

# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

September 2023

## In-Person BRANCH MEETING

September 9, 2023

**Featuring: Kelly Way**

*Lessons in Literary Law*

**Bring your questions about the legal issues of writing, publishing, internet, copyright, and more.**

### ATTENDEES WILL LEARN:

- Intellectual Property – overview of copyright and/or trademark law, as well as how to protect your intellectual property (IP) without infringing on others
- Literary Law Basics – overview and best strategies for five areas of law authors are most likely to encounter (copyright, trademark, right of privacy, defamation, and contract law)
- Publishing Contracts – tips for negotiating and what to look for (and look out for) in a publishing contract.

**Registration is open now.**



### MEETING FEES

**Members \$25.00\* Guests \$30.00**

**Zio Fraedo's Restaurant**

**611 Gregory Lane,  
Pleasant Hill, CA**



Kelley Way was born and raised in Walnut Creek, California. She graduated from UC Davis with a B.A. in English and a minor in Music and proceeded from there to attend the UC Davis School of Law, where she received her juris doctorate in 2010.

After law school, Kelley did a one-year fellowship at the Pacific Justice Institute, during which time she was approached by her first client, the copyright holder of a New York Times bestselling fantasy series. After the successful resolution of the case, she opened her own law firm. She is a member of The California State Bar, including the Section of Intellectual Property Law.

### WRITERS TABLE

#### Five Tables to Improve Your Skills

For our September 9th Writers Table, club members and guests will once again be able to choose from a selection of tables to attend. Feel free to jump to any table you like at any time. Topics will be:

**Read Your Work Like a Storyteller with Marlene Dotterer/Bill Stong**

**Point of View with Barry Hampshire**

**Cover Design Concepts with Andrew Benzie**

**How to Successfully Prepare for Author Events with Kymberlie Ingalls**

**The Power of the Blurb with Elisabeth Tuck**

### SCHEDULE

10:30 a.m.	Check-in
11:15 a.m.	Writers Table
12:00 p.m.	Buffet Luncheon
12:20 p.m.	Business Meeting (while we eat)
1:00 p.m.	Main Presentation
2:00 p.m.	Meeting Ends

**SINCERE APOLOGIES TO KELLEY FOR MISSPELLING HER NAME ABOVE**

## *From President Barry Hampshire*

It is the start of yet another year at CWC. I am excited to re-engage with all of you after your summer of down time (hopefully.) Our branch has seen a steady influx of new members over the past few months. That is good news. And we need some of that in our crazy world, today.

No matter what our views and opinions on various subjects may be, we share a common passion – the art of writing. Like some of our writers, you may have more than a dozen books published. On the other hand, you may still have those dozen books locked away in dreams for the future. It matters not which you are, because you are a member of this growing, vibrant community. We all need to be supported, guided, or listened to at various times. This is one of the primary reasons for belonging to this club. We may be isolated when we write, but close to each of us is a pool of talent with whom we can seek counsel and encouragement.



Occasionally, writers will dismiss their work as not being much. I feel that if you are going to the effort of committing some thoughts to paper (do you remember that floppy white stuff that came in sheets?) then you should try to make it as clear and concise as you can for the reader's sake.

If you are engaged in a larger project like a novel or memoir, then within our ranks, we have experts in the writing craft, experienced editors, as well as accomplished book publishers. Apart from the talent within our own ranks, always keep an eye on the presenters at our monthly meetings at Zio Fraedo's. As I have grown more comfortable calling myself a writer, I have come to recognize that I will always find a nugget of truth that has meaning to my writing in any presentation, no matter the topic. If a speaker was scheduled to talk about ancient Persian five-line poetry (unlikely scenario,) I feel assured that something I hear will shift how I see my own creative work and process.

The Board and I are always looking for new ways to attract members into club activities. So if you have an idea, please let a Board member hear your thoughts and we will assess it. As I say, frequently, this is your club and the Board is here to serve you.

Keep the creative juices flowing. And if you cannot find inspiration where you planned to write, then prepare the week's Safeway shopping list and describe why you have each item on the list. Just start writing, even lists of inflammatory words or shades of green. Thoughts will percolate out of doing so and then you will have a paragraph. Do not file it in the waste basket. It may be the start of something in the future. Being a writer is all about finding potential in the mundane or unexpected places.

Keep writing and I look forward to seeing you on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Zio Fraedo's.

Barry



**The deadline for newsletter items is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month August – June.**

(I realize that much [but not all] of the information herein is on our branch website, but some may prefer this format. It may be easier to copy and print info you might want to save. And here, you may contribute as well!)

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## SEPTEMBER 9TH WRITERS TABLES

Members, bring material as requested and choose a table from the following five options:

### **Read Your Work Like a Storyteller** *Marlene Dotterer/Bill Stong*

Learn tips for reading out loud effectively. Bring something you wrote

### **Point of View** *Barry Hampshire*

Learn how to focus on *first person close* and *third person close*.

We will look at how to give characters more depth and draw the reader into the story.

### **Cover Design Concepts** *Andrew Benzie*

Learn about the qualities that make for a strong cover design. Bring your ideas or samples.

### **How to Prepare for Author Events** *Kymberlie Ingalls*

Learn what to know, what to pack, and what to expect at promotional author events.

### **The Power of the Blurb** *Elisabeth Tuck*

Learn how to create a strong description of your book.

Bring your blurb and see ways to make it capture a reader's attention.



## 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. 30<sup>th</sup>. After that date, you would be required to rejoin and pay the \$20 initiation fee. <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/renew-membership/>



## BRANCH EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

President:	Barry Hampshire
<b>Interim</b> Vice President:	Michael Barrington
Treasurer:	David George
Secretary:	Heidi Eliason

For committee chairs and other responsibilities see:

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/board-of-directors-committees-awards/>



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

Put your thinking caps on and find ways we can reach out to the community next month.



## Welcome New Members

New members, please send a jpg picture of yourself and whatever other info you'd like to share so members can recognize you at meetings and start a conversation! <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/newsletter/>

### ANNEMARIE MAZOTTI GOUVEIA

AnneMarie recently joined Mt Diablo. She was born and raised in California and grew up with a library card in her pocket and a stack of books on her desk. She has a vivid imagination and loves writing magical adventure stories that take place in strange lands.

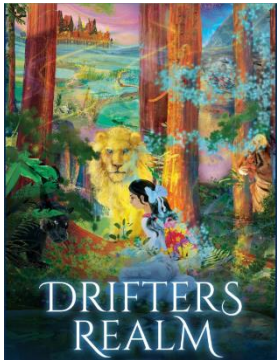
She is passionate about reading, art, and family; the youngest of seven children, a mother of four children, and a grandmother. She's traveled through Europe, and has lived in Germany, Washington, and Kansas.

A former high-tech executive at a multi-billion-dollar company with a Bachelor of Science Information Technology degree, she is a geek at heart who enjoys hiking, yoga, mentoring women through WOMEN Unlimited, Inc., and trips to Disneyland with her husband and family.

AnneMarie lives in Northern California with her husband and two mischievous cats, Rocky and Prancer. *Drifters Realm Book I* is her first book. She is also a member of SBCWI.



#### Interview questions



What do you like about writing?

My favorite part about writing fantasy fiction is that anything is possible; if you can imagine it, you can write it.

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

The post-publication marketing process is by far the most difficult process for me.

What are you currently working on?

There are three books planned for the middle-grade fantasy *Drifters Realm* series. The second book, *Mirror Tree*, will be released at the end of this year or early next year.

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

I love stories with magical elements in faraway places and different times: J.K. Rowling, Diana Gabaldon, Victoria Aveyard, and Luanne G. Smith are some of my favorite authors, but the list is always changing.

Do you have published works?

*Drifters Realm Book I* released May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, is a middle-grade fantasy and my first book.

How do you define success as a writer?

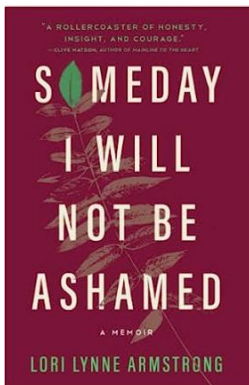
I felt successful the first time someone read my book, *Drifters Realm*, connected with the story and characters, and then wanted to talk to me about the cliffhangers, characters, plot, and what was coming in the next book. Success is feeling proud about what you wrote and at the same time completely humbled and grateful that one other person thought your story was worthwhile.



## Welcome New Members (cont'd)

### LORI LYNNE ARMSTRONG

I'm an emerging author from Martinez who writes about mental health, addiction, self-acceptance, and creativity. My background includes a master's degree in counseling psychology and some experience working in the field, although my health interrupted the road to full licensure. As someone who lives with a mental health condition as well as long-term recovery from an addiction to painkillers, I'm passionate about reducing stigma around these conditions as well as promoting more integrative healing approaches for the many people who struggle with dual or multiple issues. After years of low-key blogging and essay writing, I recently published my first book, the memoir *Someday I Will Not Be Ashamed*. I'm hoping to meet local writers and be a bit less isolated as I move forward on my upcoming projects.



*Someday I Will Not Be Ashamed* was published in May of 2023 by my imprint, Winterhand Books. My works in progress include *Poppytown*, a poetry compilation inspired by the opioid epidemic, and a short, somewhat humorous advice book called *So You're Going to Rehab: Ten Ways to Make It Count*.

*Someday I Will Not Be Ashamed* blends raw honesty with a touch of clinical knowledge as I go from the corridors of M.I.T. to the halls of the psychiatric ward, from therapist-in-training to a therapist's problem patient, and, at last, beyond shame to an unlikely self-acceptance. There's something in it not only for those who have suffered from any of the conditions I talk about, but also for those who have loved ones who suffer. And, despite the darkness, the journey as a whole is an inspirational story.

[writelorilynne@gmail.com](mailto:writelorilynne@gmail.com)   [www.lorilynnearmstrong.com](http://www.lorilynnearmstrong.com)



## Member Events, News, and Salutes



Tell us about your news or event at: [https://WriteNews@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:https://WriteNews@cwcmtdiablo.org)

### MARIANNE LONSDALE

Marianne writes personal essays, fiction, poetry, and literary interviews. Find her at <https://mariannelonsdale.com/>

Her love poems to Oakland are included in *The Town*, a poetry anthology published by Nomadic Press in August 2023.

Purchase a copy: <https://www.nomadicpress.org/thetown>



## Member Events, News, and Salutes (Cont'd)

### ISIDRA MENCOS

#### What the Body Holds: Its Shame and Its Pleasure

Memoirist Isidra Mencos <https://isidramencos.com/about/> and fiction writer Leslie Kirk Campbell will discuss what drew them to writing books that investigate the topic of the female body. They will share ways women (themselves included) have felt shame about their bodies and how both societal expectations and abject repression (political, religious, and/or gender-based) affect women's attitudes toward their bodies—including how women may self-repress as a consequence of external oppression. Finally, they will broach how their protagonists came to a point of acceptance of their bodies, opening to pleasure. Each of these three topics will be illustrated with short readings from their books. The event will end with a Q & A with the audience. A reception, mixer, and book signing with light refreshments will follow.

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023 - 6:00pm**

Mechanics' Institute  
57 Post Street San Francisco

Mechanics' Institute Members free; public sliding scale \$5-10

Register by calling 925 393-0101



### Member-Authors Reading at Reasonable Books, Lafayette, a very author friendly bookstore

3645 Mount Diablo Blvd Suite C (near Trader Jo's)

**Saturday September 16 at 11am**

**Camille Minichino** is the author of 28 cozy mystery novels in 5 series, plus many short stories and articles. She teaches science at Golden Gate University in San Francisco and writing workshops around the SF Bay Area.

**Josephine (Jo) Mele** is the author of 8 mysteries in The Travel Mystery Series including her latest *Incident in India*. She wrote *The Odd Grandmothers*, a memoir, and co-authored with her grandson Nick Mack, "ABC's of Asperger's Syndrome," for *Parents Magazine*.

**Billie Dupree** is an educator, literacy coach, and avid mystery reader. Billie spends her free time writing, exploring Bay Area trails alone or with her Girl Trek sisters, attending blues and jazz concerts, and traveling abroad as frequently as possible.



### COLLEEN GONZALEZ










What a fun weekend I had taking part in the Inaugural Ekphrasis Exhibit at the Orinda Library May 6. It was an honor to have my words displayed in such a beautiful space. I finally met the artist I wrote my piece for. A lot of people worked hard to put this together. A shout out to **Linda Hartmann** for her tireless efforts on this project. It was great sharing the day with **Jill Hedgecock**, **Marianne Lonsdale**, **Fran Cain**, and **Al Garrotto**.





## Our Upcoming Speakers

2023-2024

Oct 7		Connie Hale	Workshop: Deepening character
Nov 11		Roy Mash	The Art of Diction
Dec 9		Holiday Story Results	Readings from the stories
Jan 13		Unconfirmed	Robert Dugoni has been invited
Feb 10		Brook Warner	TBD
Mar 9		Amanda McTigue	Workshop:
Apr 13		Eric Elfman	Flash fiction and non-fiction
May 11		Karen Grassle	TBD
June 8		<i>Joint Book Team</i>	TBD



## WHY SIGN UP EARLY FOR MEETINGS?

**Elisabeth Tuck**

We meet every second Saturday September through June. Several volunteers, an invited speaker, and restaurant staff all need time to plan for our meetings. Although sign up has been automated online, there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

David George, our facilities coordinator, conveys the preliminary number to Tony, Zio Fraedo's owner. Our contract states we pay for at least 50 lunches regardless of attendance. Tony needs time to determine whether we will fit in one room or need two, whether he can or cannot book other meetings, what food to order, what dishes to make, tables to set up, what staff to have on hand, etc.

Michael Barrington, our presenters chair, needs to advise the speaker about arrangements in the room(s).

The guest speaker needs to know how large an audience to expect. The timing of their presentation may vary accordingly. They may need to print handouts or arrange to have books to sell.

David, also our treasurer, needs to know whether he'll need help at check-in and whether he has enough membership brochures, name tags, etc.

Andrew Benzie who organizes the Writers Tables needs to plan his set up.

Lyn Roberts makes flyers available at the tables.

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.



## How are your Annual Club Dues Spent?

Your money and where it goes.....

By David George, Mt. Diablo Membership Chair

Every spring we remind members about Renewal Dues, and you wonder why it is such a big deal that you **renew before September 30<sup>th</sup>** and just how is all 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 to the central board. We belong to the statewide organization. Central pays for services and benefits for all 22 branches, around 2,000 members 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 fees almost exactly match the restaurant food, room, and equipment usage costs. There is little money left to pay monthly speaker or workshop-leader fees, brochure and flyers, web site, 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*
- 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
- The electronically distributed *Bulletin* covering branch activities and ideas
- Publication of *The CWC Literary Review* for all members
- CWC state website and software costs
- Database of statewide membership
- An annual Central Board representatives meeting
- Central support for meetings of the NorCal (branches) Group and CWC Southern branches’ 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 is money well spent!





## Members' Short Works

See your writing in print! **100 words or less.** Practice being brief.

Send your work to: [writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org)



### JACKSON By Bob Poirier

Frank Jackson felt the bedsheet loosening.

He could be free with just a few more kicks, swing his feet to the floor, and escape. It was a thirty-second run to the first door, then out the side door to freedom.

He couldn't take another night of abuse. Suddenly, he heard the footsteps of the much-dreaded Carter. They were getting closer.

Too late!

"Mr. Jackson, sweetie," Nurse Emily Carter cooed softly. "You'll never get to sleep if your feet are cold."

Exhausted but with feet tucked in, Sergeant Major Jackson, formerly of the Hanoi Hilton, fell into a deep sleep.

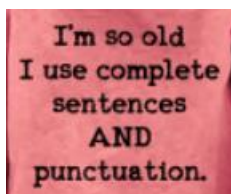


### DAYS OFF By Bill Stong

On a rotating basis, my wife and I take our grandchildren on Days Off. We pick one up around 8:00 AM and spend the entire day together. A recent Day Off involved heading into San Francisco. After breakfast, we hoped to park in the "late lot" right in front of the Lafayette BART station.

Pulling in, each stall was bordered with blue lines. We couldn't park there and looked for ordinary parking spots, asking whether anybody saw an empty one. As we crept further from the station's entrance, a voice came from the back seat:

"Aren't you handicapped? You're old."



A **conscientious** choice: according to one's inner sense of what is right; principled  
vs

A **conscious** choice: having knowledge of something; aware

## WATCHERS

by **Jill Hedgecock**

Atop a termite-mound outpost  
Camouflaged on red ruinous clay  
Twelve beady red eyes

A gang  
Of noisy chatter—  
The ever-watchful dwarf mongooses

Hilltop sentry  
Alert for snakes  
Pythons, cobra, black mamba

Three dutiful pointed faces  
Stare ahead  
Wary of the tribe of  
Jackals stalking through grass

One vigilant lookout  
Eyes marabou stork to the left  
Too distant to vocalize a  
Terrestrial predator alarm

Right sentinel  
Spots twitching feline tail  
Dozing leopard  
Not yet a threat

Perched tawny eagle  
Takes flight  
Aerial predator alarm call  
Silences chatter

Poof!  
Twelve beady eyes  
Disappear into  
Red ruinous clay tunnels



Photo by: Stacy Macpherson-Spell  
Title: THE LOOKOUT GANG



Levee: an embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river  
Levy: impose (a tax, fee, or fine)

Censor: examine (a book, movie, etc.) officially and suppress any unacceptable parts  
Censer: a vessel for burning incense; especially: a covered incense burner

A **gantlet** is a flogging ordeal, literally or figuratively.  
A **gauntlet** is a glove. To throw down the gauntlet means to issue a challenge.  
To take up the gauntlet means to accept a challenge.

## Members' Short Works (Cont'd)

### The Right Brain Versus the Left Brain of My Writer's Soul

DITA BASU

After I finished writing “*Dreamcatcher: Story of an Immigrant Bride from India*,” I felt quite accomplished. The book was done. The editor was happy. The book was soon to be published--I thought. I mean the right brain of my writer's soul. Then came a long to-do list.

“Where is the blurb?” Asked the left side of my brain, the logical, boring part of me.

Oh, my! Did I know that writing a convincing blurb was harder than writing the entire book? A huge learning curve stood in front of me, cluttered with cross roads and potholes. Should I go the traditional route or take all the responsibilities for indie publishing? I had to get help from my left brain, my right brain thought.

The right brain, happy dreaming and writing, learned that a book description is not a blurb, nor is a synopsis. What are keywords and how are they different from categories? What are genre requirements?

“I love to write. Please let me do that.” The right side cried. But it got a harsh scolding from the logical side, the left brain:

“You were doing it all wrong, Dita. You should have started from the end and gone back to writing your beginning.” It scoffed.

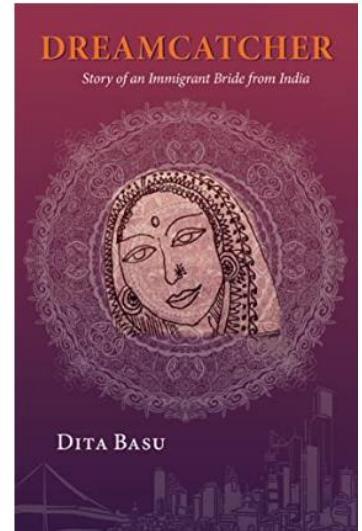
“What? How?” screamed the right brain.

“First,” my left brain summoned, “answer ‘Why are you writing this story?’ (Not to anyone, just to yourself.) Write the blurb first. Memorize it like an elevator speech. It can't be longer than six seconds. It must finish before the elevator door opens. Now practice it with whoever asks, ‘What's your story about?’”

“Could you grab your listener's attention?” my left brain smirked. “Or did they hurry to get out of the elevator before you? Note how many raised brows, how much smiling feedback you encountered and enter that in your daily journal. Keep doing it for a while. Do you think you can handle writing this story for several months or years? Plus spending a few thousand dollars to publish/market if you go the indie route? Attempting traditional publishing might involve lots of harsh blows, or rejections from agents. And it may never happen in your lifetime.”

Then it continued, “I am afraid you'll still say ‘I want to tell this story.’ Very well, sit down with your protagonist and ask, ‘What's your problem?’”

“If you're convinced, start writing. Be aware that you may have to dump all those pages, thousands of words later. I understand you only want to write in peace. Okay, seems like you've got a good flow. But wait! This is when you must stop. That's the Hemmingway style. That's how he fought the writer's block syndrome, which will come tomorrow.”





## Things to Do

(The following items are informational only and do not imply endorsement of product or service)

### 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 30, 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](mailto: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 (Cont'd)

### Advertise 4 times a year in the Bulletin at reasonable prices

We accept writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals.

Each issue of *The Bulletin*—published four times a year on <https://calwriters.org/>—reaches close to 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 22 branches throughout the state (as well as web surfers.)

**Deadlines:** March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1, with publication on the 15<sup>th</sup> of those months.

Four tiers of ad sizes are offered interspersed throughout *The Bulletin*:

- Business card (2" x 3.5") \$35
- Index card (3" x 5") \$60
- 5" x 7" \$90 placed at the discretion of the editor-in-chief

All of the above can be paid for by check or PayPal as described below.

Only one full-page vertical or horizontal ad (7" x 10") for \$200 will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Arrangement for this ad must be made by check and submitted by postal and email as described below. If too late to qualify you will be notified of the option to buy a 5x7 or smaller ad and the checks will be returned.

All ads must be self-edited, print-ready, and will be published as received. We reserve the right to decline material deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the editor-in-chief.

All ads must be emailed as a jpg to [advertisingcwc@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingcwc@gmail.com) and a copy sent to [editor@calwriters.org](mailto:editor@calwriters.org)

A physical copy of your ad must be enclosed with the postal mail payment. Please include your return address, email address, and telephone contact number.

**Deadlines for branch news submissions** are the same as for advertising:

March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Each CWC Branch is eligible to submit free of charge one 5x7 ad to publicize a branch-sponsored conference. This ad will be published.

Advertising capacity will be determined by the editor-in-chief. If we receive more than can be accommodated, advertisers will be notified of the option to reserve space in the next issue.

Space is limited. A copy of *The Bulletin* will be emailed to advertisers upon publication. Please include your preferred email address along with your ad submission.

Questions? Call Bob Isbill at (760) 221-6367.

Checks or money orders for submitted ads must be made payable to CWC Central Treasury and mailed to:

HDCWC

17645 Fisher St.

Victorville, CA 92395

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/>



**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 on the last Wednesday of each month.

September **27 12:00 pm–2:00 pm**

Chicken Pie Shop

1251 ARROYO WAY

Walnut Creek, CA



**To Register:**

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



## High Desert CWC Branch Presents a Free Zoom Meeting with John Truby on Genres

On **Tuesday, September 26, 2023, from 6 - 7 p.m.**, the High Desert branch will host story-master John Truby founder and director of Truby's Writers Studio. Over the past thirty years, he has taught more than fifty thousand students worldwide. His first book, *The Anatomy of Story*, shows writers how to tell their best stories.

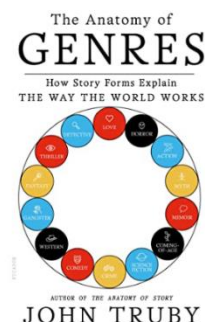
His latest book, *Anatomy of Genre* shows the storytelling game is won by mastering the structure of genres. Truby details three rules of successful genre writing. As he shows, the ability to combine plot events in the right way is what separates stories that sell from those that don't and how a single story can combine elements of different genres to craft unforgettable stories.

He regularly applies his genre techniques in consulting work with major studios including Disney, Sony Pictures, Fox, HBO, the BBC, Canal Plus, Globo, and AMC.

Meeting participants are encouraged to buy Truby's latest book in advance then if have questions submit them to Bob Isbill via email at [HDCWC@aol.com](mailto:HDCWC@aol.com).

Please put "Genre Question" in the subject line. Include your name, your branch, course the question you would like John Truby to address.

*Anatomy of Genres* may be purchased through Amazon.com or [www.anatomyofgenres.com](http://www.anatomyofgenres.com).



you  
and of

Join this informative Zoom Meeting at **6 PM Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6 p.m.**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86220784034?pwd=TThCMWhyc0FYbjRid1JmUnZiWit6Zz09>**

Meeting ID: 862 2078 4034

Passcode: 375034





**Creative Writing Retreat Oct 14**

Dominican University of California is a private university in San Rafael, California.

Fall 2023 events include a

<https://www.dominican.edu/events/creative-writing-retreat>

We are also accepting applications now to start in the MFA program at the January 2024 residency.

Judy Halebsky

MFA Director

[judy.halebsky@dominican.edu](mailto:judy.halebsky@dominican.edu)

415-482-1846

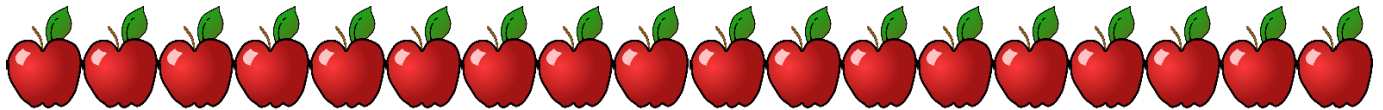
***Introduce yourself to the branch***

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

**NEW members:** Send a jpg headshot, a short bio, book(s) info if you have one/some, and a pic of your latest book cover. And let me know if you'd like some questions to pick from to answer.

If you've **been a member for a while**, if you haven't already been introduced in the newsletter, see above for what to do!

**BOTH:** If you have recent news of a new book, an award, an upcoming book launch, a speaking event, etc. include that information so I can alert members.



The Four Apostrophe's' of the  
apocalypseses's'



BTW the plural of apocalypse is simply add s: **apocalypses**

**Don't Write Like This:**

"me and my roommates are moving"

First, it's impolite to put yourself first

Second, do you say "me is moving"? No, then use I. My roommates and I are moving.

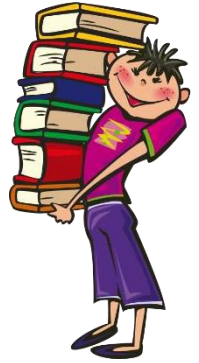
There was a discussion on NextDoor about a package having been stolen:

"Amazon sometimes delivers early in the morning like around 430. My dogs tell me when he delivers. They are a bunch of lowlives.

Who are the lowlives? Her dogs?

## **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 Sept 2023**

JACK LONDON FOUNDER'S CIRCLE (\$500+) THE JOHN STEINBECK SOCIETY (\$250 - \$499)

**Lily Gwilliam**  
**Susan Berman**

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

JOHN MUIR MEMBER CLUB (\$150 - \$249) INA COOLBRITH LAUREATE CLUB (\$100 - \$149)

**Karen Clayton** **Chloe Laube**  
**Liz Pentacoff** **Ann Steiner**  
**Buck-A-Book**

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

**Marjie Witt**  
**Jane Bloomstrand**  
**Linda Force**  
**Patty Northlich**  
**Bob Poirier**  
**Anonymous x 2**

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

**Colleen Gonalez** **Janet Clark**  
**Corrienne Heinemann** **Richard Black**  
**Fran Cain** **Sandra Hall**  
**Jana Haertl** **Elisabeth Tuck**  
**Thai Pham** **Marianne McBride**  
**Deborah Greenberg** **Bill Yarborough**  
**Phyllis Houseman** **Marianne Lonsdale**

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

**Cindi Li** **Juanita Martin**

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/>

The Mt. Diablo Branch hosts an awards luncheon in May, depending on Covid 19 and its offshoots: Delta & Lambda. 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: <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**

## *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:

J.K.ROWLINGS STAIRCASE CIRCLE (\$1000 +)

**Lilly Gwilliam**

GEORGE ORWELL'S FUTURE FORUM (\$750 – \$999)

ROBERT HEINLEIN'S UNIVERSE (\$500 - \$749)

HARPER LEE'S SYMBOLS (\$250 - \$499)

TONI MORRISON'S MEMORIES BAND (\$100 - \$249)

DEAN KOONTZ THRILLER TEAM (\$50 - \$99)

**Bob Poirier**

MARK TWAIN'S ADVENTURES PARTY (\$25 - \$49)

**Sandra Hall, Sherida Bush, June Gatewood, Dita Basu**

RICHARD WRIGHT'S UNDERGROUND SUPPORTERS (up to \$24)

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MYSTERIOUS ANONYMOUS SQUAD (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!**