

The Write News



A Monthly Newsletter
Elisabeth Tuck, editor

June 2023

In-Person BRANCH MEETING

June 10, 2023

Check-In 11:00 – 11:15 Writer's Table – 12:00 Lunch

Business Meeting 12:45 – Speaker 1:00

Register online at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>

The Five Bios Every Author Needs

Featuring

Joey Garcia

Start your New Author's Platform



What We Will Learn:

- The differences between bios that create opportunities and those that create obstacles
- The value of including a media market in
- What agents and media outlets consider red flags in an author's bio
- Book sales (without sounding pushy)

Joey Garcia is an editor and author platform coach. She helps writers get known while they're writing a book, so when it's published, there's an audience waiting to read it. Joey's clients have been interviewed by, or have bylines in, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Ms. Magazine*, CNN, and *The Tamron Hall Show*, among others. Joey is the indie author of *When Your Heart Breaks, It's Opening to Love* and has been a featured Relationship Expert in *USA Today*, on HuffPost, Deutsche Welle, KVIE public television, Global Woman TV Sweden, Australia's Ticker News, and Slate's Dear Prudence podcast.

In 2017, Joey established the first-ever literary fellowship in Belize, her birthplace. She partners with literary agents to co-lead an annual retreat in Belize for writers from all over the world.

www.joeygarcia.com

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

Writers Table: Choose Your Own Adventure

11:15-12:00 we offer a buffet of options for you. Several club members will be leading separate discussions from different tables throughout the room. Topics will range from QR codes, hashtags, and artificial intelligence (AI)/ChatGPT to crime and police writing, writing in a foreign language, and other topics TBA. Please feel free to hop from one table to another as time permits—make sure to bring any questions you have and be ready to participate!

President's Message: Barry Hampshire



Well, isn't life interesting? When I wrote the last month's President's Message, I was talking about the courage to be true to ourselves and write about what matters to each of us.

Life then threw me a curve ball and I was challenged to be true to myself as I faced a situation I had not considered for years.

I attended the Ekphrasis reception. When I arrived I didn't feel great, and I crashed fast. I was sick, very sick. I could not recall the last time, I could not cognitively work out how to stand and walk.

In an ironic twist, on the very day that I sold my first piece of writing to someone who wasn't family or a friend, I was admitted to hospital with a serious infection. I stayed for 10 days before the doctors thought I was in the clear. I will admit that some of the experiences of that period will provide me with fuel for some wild and strange stories.

I haven't been in hospital for over 50 years and so it was a rather disturbing to my normal sense of having some control over my life. What an amazing reminder that our sense of control is so much of a fallacy? So I really do encourage everyone to write with abandon, not reckless abandon, because now is the time to write and to write what we may have been reluctant to air before.

We never know what tomorrow will bring, but it could stop us from expressing thoughts that could profoundly affect another person's life. We have today and there is no better time to release a piece of writing that can be incredibly meaningful to another. Never underestimate the potential impact of a memory, an essay, or a piece of fiction when it is committed to paper and shared.

Write on.

Barry

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Welcome New Members

New members or anyone who has yet to be introduced in the newsletter, please send a picture and a bio so we can include you in this feature. Monthly deadline is the 20th. <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>



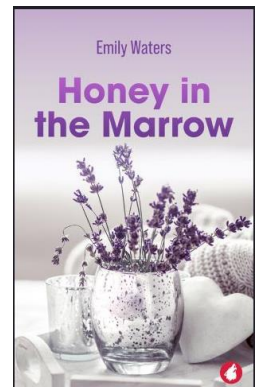
Emily Waters

I am a Bay Area native who recently published my first novel, *Honey in the Marrow*, with Ylva Publishing. I have a Bachelors in English Literature from Chapman University and a Masters of Library Science from Indiana University. Besides writing, I'm currently a full time librarian with Contra Costa County and have recently joined the CWC! We're always looking for great programs at the library, so if you have an idea for one, please feel free to reach out.

My next novel is due to be published early next year, but I find there's always space to grow and improve when it comes to writing, and my effort this year is getting more involved locally and socially. Marketing yourself as an independent writer or a writer with a small publishing house is so daunting and making these sorts of connections is great.

Honey in the Marrow is about Stella Carter, a former criminal prosecutor, who loses her husband suddenly and gets bogged down by her own grief. Barely functioning, she reconnects with a former colleague, LAPD Captain Elizabeth Murphy, who used to annoy Stella but now seems to be one of the few people willing and able to help Stella back to being functional. With the help of Elizabeth, and her niece Addie, Stella figures out there's more left to live for after all.

emilyraywaters@gmail.com | emilyraywaters.com



Karen A. Phillips

What do you like about writing?

I love the process of writing. From the germ of a story to a vague outline to final manuscript ready for a developmental editor. The journey is always both frustrating and surprising, but ultimately fulfilling.

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

Fleshing out the characters. I find I have to really get to know each one, otherwise the story lacks depth.

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

I use Scrivener. I love how versatile it is. I am barely skimming the surface of all the program offers to a writer.

What are you currently working on?

Book two of the Rocky Nelson Boxing Mystery series.

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

My mom who had an extensive book collection. She also read to us as children.

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

I have written short stories all my life. I have six published in various anthologies. I take boxing lessons and that helped me with research for my mystery book *A DEADLY COMBO*.

Welcome New Members (Cont'd)

Karen A. Phillips (cont'd)

Approximately how long have you been a CWC member?

I just joined recently. I thank George Cramer for that!

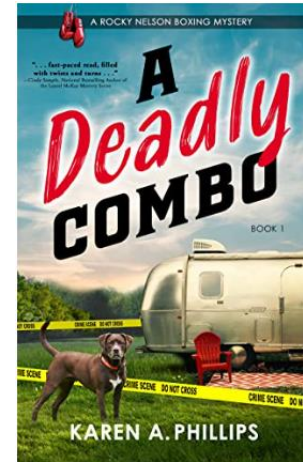
Do you have any advice for new writers?

Join a writing group like CWC. Writing groups are invaluable.

How do you define success as a writer?

Getting to “the end” and being proud of your work.

In *A Deadly Combo*, sisters Rocky and Bridget are enjoying each other’s company at a vintage trailer fest until they stumble over a corpse. Rocky uses her courage and skills learned in boxing lessons to protect her family and keep from becoming the killer’s next victim.



Amazon link: <http://ow.ly/GEQu50N7vIF>

Barnes and Noble: <http://ow.ly/QFLS50N7vIE>

Member Events, News, and Salutes

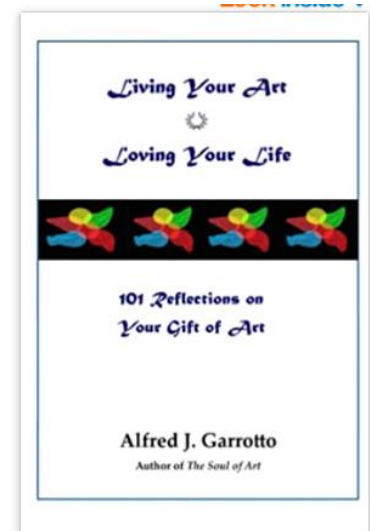


This section is regularly open members to write and submit their short announcement about milestones in their writing journey. Include a picture of yourself and/or your book. Publish something? Planning a reading at a bookstore or county fair? Speaking somewhere? Win an IPPY or other prize? Is your play being produced? The TV or movie version of your writing will be out soon? Let us know here. <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>

Al Garrotto

Al’s new book, *Living Your Art — Loving Your Life: 101 Reflections on Your Gift of Art* invites professional and aspiring artists of all genres (writers, actors, composers, singers, dancers, musicians, playwrights, potters, quilters, et al.) to reflect one day at a time on the intimate relationship between your gifts and talents and your Creator-Spirit who inspires you to speak hope, love, and compassion to our needy, beauty-starved world.

Available at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Living-Your-Art-Loving-Life-Reflections/dp/B0C2RM91MX>



Cite vs Site

If you remember **recite** which is speaking and that **cite** is to quote, you won’t mix it up with **site** which is the location of an actual or planned structure.

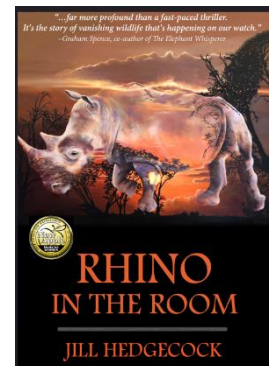
Member Events, News, and Salutes (cont'd)

Jill Hedgecock

Rhino in the Room Ranked 3rd!

I did an e-book giveaway on Amazon and look what happened! I take the bronze medal!

I only just learned that **you still get money when readers read the e-book even though you give it away for free.**



Product details

ASIN : B07H4DX8ZM

Publisher : Goshawk Press (September 5, 2018)

Publication date : September 5, 2018

Language : English

File size : 1155 KB

Simultaneous device usage : Unlimited

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

X-Ray : Not Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Sticky notes : On Kindle Scribe

Print length : 309 pages

Best Sellers Rank: #5,857 Free in Kindle Store (See Top 100 in Kindle Store)

#3 in Teen & Young Adult Nature & the Natural World Fiction eBooks

#10 in Teen & Young Adult Action & Adventure eBooks

#41 in Coming of Age Fiction (Kindle Store)

Customer Reviews: ★★★★★ (4.6) ∨ 35 ratings

MT DIABLO MEMBERS

RENEW YOUR CWC MEMBERSHIP BEFORE SEPT 30.

Our treasurer and membership chair, David George, has to report membership numbers and submit the state share of member dues to the state shortly after Sept. 30th. After that date, you would be required to rejoin and pay the \$20 initiation fee.

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/renew-membership/>

ELECTION OF BRANCH EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Proposed Slate of Mt Diablo Officers for
July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

President: Barry Hampshire
Vice President Linda Hartmann
Treasurer: David George
Secretary: Heidi Eliason

Frances Stephenson is stepping down. Thank you so much, Frances, for your work as secretary.

Article VI Section 3 of our branch by-laws states:

Section 3: **The election shall be held at the June general membership meeting.** Nominations from the floor may be accepted with the prior consent of the nominee. The election shall be by simple majority of the members present. If there is more than one nominee for an office, voting shall be by written ballot.

The Mount Diablo's Young Writers Contest Awards Event

was a smashing success. Teachers who attended were so grateful their students could be acknowledged and rewarded for their writing.

Thanks to all the Mt. Diablo members who made this contest happen and to members who attended and applauded the students.

Help keep this very valuable contest alive. Read about the contest here:

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>

Then go to <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/>

Contact Marlene Dotterer and let her know how you'd like to help.



The Mt. Diablo Branch presents our

LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK FAIR

The Lafayette Library, Don Tatzin Hall

Saturday, June 24 1-4:30 p.m.

Free admission

**Meet some of our authors, editors, and
book designers**

Our Upcoming Speakers

The speaker committee has invited 8 presenters who have committed to speak to our branch.

Workshops:

September 9 **Kelley Way** **Attorney (send your questions for her to majb7016@gmail.com)**
and Ms. Way will tailor her talk to include answers.

October 14 Constance Hale on developing characters

March 9 Amanda McTeague on how to develop stories and make them come alive

Branch members who have been writing a novel as a collaborative group will talk about the experience and what they've learned about developing a cohesive book. **May 11**

Speakers. By the time of the September newsletter we will have dates for the following:

Robert Dugoni former attorney, now bestselling author

Eric Elfman author of 13 books

Karen Grassle author and former actress on stage, TV, and movies

Roy Mash author and poet

Brooke Warner author and publisher

Potential topics for our coming CWC year are (subject to change):

Everything legal you need to know about publishing

The art of choosing words

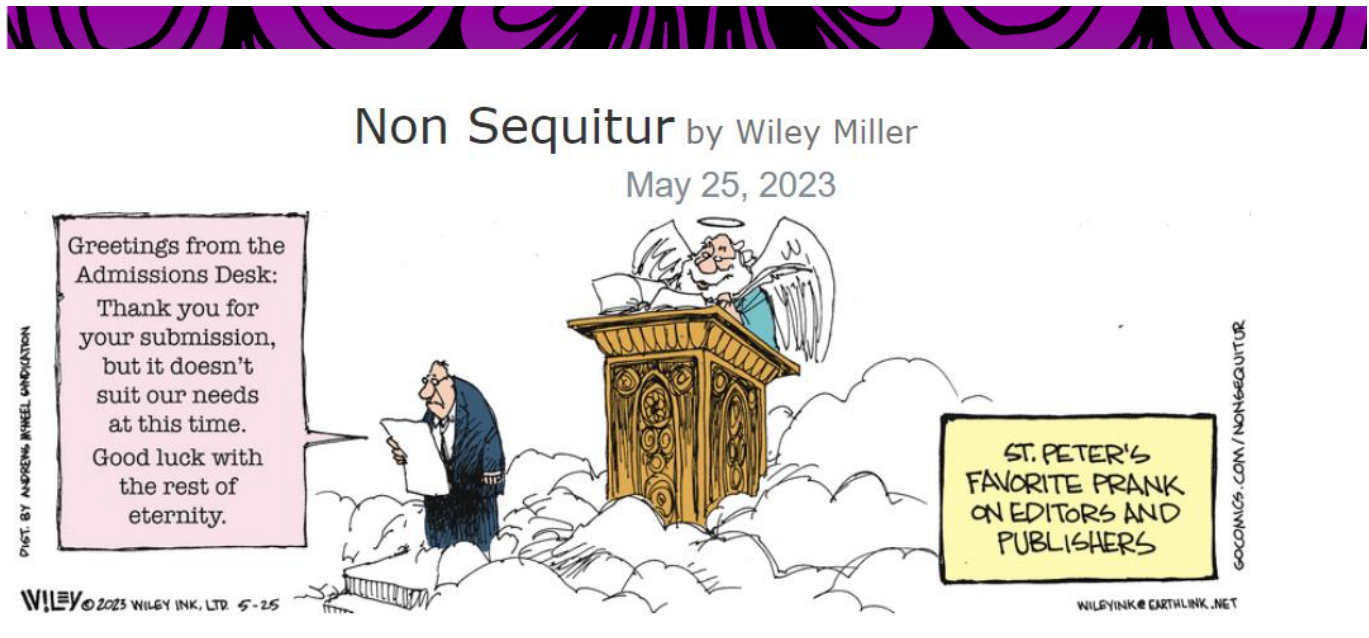
The writing craft

Memoir

Writing fantasy (almost every genre in writing contains some degree of fantasy!)

Acting and authoring

See the next page for the **December 9** holiday meeting plans and get busy writing!



Nonsequitur: an inference that does not follow from the premise (or something previously said)

Don't Miss Out Holiday Writing Competition

The speaker committee is changing up our December presentation.

All members are invited to submit one of the following:

- A Short story (1,000 words).
- A piece of flash fiction (350 words).
- A poem of up to 30 lines.

The theme is: **CELEBRATION**

Three prizes will be awarded in each category for a total of NINE. Submittals will be adjudicated blind by branch member judges, and the winning pieces will be read at our Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, December 9th. They will also appear in our branch newsletter, *The Write News*.

One additional prize will be awarded for a piece of flash fiction (350 words) submitted by any **new member (Sept. 2022 through June 2023.)** New members may submit one piece in one of the three bulleted categories and one in this special category.

Closing date for all submittals: **September 15, 2023**

-In order that your entry be judged blindly, put your name, title of your work, your email address, and if you fit the new-member category, the date you joined on a cover sheet.

-If you want feedback, say so on the cover page.

-Everyone is to include the following wording on the cover page: "This work is entirely my own and does not infringe on any other individual's copyright." And sign electronically.

-Do NOT include your name or email address anywhere **on** or **in** the work itself.

-Place the title of your piece and page numbers in the header of each page.

-Unacceptable are pieces that proselytize, are libelous, or contain gratuitous vulgarity.

-Follow standard professional manuscript preparation practice such as indented paragraphs and correct formatting of dialog.

-By submitting you are granting the editors the right to do light editing to correct grammar, spelling, and typos. If in-depth editing is needed, the piece will be returned to you to correct and resubmit before the deadline.

Please e-mail your MSWord-doc-only entries to:

Program Committee, C/O, Michael Barrington: majb7016@gmail.com

If you would like to help judge, please contact Michael. You would also be able to submit.

If you don't believe that could work, I'd be glad to explain!

Elisabeth



Things to Do

Introduce yourself to the branch

Whether you're a new member or have been around a while, if you haven't already been introduced, Contact me <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/> and I'll send you some questions to get you thinking. Type up answers to whichever ones you care to, send a jpg picture of yourself so others can recognize you at meetings. And if you have a recent book send a picture of the cover, or if you have recent news (new book, award, book launch, speaking event, etc.) include that information.

These "interviews" help the members of the Mt. Diablo Branch get to know you, your work and your thoughts about writing and the writing process.

LAMORINDA
ARTS
ALLIANCE



LAMORINDA
arts
COUNCIL

Ekphrasis Collaborative Exhibit Art Gallery at the Orinda Library

May 2 to June 2, 2023

Looking for a Critique Group or Group Member?

Our branch critique group coordinator helps new members find a home in a critique group looking for members. Although the form at the link below is for members looking for a group, if your group has an opening, please go to <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/critique-groups/> and use the form to help you define any requirements you have. Some groups feel comfortable reading all genres, some restrict themselves to certain genres. Chloe matches members to groups.

Read movie scripts for free. Link compliments of member Elizabeth Pentacoff
<https://imsdb.com/>

Check out the statewide calendar: <https://calwriters.org/events-month/month/2023-05/>

Check out the state website, learn a more about CWC statewide: <https://calwriters.org/>

Things to Do (Cont'd)

Opportunity for Lafayette residents

The tag line for a monthly magazine in Lafayette called *Greet Lafayette* is:

Your Stories, Your Photos, Your Community.

It is a small, magazine, friendly and heart-warming. <https://greetmag.com/locations/lafayette-ca/>

Recently, they started the "Author's Corner" and are giving a shout-out to local authors. Authors must be a Lafayette resident and have had a book published in the last 2 years.

The invitation to submit read: **Do you have a writer in your life that you'd like to celebrate?**

Email: Andree.Hurst@n2co.com

Open Mic on Zoom

Wednesday June 14, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Sign up to read a five-minute segment from your writing: a work-in-progress, something already published, a poem. Share it with writers and readers at our 90-minute Read Fest!

Not ready to read your work? Be in the audience. Come hear what others have to say.

When you register, let us know if you want to read. The first seven people to sign up will be given a five-minute slot. If we have more than seven, 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.

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/register-for-open-mic-night/>

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 Wednesday **June 28 12:00 pm–2:00 pm PDT**

Chicken Pie Shop
1251 ARROYO WAY
Walnut Creek, CA



To Register:

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

Don't write like this



Biden vows to fight for Americans 'wrongly detained' abroad at correspondents' dinner

Are they detained at the correspondents' dinner? No. Likely the writer of the headline wanted to capture attention by using Biden's name as the first word, but the headline would make better sense if it read:

At the correspondents' dinner, Biden vows to fight for Americans wrongly detained.

And why put wrongly detained in single quotes? Likely to save space, but they are incorrectly used either as a quote of what Biden said or to indicate irony. Either of those should be double quotes in American English. The only time single quotes are used in American English is inside double quotes. The British use single quotes for dialogue.



This reads as an ironical direction: you must at least pretend to wash your hands. No quote marks should have been used.

"The Reddit user shared that **they'd just went** out and purchased Halloween decorations."

English teachers and editors everywhere are tearing their hair out.

"Whatisthebestwaytogettosfoinearlymorning?"

Why would anyone respond to this?

IRONY DEMONSTRATED IN PICTURES



Members' (Short) Works

See your writing in print! **For September we're looking for 100-word stories.**

Yes 100 words. Several years ago I read several excellent 50-word stories in a newspaper. Be glad we're allowing 100 words. It's excellent practice.

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



Humility McPherson

By Bob Poirier

The Humility Ministries movement began on October 14th, 2012, as a splinter group of a large Pentecostal church in Huntsville, Alabama. The movement took its name from Proverbs 11:12, “With humility comes wisdom.”

The founder, Humility McPherson, a direct descendant of Aimee Semple McPherson, evangelist and faith healer, established a set of practices for members to follow to remain in good standing.

The first was compulsory tithing of ten percent of gross income paid directly to Humility.

Second, members were required to wear distinctive shades of purple. Men wore wine-colored, loose-fitting tunics that covered their hips and darker wine-colored sweatpants. Women wore lilac-colored, loose-fitting tunics that came to just above their knees.

Finally, members were required to purchase capsules developed and manufactured by Humility's brother, Ezra McPherson. The men took a large wine-colored capsule twice daily; the women took a smaller lilac-colored capsule twice daily. The capsules, designed to aid in relaxation, procreation, and acceptance of God's word, were a big hit in attracting and retaining members. By the end of 2014, there were over 15,000 followers scattered throughout the Southeastern Bible Belt.

The movement faltered on October 14th, the two-year anniversary of the founding, when Humility pleaded with his followers to buy him a helicopter.

“Jesus spoke to me directly,” he preached. “He said I can do His work better if I have a new Sikorsky S76 six-seat helicopter. Jesus will be deeply disappointed if you do not purchase it for me. So please, if you love Jesus, buy me my helicopter.”

The request did not go over well. Jimmy John Jackson, a disgruntled member brought reluctantly into the congregation by his wife, was interviewed by Anderson Cooper on national television. Jackson, sitting on a purple tractor in his cotton field and wearing a wine-colored tunic stretched tightly over his protruding belly, spit tobacco juice throughout the interview.

“Jesus didn't have no damn helicopter,” Jackson said. “He rode to church on an ass. That should be good enough for Humility McPherson.”

The movement faltered further a week later when the *Washington Post* paid for testing the purple “chill pills,” as critics called them. The wine-colored capsules contained thirty percent Sildenafil Citrate, the main ingredient in Viagra, and thirty percent Prozac. The lilac-colored pills contained 70 percent Prozac.

The Humility movement dissolved on November 30th, 2015. Other Pentecostal churches absorbed most of the congregations around the South. Humility sold two of the six houses the congregation had bought him and moved to Costa Rica. The other four houses and all five purple Cadillacs were donated to a charity for disabled zebras run by Ezra.

Commented Mr. Jackson in a *60 Minutes* interview. “I knew Humility McPherson was a phony from the get-go,” he scoffed. “Everyone knows Humility is a girl's name.”

THE END

Young Writers Contest Fundraising

The Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club,

Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs to benefit our program encouraging young writers. Your tax-deductible gift will appear in the contest program in May, and in the Mount Diablo CWC newsletter. Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

DONERS as of May 2023

JACK LONDON FOUNDER’S CIRCLE (\$500+)

Lily Gwilliam
Susan Berman

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

Linda Hartmann
David George in honor of Jan & Lee Paulson
Ken Kerkhoff

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

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

Marjie Witt
Jane Bloomstrand
Cindi Leonard
Chloe Laube
Sherida Bush
Bob Poirier
Linda Force
Patty Northlich

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

Karen Clayton
Stanford Stewart
Linda Force
Buck-A-Book
Liz Pentacoff

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

June Gatewood
Barry Hampshire
Lynn Goodwin
Jana Haertl
Thai Pham
Judith Ingram
Ann Steiner
Marianne Lonsdale
Elisabeth Tuck
Colleen Gonzalez
Corrienne Heinemann
George Cramer
Jerry Blair
Juanita Martin
Deborah Greenberg
Sandra Hall
Fran Cain
Anonymous x 2

GERTRUDE ATHERTON GUILD

Cindi Li

Contra Costa County students attending middle school or home schooled who enter the Young Writers Contest are eligible for cash prizes in short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative, and humor. Contest submission is free. See our branch website for details: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/young-writers/>

In May the Mt. Diablo Branch hosts an awards ceremony to honor the students. All program expenses are supported by individual donations and grants.

To pay via PayPal click “buy now” on our 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

Name _____ Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Amount: \$ _____ My donation is in honor/memory of: _____

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL CONTEST

Writers Helping Writers 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 practical assistance to writers. Your tax-deductible gift will appear in the Mount Diablo CWC newsletter every month in the year you donate. You may remain anonymous if you prefer!

DONATIONS as of March 2023:

<u>J.K.ROWLINGS STAIRCASE CIRCLE</u>	\$1000 +
Lilly Gwilliam	
<u>GEORGE ORWELL'S FUTURE FORUM</u>	\$750 – \$999
<u>ROBERT HEINLEIN'S UNIVERSE</u>	\$500 - \$749
<u>HARPER LEE'S SYMBOLS</u>	\$250 - \$499
<u>TONI MORRISON'S MEMORIES BAND</u>	\$100 - \$249
<u>DEAN KOONTZ THRILLER TEAM</u>	\$50 - \$99
Bob Poirier	
<u>MARK TWAIN'S ADVENTURES PARTY</u>	\$25 - \$49
Sandra Hall, Sherida Bush, June Gatewood, Dita Basu	
<u>RICHARD WRIGHT'S UNDERGROUND SUPPORTERS</u>	up to \$24
<u>AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MYSTERIOUS SQUAD (Anonymous)</u>	any amount
Squad Member One	(\$765)

All program expenses are supported by individual donations to date.

Check our branch website for details: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/writers-helping-writers/>

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/writers-helping-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: Writers Helping Writers

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT FUND!