



The Write News Mt Diablo

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

December 2023

Holiday Extravaganza and Holiday Writing Competition

December 9, 2023

11:00 – 2:00



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
MAZEL TOV
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY HANUKKAH
SEASON'S
GREETINGS
HAPPY KWANZAA
PEACE
ON EARTH
AND GOODWILL
TOWARDS ALL

December is traditionally our **Holiday Meeting**, with decorations and giveaways. This year will be even more exciting, with the announcement of the winners of our **Celebration Writing Contest!**

The contest is the brainchild of interim vice-president, Michael Barrington. He invited Mt. Diablo members to submit **short stories, poems, or flash fiction** on the theme of **Celebration**. Members who joined our branch in the last year (Sept 2022 through June 2023) were invited to submit an additional flash fiction entry for a special prize.

Winners will read their pieces, which will also be published in our branch newsletter, **The Write News**.

Come dressed in your holiday attire (optional) and prepare for these and other special events!

- Holiday Buffet Luncheon
- Special decorations
- A gift for each attendee
- One free drink for each attendee
- Door prizes

Location

Zio Fraedo's Restaurant
611 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA

SCHEDULE

Register

<https://cwcmtdiablo.org/meetings-and-workshops/>

Cost

Members \$25 Guests \$30



President: Barry Hampshire



Happy Holidays. We are through with Halloween and Thanksgiving. Now we look forward to Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, National Cookie Day, National Day of the Horse, Bill of Rights Day, and several others before we move into 2024. I am exhausted from all of these festivities. But I am never exhausted by the celebrations to mark the achievements of the club's writers, editors, and publishers.

No matter if you published an entire trilogy this year or managed to find a satisfying way to express a feeling or experience, you have an accomplishment, of which you should be proud. The honest truth is that we are all learning and growing. None of us know it all and will never know even half of what we seek to understand.

So, pat yourselves on the back and say, "Well done. More to come."

I hear some say that they have not been writing and feel they don't fit in the club anymore. I think many people hit periods of doldrums when the creative spirit hits the proverbial wall. Nothing bursts forth when people sit at their computers. That blank screen seems to scream at the frustrated writer.

That may be true on the superficial level. But I believe that the writer in all of you is looking for a hook that will re-engage the writer. This seeking an opening is instinctual to all writers, but you can overlook it as it is happening deep within each of you. Relax. Don't judge yourself. When it is time to have a seed germinate and spring forth, then be ready because it will tell you it is time.

Take this piece for example. I sat down and looked at that blank page. There was nothing in my mind. I started with "Happy Holidays." And after a short while, I had five paragraphs that were a good start.

So if you feel stuck or are overflowing with creative ideas, let go, enjoy one of the above holidays, and come back to your writing after taking a short restorative break.

Write on when you're ready to return to the creative side of yourselves.

Barry



CONTENTS

- p. 3-4 Member News: Karen Phillips, Joni Keim, Ken Kirkhoff, Marianne Lonsdale, Michael Barrington.
- p. 5 Upcoming Speakers; Jill Hedgecock's Book Review of *Talent* by B Lynn Goodwin
- p. 6-8 Members Works; Bob Poirier, John Blanchard
- p. 8-12 Things to Do: Bits and Bites, a Book Sales Opportunity; State CWC Ekphrasis project; Local Ekphrasis Project
- p. 13-14 Fun/Education
- p. 15-16 Young Writers Contest and Writers Helping Writers donor pages

Editor's note: The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the 20th of each month Aug through May.

Members, you are most welcome to attend any board meeting. Meet the people who make this branch run. Ask questions. Make suggestions.

The next board meeting is a Zoom meeting at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8.

For the Zoom link: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/> Select President or Webmaster



Member Events, News, and Salutes



This section of the newsletter is regularly open to members to submit information about milestones in your writing journey. Publish a book? Planning a reading at a bookstore or county fair? Speaking somewhere? Win an IPPY or other significant 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/>

Karen A Phillips

My short story "Found Art" was accepted into the NorCal chapter of Sisters in Crime anthology, *Invasive Species*, due to be self-published early in 2024. It's a collection of crime or mystery stories involving an invasive species—be it plant, animal or human—set in Northern California.

My short story "Killing Karen" was accepted into the *Hidden Villains: Betrayed* anthology with author Kevin J. Anderson to be published by Inked Publishing in early 2024. This anthology features bold and imaginative short stories of fantasy and science fiction by a diverse group of fifteen authors. Check out this project on Kickstarter:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/inkd/hidden-villains-betrayed-anthology-with-kevin-j-anderson?ref=discovery&term=HIDDEN%20VILLAINS%20BETRAYED>

Both anthologies are closed for submissions. Sign up for my Author Newsletter:

<https://karenaphillips.com/newsletter-2/>

Check out my Cover Design website: <https://phillipscovers.com/>



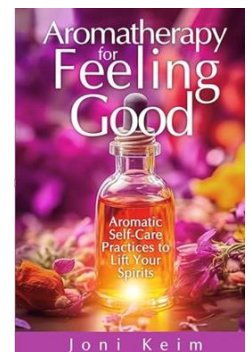
Joni Keim

"A book I have been working on for a couple of years just went live on Amazon.

I am so happy to have this one finally be born. And one of our own did a fabulous job editing."

Joni Keim Treadwell

www.jonikeimbooks.com



https://www.amazon.com/s?k=aromatherapy+joni+keim&crid=1WJIMNPV5GZJ&srefix=aromatherapy+joni+keim%2Caps%2C195&ref=nb_sb_noss

Ken Kerkhoff

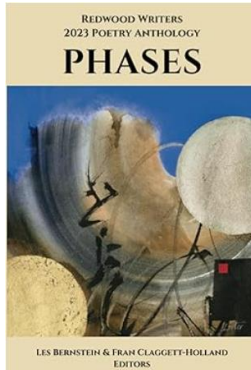
Ken won Third Place in the Redwood 2023 Personal Essay Contest! with "[Lessons from a Blind Dog](#)." He is the author of the books, *Four Degrees North* and *Paper Boat*, based on his experiences living in Asia and Africa. He is currently writing a young adult mystery.

Ken lives in Walnut Creek. He travels, camps, and fly fishes with his wife and children. He also gardens and woodworks when not writing.



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

Marianne Lonsdale



"I was honored to have two poems published in Redwood Branch's 2023 Poetry Anthology, *Phases*, published July 2023." *Phases* celebrates the varied aspects of what it is to be human, poignant reflections of well-earned experiences. It is a tapestry of life expressed thru well curated words. Marianne's poems are "Ninth of April" and "First Mornings."



Michael Barrington

Book signing at

Bookshop Benicia

636 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510



On 11/06 Michael did a presentation and book signing at Rossmoor for the *Hello Rossmoor club which has a mission of bringing both new and established residents together to help build relationships, friendships, and contacts.*

There were about 45 people present. It was very much "Why, What, and How Do I Write?" Michael used a PowerPoint presentation with photos showing the many resources, people, and places he draws on for some of his material. It was followed by Q & A, and book signings.

It was a successful and enjoyable experience with the bonus of introductions to three Rossmoor Book Clubs!








The two residents, Barbara and Elaine and were fascinated by Michael's book covers!



Also Michael's short story "Writers I have Dreamed About" will be published in *Academy of Heart & Mind Magazine* in February.



OUR UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Dec 9		Holiday Story Results	Readings from Christmas Short Story Competition
Jan 13		Achy Obejas	The Art of Story Telling; A Cross Cultural Experience
Feb 10		Brooke Warner	Memoir. Writing from our roots.
Mar 9		Amanda McTigue	Workshop: Making stories come alive.
Apr 13		Eric Elfman	Writing fantasy.
May 11		Crystal Graves	Novels, Novellas, or Short Stories.
June 8		Joint Book Venture	A novel experience. Writing conjointly: The experience of eight writers.

If you've heard a great speaker on writing/publishing/editing, let our Speaker Committee Chair, Michael Barrington, know. Select his name at <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/>

You in the Newsletter!—Book Reviews

Writers should be readers. What are you reading? What genre is it? Would you recommend it to others and why? What worked? What didn't work? Why?

So here's the challenge and opportunity to member-writers of all genres, send me some short(ish) book reviews to put in the newsletters. <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/> select Write News.

Please no advertising your books. Newsletter policy doesn't allow it, but you certainly may review fellow member's book you enjoyed.



a

***Talent* by B Lynn Goodwin** Reviewed by Jill Hedgecock

Talent is the thought-provoking story of Sandee Mason, a teen girl tackling the challenges of high school while dealing with the repercussions of her brother's disappearance in Afghanistan. Goodwin crafts a tale of intrigue under the backdrop of a school play, *Oklahoma!* while tackling issues that ordinary teens can relate to as well as kids with siblings in the military. From the deep desire for the freedom offered by a driver's license to the disappointment of trying out for something and not achieving a goal, Sandee shows the reader how to thrive under adversity. *Talent* is a page-flipping read!

JUST SOLD MY
HOMING PIGEON
ON EBAY FOR THE
22ND TIME.

WENT TO THE AIR
& SPACE MUSEUM
BUT THERE WAS
NOTHING THERE

Member's Works

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

Send your work to: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/newsletter/>



PRISCILLA'S THANKSGIVING

By Robert Poirier

It was controlled chaos for Priscilla Brown. She was organizing a Thanksgiving and housewarming party for her oldest son, Kevin, and his pregnant wife. Six in-laws were coming along with her husband, Tim, their daughter, Penny, and her boyfriend of three months, Justin. There were tools in every room of the new house, but Kevin assured her the kitchen, dining room, and bathrooms would be clean and fully functional.

Priscilla had met Penny and Justin for lunch two weeks before. She was not impressed with him. He was charming, affable, and damn good-looking, but something did not seem right about him. She particularly did not like the condescending way he treated the wait staff and felt it was probably the way he treated all those with less power.

Penny's name was Priscilla, just like her mother, grandmother, and all women dating back to Priscilla Mullins in 1621. The first Priscilla Mullins came over on the Mayflower in 1620 and was the Priscilla from Longfellow's poem, *The Courtship of Miles Standish*. The quote, "Why don't you speak for yourself, John," was on a faded linen cross-stitch passed down from mother to mother over the generations.

Her paternal grandmother gave her the nickname "Penny" when she first saw the newborn.

"My God," she cried. "She lights up the room. She's as bright as a new penny."

Justin met Penny at a coffee shop near the Cal State East Bay Concord campus. He told her he was a programmer who dropped out of college the year before to do side programming gigs to earn enough money to enroll as a junior at UC Berkeley in the spring.

Priscilla had been a C++ programmer when she first married. A few gently worded questions from her at lunch convinced her Justin had limited programming experience. His statement that he had just turned twenty-four did not ring true either. Priscilla was convinced he was at least ten years older. She was also convinced he was a classic Dunning-Kruger who felt he knew much more about almost everything than he did.

Priscilla desperately wanted to end their relationship.

Her chance came at the Thanksgiving meal when one of the in-laws mentioned President Biden had worked out a deal to free the hostages.

Justin snidely said, "Let's go Brandon."

Priscilla quickly and quietly asked, "What does that mean, Justin?"

"It's Joe Biden's college nickname," Justin smirked.

"No, Justin," Penny said. "It's from an interview with a race car driver named Brandon, who asked the interviewer what the crowd was chanting. The interviewer said, 'Let's go, Brandon,' so he didn't have to repeat the vulgar chant on air."

"You're mistaken, Priss," Justin said deliberately as if talking to a junior high student, using his name for her, which she had always disliked.

"You're wrong, Justin," Tim, Priscilla's husband, said. "The driver's name was Brandon Brown."

"Dad's right," Kevin said. "I saw the interview on YouTube."

Justin looked furtively around the room.

Member's Works (Cont'd)

"I see what this is. You're ganging up on me because you don't think I'm good enough."

"No, No," they all stammered.

"We didn't mean anything by it," Tim said

"Let's go, Priss," Justin said. "We're not wanted here." He was sweating profusely, and his hands were shaking.

When Penny hesitated, Justin grabbed her arm and dragged her upright.

"You're coming with me now," Justin said, spittle spraying her face.

Tim stood. "That's enough, Justin. Let her go."

Justin threw a roundhouse sucker punch and caught Tim above his left eye. Justin's ring made a small cut above Tim's eye, which bled profusely.

Kevin jerked Justin off his feet, threw him against the wall, and then kidney-punched him. In the melee, Justin's wallet slipped out of his pocket, opened, and his driver's license fell out. Kevin picked up the license.



"This says his name is Daniel K. Thurston, and he was born in 1989. That makes him 34 years old."

"Give me that," Justin/Daniel said, still partially bent over from the punch.

"Priss, are you coming with me or not?"

Priscilla spoke quietly and confidentially.

"This is your choice, Penny. You can stay with the family who adores you, or you can go with Daniel and have a lifetime of lies, chaos, and abuse until he kills you."

Penny moved away from Daniel, stood beside her mother, and put her hands on her mother's shoulders.

"Goodbye, Daniel," she said, emphasizing the Daniel. "I never want to see or hear from you again."

"Time to go, Daniel," Kevin said. "The security cameras I just installed have captured everything. You committed aggravated battery on my dad and Penny. If you ever try to contact her again, I will bring the tape to our friend, an Assistant District Attorney, and he will prosecute you."

Sulking, Daniel left the house without another word.

It turned out to be a wonderful Thanksgiving for Priscilla Brown.

INTERVIEW

By John Blanchard

I met a journalist once at a dinner party. I told him I write short stories and novels. He said he'd always wanted to do the same, but he didn't think his ego could take the rejection. So he never did.

My ego can't take the rejection, either. But I do it anyway. It's the difference between him and me—the difference between true writers and others who try and give up.

Rejection is a weeding out process. Over time one will give up on writing if one doesn't learn to deal with it.

It's like the organic chemistry course in college. Some pre-med students will decide to go into another field.

Member's Works (Cont'd)

How do I deal with it? I don't, really. A rejection, or what they say on Submittable, "declined," is just as crushing as ever. The only difference is, my recovery time is shorter now.

I have my strategies. Don't put all your eggs in one basket, I tell myself. Submit to several journals at the same time, so you always have something going, always have hope, as it were.

My other strategy— which I don't recommend to people who may be "borderline"— is to pretend I'm two people. One is the sensitive, easily injured person that I have to be to write a good story. The other one is the tough, callous businessman who works on my behalf when I'm not writing. The latter fellow takes my stories to critique groups, listens to the comments, and reports back to me. He is cool and objective; he doesn't get ruffled; because, after all, it's not his story. He's like my agent might be, if I had one. I don't.

This fellow handles the submissions, does the research, records the results. He isn't fazed by rejection, because, after all . . .

So after many years of writing and submitting my work, I have developed this system. How well does it work? Not very well.

You can run, but you can't hide.

It's a writer's life.

I'm a published short story writer. I divide my time between Oakland and Borrego Springs, Calif. I'm working on a short story collection and a historical mystery novel set in Los Angeles in 1914.

Things to Do

Books and Bites, an Author Sales Event

Thursday December 14th 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Berkeley Adult School 1701 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley Ca 94702

\$20 per author to register. Tables and chairs are provided. Plenty of free parking. Easy access from North Berkeley BART station (5 blocks)

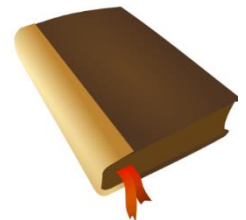
We are renting the multipurpose room at Berkeley Adult School where I teach for a **bookselling event**. We have invited several food vendors as well to give the event more of a Holiday feeling.

The event begins at 3 pm but you may arrive an hour or more before to begin set up. There is plenty of free parking and easy access (no stairs) to the room. Tables and chairs are provided. Bathrooms are easily accessed. You will be responsible for a table covering, bags, signage, gathering emails for newsletter and promotions, and anything you want to sell or decorate with.

This is being held at an adult school, so we have a built-in audience of about 300 people. I will be sending emails to teachers and staff to visit the event and bring students (another reason to have food.) We will also be advertising in the neighborhood and online. We have invited the Berkeley CWC chapter and the Berkeley Literary Club to join us too.

We have lots of room for more authors. You may join up until December 10th so I can get a count and submit the room setup plan to the custodian.

Contact Suzy Orpin at sgorpin@yahoo.com for more details.



Things to Do (Cont'd)

CWC CONTEST FOR MEMBER ARTISTS

The **statewide California Writers Club announces** plans for a new CWC book in 2024 titled *Vision and Verse, a fusion of Art and Photography*. *Vision and Verse* will be an **ekphrastic book** pairing artwork with poetry and short prose.

There are two phases to this project. Phase one is an art and photography contest. Phase two will post the winning art and call for poetry and short prose submissions inspired by the selected works. Submitted poetry and prose will be judged and selected poems and prose will be published in 2024 along with the winning art in CWC's *Vision and Verse*, ekphrastic book.

Details regarding Phase Two submissions will be posted on the CWC website after the completion of the art contest.

PHASE ONE

A member-only Art and Photography contest running December 1, 2023 through January 15, 2024.

Member artists and photographers are invited to submit a digital image of their artwork and thought-provoking photography to the contest. Winners will receive a copy of the book *Vision and Verse*.

1. The first-place winner will be featured on the cover and receive a \$100 prize.
2. The second and third place winners will receive a \$50 prize.
3. All other artists whose work is selected will receive a copy of *Vision and Verse*.

Submission guidelines:

1. Artwork: We welcome original paintings, drawings and illustrations.
2. Photography: original photographs only.
3. All submissions must be submitted in a jpeg format.
4. Submissions must be received no later than January 1, 2024
5. Multiple submissions are allowed.
6. There is a \$10 fee for each submission.

We look forward to seeing your talent shine in the CWC's 2024 *Vision and Verse*. The winning art will appear in the next issue of CWC Bulletin.

Contest and Submission Details are available on the CWC website.

LINK TO CWC WEBSITE ART CONTEST PAGE: <https://calwriters.org/vision-and-verse/>

Click on Link for Details and the submission Form

Les Bernstein, Editor in Chief

Roger C. Lubeck, CWC President

A good article on **avoiding clichés** found by Mt Diablo member Bruce Lewis:

https://jerryjenkins.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Cliches-and-How-to-Avoid-Them-1.pdf?inf_contact_key=56079e430a201a6c036a18165e4188348e081682761615a765903e494c4da7b5

Things to Do (Cont'd)



OUR LOCAL EKPHRASIS EVENT IS GEARING UP FOR 2024!

By Linda Hartmann, Chair

Planning for the Ekphrasis Exhibition Project, 2024 has begun. This year the primary Ekphrasis Committee is composed of three people, one from each of the collaborating organizations:

CWC Mt. Diablo BOD	LAC – BOD	LAA-Vice President
Linda Hartmann Ekphrasis Chair	Bill Carmel Curation Team	Ruth Stanton Exhibitions

This article outline changes to expect for 2024, and shows dates for planning purposes.

Ekphrasis is writing that describes or explains other art.

For the Ekphrasis Exhibit 2024, authors of the California Writers Club – Mt. Diablo will write in response to artists' work. All writing genres may be used

Two workshops will be offered for those who would like a refresher or who are unfamiliar with the concept of ekphrasis,

- Offer some sensory detail in your work
- Think about whether there is a theme involved as a point of focus
- Does the work tell a story, or does it have some enticing pull that provokes the imagination or tugs emotionally?
- What inspired you to write? Is this reflected in your written response?

Authors' written responses will be paired with and hung next to the relevant artwork.

Eligibility:

Artists interested in responding in writing to artwork, may do so by joining CWC Mt. Diablo Branch or Lamorinda Arts Council.

Authors interested in submitting artwork for consideration may join Lamorinda Art Alliance or Lamorinda Arts Council.

All participants must be members in good standing with the appropriate organization through that organization's calendar year which for CWC is June 30, 2024.

The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library has been reserved for the Ekphrasis Exhibition for **two months** this year.

There will be fifty-five (55) visual art pieces, each shown with the assigned author response, for a total of one hundred and ten (110) works. Space-permitting, individuals may choose to respond to more than a single piece of work. The first entry will cost \$20.00; additional entries \$10.00.

The three organizations have committed to the following numbers of participants:

ORGANIZATION	# VISUAL ART WORKS	# WRITTEN RESPONSES	TOTAL
LAA	35	0	35
CWC	0	50	50
LAC	20	5	25
TOTAL	55	55	110

Things to Do (Cont'd)

CALENDAR:

Workshop 1: Thursday, January 4 from 7 – 8 PM via Zoom; Authors and Artists invited

Workshop 2: Wednesday, January 17 from 7 - 8 PM via Zoom; Authors and Artists invited

To register to participate and make payment(s): Mt. Diablo authors use our website: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/> (see instructions below.)

Authors to receive artists' works by: **Saturday, February 3, 2024** (responses will be processed in first-come, first serve, ranked-order [include your top three choices])

Authors to return ranked order choices: **Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**

Authors to return written responses (per guidelines posted on website) to artists' works by: **Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**

Exhibition Dates: Monday, April 29 to Friday, June 28, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. The exhibition is open during normal library hours.

Reception Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Program about ekphrasis with examples provided from a few of the 2024 submissions with ongoing reception to meet the authors and artists.

Location: Art Gallery in the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

Within the next week or so, all of these important **details will be added to the CWC-Mt. Diablo Website** for your reference. At that time follow these directions.

Step 1: Go to our home page <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/>

Step 2: Select "Quick Links to Important Pages"

Step 3: Scroll down to the EKPHRASIS link

Step 4: Click on <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/ekphrasis/>

The 2024 information will be updated soon.

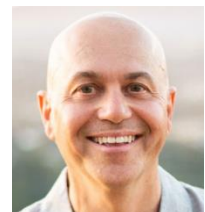
Questions? Email Linda Hartmann at lindadhartmann@gmail.com !!
Join in and have fun.

High Desert CWC Offers Memoir Writing Adventure

Bob Isbill, CWC Publicity, and Public Relations

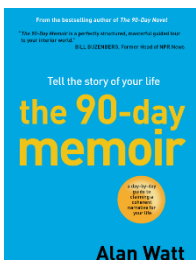
The High Desert branch of CWC will offer a free, special, two-part Zoom meeting on **memoir writing** featuring **Al Watt**, author of *The 90-Day Memoir*. Memoir is the most popular genre in CWC, so we feel this project will be valuable to our membership.

High Desert is continuing its book-club type Zoom meetings featuring books by famous authors and interviews with the writers themselves (Chris Vogler, Dean Koontz, and John Truby.)



To participate in this memoir-writing adventure, we are encouraging members to buy Watt's book, *The 90-Day Memoir*, which will be published on December 1 of 2023. Read the book, become familiar with the process then join us on **Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 6 PM via Zoom** to meet with Al Watt. He will talk about his 90-day memoir program and respond to questions you may have about memoir writing.

Watt is scheduled to begin a 90-day class on February 8, 2024. If you choose to join his class, he has a special offer available only to CWC members, which he will explain at that time. It is not required that you buy the book, but as we did with previous speakers, we encourage you to do so to fully experience what this project offers.



Things to Do (Cont'd)

Al will meet again with us on June 25, 2024. Those of you who have worked on a memoir during that interval you will be able to submit questions, and or discuss any challenges that you did not anticipate. Al Watt will be available to respond. To begin this writing adventure the only thing you need to do, if you choose to, is to buy the book. You can purchase it on Al Watt's website, www.lawriters.com or on Amazon.com. If you are not familiar with this best-selling author and teacher, check out his credentials on his website.

Links to the meetings on January 30 and June 25 will be emailed to the membership so you will have access to the project.

Join the Fun with OPEN MIC on Zoom

Each reader has five minutes to introduce and read their piece then there are two minutes for questions and answers. Feedback is all positive; what you liked about the piece, what resonated, or what you enjoyed. It is a fun and exciting way to practice reading aloud and to hear some feedback.

The next gathering is: Wednesday, December 13th, from 7-8 pm.

To register to get the Zoom link: <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/event/open-mic-night-on-zoom-dec-13-2023/>

Have you ever realized how surreal reading a book actually is? You stare at marked slices of tree for hours hallucinating vividly



MANY of the fun and educational items I include in the newsletter are shared with me by long-time member and founder of the Young Writers Contest: **Liz Pentacoff.**

Don't write like this:

"Eat LOT'S" Does that mean I'm supposed to eat Lot's share?

"Listening let's me cook" Listening let us me cook???

Let's is the contracted form of "let us,"

Lets is the third-person, singular form of the verb (to) let.

Let's go to the party. She usually **lets** me go to parties on my own.

HAVING A DOG
NAMED SHARK
AT THE BEACH WAS
A MISTAKE

Fun/Education

For several years, the **San Fernando CWC Branch newsletter, The Valley Scribe** featured a monthly English grammar column written by the late David Wetterberg, a retired English teacher. Here's his 2010 lesson on **allusions**.

An **allusion** is a reference to something in an area you expect your audience to be familiar with. Note how in the first example below the literary allusion to Tom Sawyer draws Tom's freedom, his innocence, and his sense of adventure into the nature of the priest.

Literature *Luckily, the priest had experienced a similar Tom Sawyer youth.*



Mythology *She wouldn't stop trying to play Cupid.*

The chocolate covered creampuff proved to be an Achilles heel.

Folklore *Trying to stop it was like putting your finger in the dyke.*

Abner ran off like the gingerbread man.



Theater / Movie *She cherished it with the passion of a Scarlett O'Hara.*

The little girl's charm, like Dorothy's oil can, loosened up the gruff old man.

The Bible *The professor carried an air of Solomon about him.*

This simple honesty was about to bring down a giant.



Geography *(Cyrano's nose) "When it bleeds ... the Red Sea!"*

History *Poly High playing El Camino is like the Spartans fighting the Persians.*

Tired of fighting the Battle of the Bulge, Sam finally went on a diet.

Contemporary *The heat came in like an Iraqi summer.*



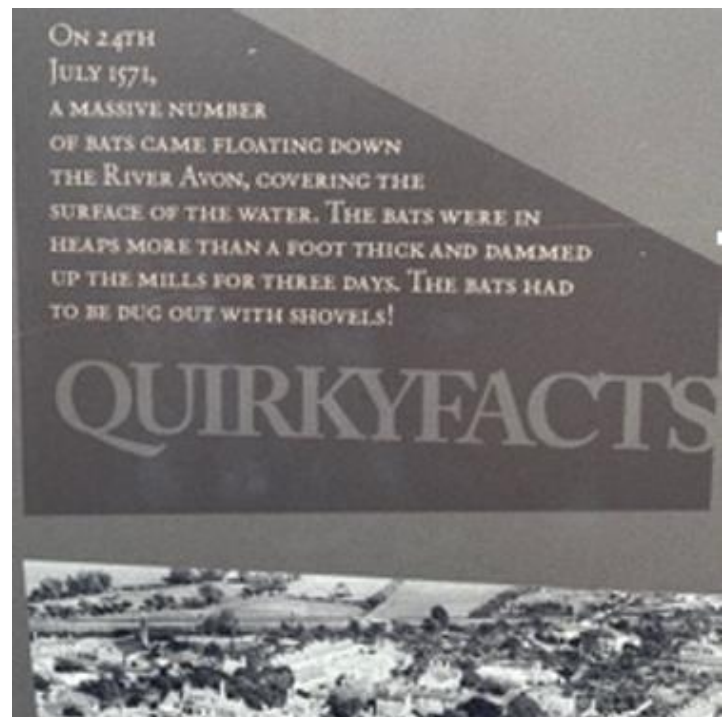
An occasional literary, biblical, historical, mythological, or contemporary allusion can be intelligent and effective. Just don't overdo it. Your readers will think you're showing off.

- Dave Wetterberg

BOOKMARKS: What bookmark would be right for your book?



Irony? Did anyone mention irony? Compliments of Barry Hampshire.



Young Writers Contest Fundraising

Sponsored by: The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs to benefit our programs in support of young writers. Your tax-deductible gift to *CWC Mt. Diablo*, a branch under the CWC 501(c)(3) tax exemption will appear in the contest program in May, and in the newsletter every month for a year. Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

DONATIONS as of November 2023

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

Lily Gwilliam
Susan Berman

JOHN STEINBECK SOCIETY (\$250 - 499)

David George in honor of Jan & Lee Paulson
Linda Hartmann Bob Lane
Cindy Leonard Judith Overmier

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

Chloe Laube
Liz Pentacoff Ken Kerkhoff

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

Ann Steiner

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

Anonymous
Jane Bloomstrand
Linda Force
Patty Northlich
Bob Poirier

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

Richard Black	Marianne Lonsdale
Phyllis Houseman	Marianne McBride
Fran Cain	Lenore McKnight
Janet Clark	Camille Minichino
Charla Gabert	Bill Yarborough
June Gatewood	Thai Pham
Colleen Gonzalez	Cici Pugh
Lyn Goodwin	Wayne Reznick
Sandra Hall	Sheryl Ruzek
Jana Haertl	Meghen Tozer
Corrienne Heinemann	Elisabeth Tuck

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

Cindi Li

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

The Mt. Diablo Branch hosts a May awards luncheon depending on Covid 19 & its offshoots.

Program expenses are supported by individual donations. Thank you for your membership in one of the donor groups.

Please list my membership in the following donor group: _____

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

Or make a check payable to: *CWC Mt. Diablo*, a branch under the CWC 501(c)(3) tax exemption.

Mail to: CWC Mt. Diablo Branch P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507 Attn: Young Writers 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 to CWC Mt. Diablo, a branch under the CWC 501(c)(3) tax exemption 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 August 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!