeld.

Sunday featured an optional add-on for “Speed Dating” or pitching to more than 20 literary agents.

This yearly event is four, long, fun-filled days of keynotes, live sessions, a Networking Gala, morning continental breakfasts, an opportunity to meet Agents and Editors, and a swag bag of conference materials and writerly items. Mark your calendar for the next **SFWC scheduled for Feb. 16-19, 2023.**

A perk of being part of the volunteer pool is that if there are enough volunteers, vendors are given Exhibitor Passes to attend a session!



How are your Annual Club Dues Spent?

Your money and where it goes.....

By David George, Mt. Diablo Membership Chair

Every spring we start reminding about “Renewal Dues” and you wonder why it is such a big deal that you renew before September 30th and how is all of that money spent? The branch uses some of the dues to support our monthly programs and workshops, but some of your dues is also sent away. We belong to something bigger than ourselves...it is called “CWC Central” or the State organization. Central pays for services and benefits for all 22 branches of the California Writers Club.



<u>Category</u>	<u>Member Pays</u>	<u>Branch Keeps</u>	<u>Branch pays State</u>
Renewed Members	\$45.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
New Members	\$65.00	\$35.00	\$30.00

Your annual membership fee of \$45 is split, with \$20 sent to CWC Central and \$25 remaining for our branch expenses. Monthly meeting or workshop door fees almost exactly match the restaurant food, room, and equipment usage costs. So, there is no money left over to pay monthly speaker or workshop leader fees, brochure and flyer copying, web site and other software costs, bank fees, and other on-going branch expenses. The same is true for annual Central expenses. That is why renewal dues are so important.

What do we get in return for our annual dues? Here is a partial list of Club benefits:

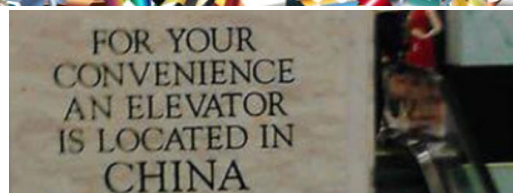
Branch Dues Portion:

- The monthly Mt. Diablo Branch Online Newsletter, *The Write News*
- Fascinating and informative Monthly Meeting Speakers
- 2 annual Writing Skills or Marketing Workshops
- *The Back Fence* members-only Bulletin Board
- Valuable Emailed “#CWCNews” Announcements

Central Dues Portion:

- Professional Accountant’s fees
- Annual IRS and California FTB tax filing services
- Liability Insurance to cover all Club-sponsored events such as our meetings and workshops
- Directors and officers liability coverage to protect board members from lawsuit damages
- Publication and distribution of *The CWC Literary Review* for all members
- CWC branch and state website and software costs
- An annual Central Board representatives meeting
- 3-times per year meetings of the NorCal Group and CWC South branch representatives
- Communications, coordination, and policy-making across the 22 branches

That is a long **list of benefits and services!** And note that our Young Writers Contest costs are mostly covered by generous member donations each year and do not drain branch funds. So, help out the Club by getting your annual dues in on time, and continue to be generous with your YWC donations. It’s money well spent!



Your Mt. Diablo Branch Board and Leadership 2022-2023

Executive Committee

President	Barry Hampshire
Vice President, Immediate Past President	Linda Hartmann
Treasurer	David George
Secretary	OPEN

Committee Chairs and Other Responsibilities

Back Fence (Mt. Diablo Writers) Facebook Group	David George
Branch Historian	David George
Central Board Representative	Elisabeth Tuck
Critique Groups Coordinator	Chloe Laube
Ekphrasis Project	Linda Hartmann
Event Logistics/Facilities	David George
Helpful Editor	Elisabeth Tuck
Hospitality	Lyn Roberts
Membership	David George
Mentoring Program	Lyn Roberts
MRMS	David George
Newsletter (The Write News)	Elisabeth Tuck
NorCal Representative	Michael Barrington
Online Coordinator	Lyn Roberts
Open Mic Nite Co-Chairs	Marlene Dotterer & Lyn Roberts
Outreach Co-Chairs	Frances Stephenson & Senait Piccigallo
Parliamentarian	David George
Program Chair/Workshops	Mark Clifford
Projects Manager	OPEN
Publicity/ Public Relations	OPEN
Reservations	Marlene Dotterer
Scholastic Art & Writing Awards	Linda Hartmann
Social Media	OPEN
Young Writers Contest	OPEN
Webmaster	Marlene Dotterer
Writers Connection	Michael Barrington
Writers Table	Andrew Benzie

Advisory Board Members

Al Garrotto

Kymberlie Ingalls

Judith Marshall

Bill Stong



Report from the Central Board Meeting July 31, 2022

Membership Chair Sandy Moffett (Writers of Kern) reminded reps to urge their branches to solicit membership renewals and post them in MRMS. So far renewals overall are low.

Literary Review:

Joyce Krieg (Central Coast,) who is doing the layout for the 2022 issue, selected a **photo by our member Jill Hedgecock** as the cover for the book. There was high praise in the room. It's of California poppies which represent both north and south CA.

The 2022 issue won't be in members' hands before October this year. The printers seem to be way behind and/or understaffed. This year's issue will be over 200 pages with 31 prose pieces (5 from Mt. Diablo) and 39 poems (none were submitted by Mt. Diablo members.) Some branches have poetry groups which help to encourage aspiring poets.

In future, the Lit Review will be published every other year. Costs, both financial and to volunteers' time were cited as reasons.

The Bulletin

Members are encouraged to read The Bulletin which is distributed electronically. Joyce Krieg (Central Coast) works hard on it and is doing a great job. It covers statewide branch news as well as offers craft articles. The current issue contains a sample query letter to an agent. Just fill in the blanks.

Active, Associate, and Supporting Designations for Members

Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal (East Sierra) moved and Bob Isbill (High Desert) seconded a motion to make "active" the primary fee membership category, let "associate" be an option and drop the category of "supporting." The motion passed unanimously. This means branches no longer need to require a writing sample from prospective members, nor have a qualifications committee to vet incoming members.

Slate of Central Officers

Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal (East Sierra) moved and Sandy Moffet (Writers of Kern) seconded that the following slate be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

Roger Lubek (Redwood)	President
Bob Isbill (High Desert)	Vice President
Connie Hanstedt (Tri-Valley)	Treasurer
Elisabeth Tuck (Mt. Diablo)	Secretary

Bob Isbill is researching the cost for the club to have Jack London Award pins for members who have been awarded that honor.

Respectfully submitted by Elisabeth Tuck. Mt Diablo Central Board Representative



CWC Literary Review Report

Elisabeth Tuck, Prose Editor

Anita I. Holmes, Poetry Wrangler

Joyce Krieg, Layout & Publishing Guru

David George, Submissions Mgr

David George sent the submissions to Anita or Elisabeth until he verified payments. Since members sometimes submitted more pieces than allowed, duplicated their submissions, never paid, or paid, but didn't send a valid submission, there was no way to use the Google docs to show the real number of submissions. We left it to Treasurer Connie Hanstedt to calculate the amount raised at \$10 per submission.

Some submissions were withdrawn before and some after being read by the judges, some were not considered because they did not meet the length, privacy, or subject guidelines (50 line max for poems; 2600-word limit for prose; the author's name should not appear on or in any submission, and nothing political.)

David followed up with everyone with a problem submission. After entries were evaluated, Anita and Elisabeth replied to everyone whose pieces were forwarded to us except those who withdrew before being judged.

Also attached are anonymous excerpts from submitters' who will not be published showing that the judges' feedback is appreciated.

Originally, we had planned to publish and mail in June of 2022. A number of issues prevented us from achieving that goal, the foremost being a printer requiring far more lead time than we anticipated. There were also unavoidable delays in completing the judging process. Please keep in mind that this is a volunteer effort!

Literary Review Statistics

Branch	Branch Members	Poetry Submissions	Poetry Authors	Poetry Judges	# Poems Published	Prose Submissions	Prose Judges	# Prose Published	Total Published
Berkeley	100	8	5	2	3	2		1	4
Central Coast	160	12	8	5	6	9			6
Coastal Dunes	43	1	1			2		1	3
East Sierra	35					1			
Fremont	43	4	3	1	1	3		2	3
High Desert	81	9	5	1	1	7		1	2
Inland Empire	48	5	3		2	6	1	1	3
Long Beach	62	5	3		1	2			1
Marin	43	4	2			1	1		
Mount Diablo	131	4	2			12	9	4	4
Mendocino	87	15	8		5	14		3	8
Napa Valley	70	4	2		1	8		1	2
North State	37					5		1	1
Orange County	59	3	2	1		6	1	1	1
Redwood	251	25	15	6	13	12	1	4	17
Sacramento	151	6	3	4		9		3	3
San Fernando V	59	3	2			4		1	1
San Joaquin V	29			1		1			
South Bay	115	7	5			5	2	2	2
SF Peninsula	130	12	7	2	4	6		1	5
Tri-Valley	104	10	6	1		8	1	2	2
Writers of Kern	66	3	2		2	1			2
totals	1904	140	84	24	39	124	16	31	70

WHY SIGN UP EARLY FOR MEETINGS?

Elisabeth Tuck

It takes several volunteers, a speaker, and restaurant staff need time to plan for our meetings. Although sign up has been automated for us, there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

David George, our facilities coordinator, conveys the preliminary number to Tony, the owner of Zio Fraedo's. Our contract guarantees Tony a minimum of 50 paid lunches each month. He needs time to determine whether we will fit in one room or need two, whether he can or cannot book other meetings on the same Saturday, what food to order, what dishes to make, tables to set up, what staff to have on hand, etc.

Mark Clifford, our speaker/workshop chair, needs to know what to tell the speaker about arrangements in the room(s).

The guest speaker needs to know how large an audience to expect. They may need to print out handouts or arrange to have books to sell.

David, our treasurer, needs to know whether he'll need help with check in and whether he has enough membership brochures, name tags, etc. for the meeting.

Andrew Benzie who organizes the writers' tables needs to plan his set up.

We meet every second Saturday September through June. At each meeting, we announce the upcoming meeting.

Lyn Roberts makes flyers available at the tables.

Marlene Dotterer, our webmaster updates our website within 1 – 2 days after each meeting.

Barry Humphries sends news to all members.

Please sign up as early as you like. If something comes up, cancel by noon on Friday without penalty, otherwise we need you to pay for the meeting whether or not you attend. All the volunteers can handle a few late sign ups and certainly we welcome walk-ins, but there needs to be a \$5 late fee after Wednesday at noon so that late is the exception, not the norm. Of course everyone forgets occasionally. However, let's do what we can to make the tasks easier for everyone involved.



Recommended by a Literary Review submitter:

George Saunders's Story Club on Substack is helpful to writers. At \$50 a year, it is priceless. Every few weeks, he presents another story for the group to read and analyze, and he often guides the analysis by asking us to answer questions. I've learned tons about writing by learning to be a better reader.

<https://georgesaunders.substack.com/>

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 critiquegroups@cwcmtdiablo.org



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 writer, 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. Participation is open ended, limited only by space, and people may come and go as they please. Short readings are welcome.

When you register, let us know if you want to be a reader. The first seven people to sign-up will be given a slot to read for five minutes. If we have more than seven requests to read, we'll start the list for the next event.

We'll have time for discussion, but please remember, this is not a critique session! Talk about what you liked, not what the author can do better.

Join us **in September. Check the website for date**

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



12:00 pm–2:00 pm PDT

Chicken Pie Shop

1251 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

(plenty of parking in front and alongside the east side of bldg.)



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, September 14, 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.

Ekphrasis Project Coming Soon
Mark Your Calendars!
By Linda Hartmann

This is to notify the membership that CWC-Mt. Diablo has been working closely with the Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) and the Lamorinda Art Council (LAC) as a co-sponsor for an Ekphrasis Event for next May 2023.

A collaboration between these three groups inspired this creative ekphrastic project. The event will culminate with an exhibition of fine art works that inspire literary works, and literary works that inspire fine art works that will be displayed at the Orinda Library in spring of 2023.

Ekphrasis is the Greek word meaning Art that describes or explains other Art. Exhibition of the Ekphrasis works will take place during the month of May 2023 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. The origins of ekphrasis were described as a detailed description of a work of visual art as a literary device. Our intention is to expand this idea into other directions, e.g. visual artists responding to a literary piece that moved them; a writer who may not 'describe' the work that they are viewing, so much as where it takes their imaginations, their emotions, and thoughts. In addition, we are creating a two-way ekphrastic team that will also include visual artists responding to the written piece (yours?).

We are hoping that many of the members will want to be involved, and in order to understand and practice the concept, Linda Hartmann will be hosting some workshops on Zoom in October. The workshops are tentatively scheduled for Thursday evenings, Oct. 13 and Oct 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

More will come on this topic, but if you know you are interested, please drop an e-mail to Linda at vicepresident@cwcmtdiablo.org

Although the display is planned to be displayed throughout the month, a reception with readings by authors and artists is planned at the Orinda Library for Saturday, May 6th, 2023.

For more information on Ekphrasis as an art form, see the following links:

<https://ekphrasismagazine.weebly.com/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/ekphrastic-poetry-definition-examples-4174699>

[https://museum.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/Johnson Museum Ekphrasis Worksheets.pdf](https://museum.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/Johnson%20Museum%20Ekphrasis%20Worksheets.pdf)

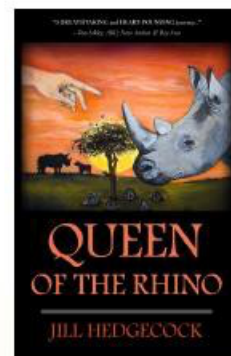




REASONABLE BOOKS PRESENTS:

Writing From Life

September 24, 2022
3:30-5:00 PM



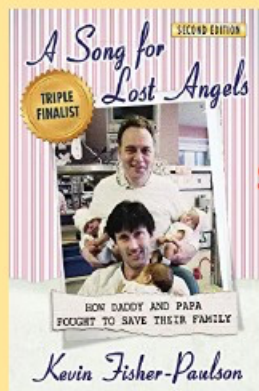
Two authors speak about how their life experiences affect their writing process and how they choose the stories to reveal in their books.



Kevin Fisher-Paulson is a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. While telling tales of the mysterious outer, outer, outer, outer Excelsior, he stumbled upon a few truths about chosen family, gay marriage, interracial adoption and cupcakes. His debut book, *A Song for Lost Angels*, was a finalist for many awards, but Kevin is always a bridesmaid, never a bride. His second book, *How We Keep Spinning*, is a collection of some of his readers' favorite columns. He can be reached on Twitter @kipcap.



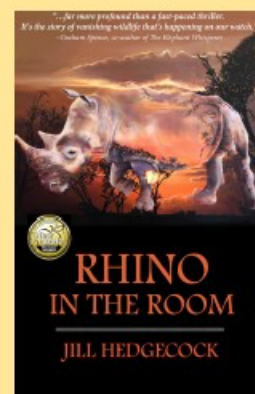
Jill Hedgecock is an internationally-published author. Her travels to South Africa, Kenya, and Rwanda inspired her to share her safari experiences and spread the word about the plight of rhinos. Her debut novel, *Rhino in the Room*, won a New Apple Literary Award. Her sequel, *Queen of the Rhino*, draws from gorilla trekking and meeting the last two northern white rhinos on the planet. Follow her at www.jillhedgecock.com



4:30 to 5:00 pm Book Signing and Refreshments

SPACE LIMITED RSVP: books@reasonable.online

Reasonable Books
3645 C Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA
(925) 385-3026



By decree of the Governor and State Legislature,
the third week of October is perennially designated as

California Writers Week

Celebrate the writers of California!

Jack London Eugene O'Neill Sam Shepard Alan Ginsberg F. Scott Fitzgerald Carolyn See Tom Wolfe Sue Grafton Dr. Leo Buscaglia
Raymond Chandler Dean Koonz Beverly Cleary John Steinbeck Robert Louis Stevenson Annisette Maupin Henry Miller Theodore "Dr.
Seuss" Geisel T. Jefferson Parker Robert Frost Elizabeth George Norman Mailer Julia Child Baba Ram Dass Mark Twain Jack Kerouac
D.J. Waldie Danielle Steele Gertrude Stein Ambrose Bierce Alice Walker Jessamyn West T.C. Boyle Ray Bradbury Joseph Wambaugh
Marianne Williamson Richard Henry Dana Allen Drury Isadora Duncan Lawrence Ferlinghetti Lisa See Gertrude Altherton Joan Didion
Ken Kesey Joe Eszterhas Anne Lamott Robert A. Heinlen Richard Vaughn Gary Zukav Dr. David Viscott Richard Boyle Raymond
Carver Clive Cussler Jack Canfield Richard Ford Wallace Stegner Yusuf Komunyakaa Whitney Otto Alice Sebold Carlos
Castaneda Suzanne Foster Jane Fitcher Ina Coolbrith Catherine Couffer Mary Austin Amy Tan Thomas Harris Tobias
Wolff Phil Amot George Sterling Yolanda Nava Thomas Pynchon Raymond Barro Upton Sinclair Alyson Noel
John Gray Jennifer Ann Kogler Herbert Gold Martin Cruz Smith John Blumenthal Michael Chabon Helen Hunt
Jackson Jessica Barksdale Incan Dashiell Hammett Barbara Seranella Susan Vreedland Mike Blake William
Saroyan Molly Dick James Dalessandro Michael DiLeo Robyn Schneider Delilah Beasley Herb Cam
David Meltzer Anna Devere Smith Jim Dreaver Richard Alan Bunch Molly Giles Rhys Bowen
Andrea Siegel Barnaby Conrad Ashley Wolff S.I. Hayakawa Peter S. Beagle Jonathan
Kellerman Alan Rifkin Gayle Brandeis Susan Kelly-DeWitt Oscar Zeta Acosta Adali
Isaac Menken Joaquin Miller Dan Millman Terry Black Jack Hicks Agni Hahn
Wayland J.S. Holliday Anh Do John Muir Michael Scott Moore
Carolyn Follett Carl Reiner Victoria Silva Audrey Wood
Don Miguel Ruiz Rebecca Solnit Isabel Allende M.F.K.
Fisher Ferozesh Dumas Lisa Alpert Steve Martin
Khaled Hosseini Edward Humes Faye Kellerman
Susan Ito Poo Iyer Freeman House D.P. Lyle
Eric Shapiro Bonnie Domrose Stone Sharleen
Cooper Cohen Victoria Zuckheim
Kathleen Sharp Joe Quirk Rom
Macdonald Janette Beardsfield
Gail Tsukiyama Jo Anne Van Tilburg
Bret Harte K.C. Cole June Dutton
Alexandra Haslam Elizabeth McGlenzie
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni Deanne Shikman
Jessica Mitford Ray Berry Pat Morrison
Rupert Hughes Hughes Thom Gunn

Susan Straight Pryn Roberts
Randy Shultz Peter Schickel
Venezky de Yurgen Ursula K. LeGuin Tony Lazarus Peter LeFevre Raymond Bradford Festival Events
Yone Noguchi Wynne Dunbar Vladimir Lange Tony Johnston Malcom Margolin M.L. Malcolm
Michael McClure Ruthanne Lum McCunn Little Lang Day Oakley Hall
Nik C. Colyer Robyn McGee Kelly Lange Tamm Anzary Nancy Huebner
Mark Coggeski Kathi Kamen Goldmark John Gregory Dunne Alan Epstein
Thomas Steinbeck
Theodora Kroeber Alan Clements Deborah Major Jose Davidow
John Leacock Linda Palmer Robert Haas Louis B. Jones Sylvia Boocsten
Susan Dunlap Robert de Haas Laura Kraybill John Guzzon John Gilmore Kath Bailey Robinson Jeffers Molly Fish Kathryn J. Abayan
John Forbes William O'Daly Shirley Ann Parker Masing Hong Kingston Wardlaw Lee John Collins Penny Warner
Taylor Smith Ruben Martinez Peg Bracken Joe Gross Jean Harfennst Lee Lofland Paul Erdman Ona Russell Sherita Feder
Molly Katzen Mikel Dunham Laurel House Jean Ardell Judy Reeves Melba Beals Robert A. Davies Rick Watzman Marybeth Bond
Nathaniel Oester Dora E.H. Crow Ann Bastian Jack Hirschman Edwin Markham Donald DeNei Ismael Reed David Mamet Andrew
Sean Greer Floyd Salas Jimmy Hopper Tills Olsen Stewart Emery Michael Parenti Jeremiah Abrams Jean Stroud Bollen Fanny
Orbourne Daniel Handley Frank Chin Julie Williams Larry Forburgh Kevin Ober Julie Wallace Francisco Carcos Evan Cornell
Daniel A. Olivas Anthony Marraz Marc Allen Louise Steinman Mary Mackey Louise Clappe Anthony Arnold Al Young Ernest
Callenbach Richard Rodriguez Erik Erikson Anne Le Boyne Grande Stewart Brand Regina Louise Helen Benedict Dana Gioia
Elliot Feldman Jaime de Angulo Hector Tobar Gina Bernault Ellen Sussman Curt Gentry Eric Stone Elizabeth Brannon Maria Espinoza
and the list goes on



Watch for special events sponsored by:

California Writers Club

The nation's oldest professional writers organization

www.calwriters.org

2022 Young Writers Contest First Prize Winner

7th GRADE POETRY

FIRST PLACE

You

by

Evelyn Van Huysse

Prospect Sierra School, El Cerrito

Teacher: Matthew Williams

Weathered hands stained coffee-brown
 Soft hair threaded in silver, glistening with the honor of age
 Twinkling eyes, speckles of light dancing in the tenebrose depths
 Skin carved into creases, you are a page that has been crumpled up and smoothed out countless times
 Feet tapping in an endless rhythm, a song long perfected over the decades
 Bronze necklace over your heart, so worn it fades into you
 Rings, dull or shined, grace your seasoned and scarred fingers, glowing with the same dusky radiance
 as the rest of you
 Face filled with spots and furrows, freckles and birthmarks, crow's feet and laugh lines, you are a
 constellation of time and of memories
 Puckered lips curve into a smile that gleams with a golden serenity
 Voice, cracked and ancient, winding down and climbing up, you talk in the language of reminiscence
 Mind, mature yet sharp, a labyrinth brimming with echoes of days gone by, you are a book of history
 and legend
 Heart, vibrant and endless, bursting with an eternal joy that enchants and delights, you are a waterfall
 of colors and love
 Soul, wise and giving, twirling in the endless universe, you are nothing less than the very stars above
 your head, nothing less than a vast galaxy, constantly expanding and creating
 Forever in your infinite waltz, you praise the sun and the clouds and the earth at our feet with each
 reverent pirouette
 You
 Almost gone but never missing
 You
 Not buried in the earth
 But singing to the skies



What is the Young Writers Contest?

The Young Writers Contest has been a part of Mt. Diablo's annual schedule since 1995, a contest that has become a trusted part of the Contra Costa middle school community, and a vital part of our mission to educate and engage the community in writing.

The contest is open to middle school students whether at public or private schools or home schooled. Students electronically submit short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative, and humor. We organize volunteer readers in the branch to read, confer, and rank the submissions. The first second and third winners in each category for each grade receive cash prizes at a celebration in their honor. There the winners may read from their pieces. Families, teachers and branch members are all welcome, and there are smiles and cameras clicking everywhere in the room.

In recent years we've assembled for sale a booklet of the winners' submissions.

To volunteer to lead or read, please go to: YoungWriters@cwcmtdiablo.org

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 program 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 June 2022

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

Judith Overmier

Susan Berman

David George in honor of Jan & Lee Paulson

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

Linda Hartman

Cindy Leonard

JOHN MUIR MEMBER CLUB (\$150 - \$249)

Ken Kirkhoff in honor of **S. M Pejathaya**

Bob Lane in honor of **James H. Oliver, Jr.**

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

Kathy Urban in honor of **Susie Wilson**

Elizabeth Pentacoff in honor of **Susie Wilson**

Aline Soules

Robert Lane

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

Robert Poirier

Marianne Lonsdale

Patty Northlich

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

June Gatewood

Barry Humphries

Lynn Goodwin

Margie Witt

Phyllis Houseman

Janet Clark

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

Contra Costa County middle school students who enter the Young Writers Contest are eligible for cash prizes in short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative, and humor. Contest submissions are free. Check our branch website for details: <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/young-writers/>

All program expenses are supported by individual donations. Thank you for considering membership in one of the above donor clubs.

** Please list my membership in the following donor club: _____ Name

_____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

_____ E-mail _____

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

To pay via PayPal click "buy now" on the Mt. Diablo website: youngwriters@cwcmt Diablo.org

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