



# The Write News

April, 2024

A Monthly Newsletter  
Denis Hoye, Editor

## Mt. Diablo Branch

**CWC Mt. Diablo presents Eric Elfman — April 13, 2024**

**“10 Common Writing Issues I See in My Clients’ Work”**

Eric Elman is the New York Times best-selling author of books for kids and adults, including *I Am the Walrus* (from Little Brown), the first book of the N.O.A.H. Files trilogy, co-written with Neal Shusterman. Eric also co-wrote the popular *Accelerati* trilogy with Neal (Tesla’s Attic, Edison’s Alley, and Hawking’s Hallway from Little Brown), and has written several other books solo, including *Almanac of the Gross, Disgusting & Totally Repulsive* (Random House) an ALA Recommended Book for Reluctant Readers.



As a screenwriter, Eric has sold four screenplays to Hollywood studios (three co-written with Neal). Their screenplay *CLASS ACT*, based on the true story of a 6th grade teacher who ran for Congress with her 11-year old students as her campaign committee was purchased by Revolution Productions, and set up at Dreamworks with Halle Berry attached to star. *Tesla’s Attic* was optioned by Disney cvabler as a TV movie, and Neal and Eric were hired to write the teleplay.

Also a writing coach, Eric has a number of award winning and New York Times bestselling authors among his clients. He has been on the faculty of the Big Sur Children’s Writers Workshop since 2005 and has spoken about writing at schools and book fairs, as well as at the San Francisco Writers Conference, the Redwood Writers Club, and at several SCBWI events.

**REGISTRATION OPENED MARCH 12, 2024 AT**

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

### SCHEDULE

- 10:30 a.m. Registration Opens
- 11:15 a.m. Writers Table
- 12:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon
- 12:25 p.m. Business Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker

Eric will cover things he often sees as a writing coach:

- Passive protagonists
- Passive voice
- Slow beginnings
- Lack of forward story momentum

Attendees will learn to recognize and correct these issues in their work as they revise.

### LOCATION

Zio Fraedo’s Restaurant  
611 Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, California

### COST

\$25 Members and \$30 Non-Members. Includes a buffet luncheon. Pay at the door or online with PayPal when registering. You do not need a PayPal account.

### WRITERS TABLE

#### **Characterization** with Barry Hampshire

How can your characters tell you how the next plot twist will work out if you don’t know them? Get to know your characters!

#### **Crafting Sensual Sentences** with Bill Stong

In this fast-paced Writers Table, participants will pick a photo and then (in 5 minutes) write five lines that incorporate as many of the senses as possible. Please bring pen/pencil/keyboard and paper/computer screen.

#### **Create a Member Directory Profile** with Marlene Dotterer

Learn how to leverage this free directory so people can find you and you can find others.

#### **Writing for a Cause: Finding Purpose in Your Writing** with Lucinda Jackson

Why are you writing your current project? How are you supporting and moving your cause ahead?

#### **A Guide to Selecting (or Changing) Your Seven Amazon “Keywords.”** with Jill Hedgecock

Learn the best possible strategies to fill your seven keyword boxes on your Amazon publishing page. Your seven keywords can minimize or maximize exposure to your ideal readers based on Amazon’s algorithm. I’ll cover how to test your current keywords, what Amazon doesn’t allow, and whether you should “stuff” your keyword boxes.



### Mt. Diablo Branch President's Message

Spring is here. Warmth is in the air once again. Is there a spring in your stride? It feels good to hang the umbrella in the back of the closet. Dust off the grill and research some new marinate recipes.

How long will it be before we comment or complain about excessive heat? It will happen, it's just a matter of when. So enjoy the freshness of our current state. Right now, we can meet for a coffee or tea at an outside table at our favorite caffeine supplier.

So it is an ideal time to get together with fellow writers and trade craft tips or critiques. We may have felt isolated during winter and are ready to re-engage with

others. I am always astonished by how much I can learn from just being around other creative people. I see no need to talk with only writers who are of a similar mindset to myself. Sometimes talking with a writer who is focused on a different genre, period, or location can bring a fresh perspective to my thinking about a current project.

The other day, I met a fellow who had reached out to me after reading my memoir. Firstly, I was delighted that he was still sane and cognitive, having made it through my book. So my writing can't be that bad. His tale about how he came across my book intrigued me. He had been to a presentation and picked up the promotional material that had been scattered on the tables. Amongst it all had been my business card. He picked it up and it interested him. We are now fellow travelers on the endless road through editing towards the junction of how to publish. Even with both of us being at different stages, we can learn from each other. Plus it is great to exchange experiences of how we became writers and the hurdles we have needed to cross.

So put some sunscreen on and step forward along the creative road to a first draft or a completed manuscript. Let the wind tussle your hair and stir your imagination. Write on and each page will become a stepping stone across the lake towards the far shore of "Wow. Look at that – a completed story."

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### A Published Short Story



A short fantasy story by Michael Barrington, Ph.D. about an Irish storyteller, entitled *The Storyteller (The Shannike)* was published last month in the Anthology, *Surrendering to the Surreal* and published by Aether Avenue Press.

It is now available on Amazon. It is based on several Irish traditions and folklore and should be enjoyed by ages 9 to 90+!

### CWC — Mt. Diablo Branch

#### Board of Directors

President—Barry Hampshire  
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#### Mt. Diablo Branch Mission

Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

## Upcoming Events

- North State Writers Club Announces an Anthology — April 1st to April 20th.
- CWC Mt. Diablo Board Meeting on Zoom — April 12th @ 3 p.m.
- Art Embraces Poetry, Calling All Poets!— Saturday, April 6th, 2024
- CWC Writer’s Workshop: 10 Common Writing Issues — Eric Elfman, Saturday, April 13th @ 11 a.m.
- CWC Open Mic Night on Zoom — April 17th @ 7 p.m.
- CWC Writer’s Workshop: Novels, Novella’s or Short Stories — Crystal Graves, Saturday, May 11th a.m.
- Joint Book Venture Panel: A Discussion of the Writing Conjointly Experience for “The Passage to Murder”

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## A Special for Crime Writers

George Cramer Speaking at Left Coast Crime, April 11 - 8:00 a.m. PDT & April 14 - 5:00 p.m. PDT

He will also will be featured in two events at the conference: Friday 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. 4/12/24: George will be a panelist on “Talking About Tough Topics: Writing About Addiction, Mental Illness, PTSD, etc.”

Saturday 7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m. 4/13/24: George and renowned Police Psychologist Dr. Ellen Kirschman are offering Coffee with a Cop for a no-holds-barred conversation about cops, both real and fictional.

Free ticket reservations for Coffee with a Cop will open on March 1st at <https://CoffeeWithCop.eventbrite.com>

For information about Left Coast Crime 2024, see their website, <https://leftcoastcrime.org/index.html>

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## Corrections

The piece listed by *John Blanchard* in the March issue as a Short Story on Writers Block was in fact a Short Essay on Writers Block.

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## New Member

**Senait Mesfin Piccigallo** also has membership in the CWC-Tri-Valley. Senait's genres are NF-How to and poetry.

Website: <https://www.anchoringthenewyou.com>

Blog: <https://www.anchoringthenewyou.com/blog>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/Empoweringtheimmigrantcommunity>

Has published a title: "*You Are in America, now what?*" 7 skills to integrate with ease and joy," and "*Whispers of Solace*." Learned of our branch through Meetup. Would be available to volunteer for a specific program or event.

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April Fools Day!  
Ha ha ha, no message here

## Short Story — Marina

by: Robert Poirier

Marina recognized Yousef as soon as he walked into the salon. He was heavier since she last saw him in Beirut in 1995. Probably fifty pounds concentrated in the lower part of his body. Gone was most of his hair. Gone also was the nut allergy bracelet he wore when Yousef and his younger brother Ahmed attacked her and Fatima. But he still had the swagger from being an entitled youth from a wealthy family.

She and Fatima were 17 and first-semester students preparing for a degree in Nursing at Beirut Arab University (BAU). They were returning from a study session in the neighborhood library when the brothers abducted them a few blocks from their apartment building.

They had seen the brothers in the neighborhood, nodding to them as they walked to the BAU, but had never spoken. She and Fatima were Christians, while Yousef and his brother were Muslims. Despite Christians being in the minority at the time, 45 percent to Muslims 55 percent, Beirut was known as a tolerant city.

The brothers bound and gagged the girls and then raped and strangled Fatima. Yousef then turned to Marina, who was desperately trying to squirm away from him. *One down, one to go*, he said in Arabic, smirking.

Gendarmerie of the Internal Security Forces interrupted and arrested the brothers before Marina was harmed. Their well-connected, wealthy family bailed them out, and the brothers fled to the United States under a tourist visa.

*It's nice to speak to someone in the home language*, Marina said in Arabic. *We have a prayer group that meets every Wednesday, tomorrow, at my house. Would you like to visit and join us in prayer?*

Yousef leered when he responded in Arabic.

*I'd love to. Can I come a bit early so I can bring a party with me?*

*Sure*, Marina replied. *That would be nice. I'll see you at my house at two o'clock.*

Yousef arrived thirty minutes early on Wednesday. He wore a shirt open to the waist with several gold chains around his neck. The camouflage balloon pants he wore were tight around his thighs. He was not wearing an allergy bracelet.

Your vanity will kill you, she thought.

*I have brought a party*, he said in Arabic as he emptied a plastic baggie of white powder on the glass-topped coffee table. *I'll prepare our little treat while you make us some snacks.*

Marina entered the kitchen, pulled down the can of mixed nuts, shook it vigorously, and put it on a mat of precisely twenty toilet paper sheets. As she walked across the carpet, she opened the can and hurled the contents in Yousef's face.

Yousef immediately realized he was in danger and pulled an EpiPen out of his left pants pocket. He flipped the blue safety cap, brought the pen around, and plunged it into the outside of his left thigh, not realizing Marina had placed the 0.2-inch thick toilet paper mat directly underneath the trajectory of the pen.

Marina's research predicted the 0.2-inch mat would prevent the 0.6-inch EpiPen needle from penetrating the thigh fat and the fascia into the muscle. For a moment, she thought she was wrong when Yousef grasped her wrist with his left hand and forcefully pulled her down to him.

*You tried to kill me*, he gasped in Arabic.

When his hold on her weakened, she pulled away and picked up a faded Polaroid photograph from the bookshelf near the couch. She showed him the picture of her and Fatima when they started University classes together.

This is my friend, Fatima, she said in Arabic, before you and your brother killed her. And I didn't try to kill you; I succeeded. Marina paused for a few seconds, then held his face in her hand.

*One down, one to go*, she said in Arabic.

Marina watched as he recognized the picture's significance. She continued watching as he went through the stages of Anaphylaxis – swollen face, breathing difficulty, cyanotic lips, and finally, circulatory collapse and death.

## Short Story — Marina (Cont'd)

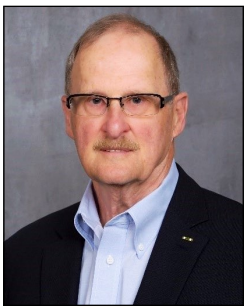
by: Robert Poirier

She waited a full three minutes after the light went out of his eyes before performing CPR. She tried for two minutes, then took his pulse and used a mirror to check for breathing to confirm he was dead. Then she removed the EpiPen from his thigh, flushed the mat down the toilet, and called 911.

Marina explained to the EMTs that she had opened the can of nuts and then went upstairs to the bathroom. He was not breathing when she came back downstairs. She saw the EpiPen on the floor, suspected it was Anaphylaxis, and started CPR immediately.

“How was I to know?” Marina said. “He wasn’t wearing an allergy bracelet.”

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Robert Poirier began writing in 2018 with a small creative writing group at the Martinez, California Veteran’s Administration Medical Center. He has since published short stories in the annual statewide *California Writers Club Literary Review* of 2019 and 2020 and *SURVIVAL: Tales of Pandemic*, a CWC anthology, 2020.

His gritty thriller novel, *The Killings at Hulls Cove*, was published on Amazon in November 2021. His second book, a collection of the fifty short stories he has written since 2018, should be published in April 2024.

A retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, retired mechanical engineer, and retired computer engineer, he lives in Martinez, California, with Teresa, his wife of fifty-three years, Pepper, their six-year-old Irish setter, and two spoiled rotten cat siblings.

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## Be Interviewed in the Write News

Here’s a chance to sit down with a cup of coffee and your fellow CWC-Writers. We want to learn about YOU. Choose questions from the list below to tell us about yourself. Try to include a mix of personal and professional.

### Interview questions

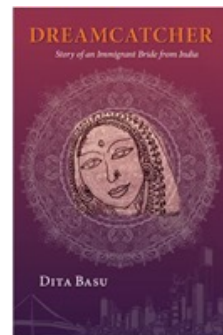
- What do you like about writing?
- What part of the writing process is most difficult for you?
- Are there any resources, tools, or events that you have found especially helpful for writing or publishing?
- What are you currently working on?
- Who or what has influenced you the most as a writer?
- How have your background, previous work, and/or experience contributed to your writing?
- How long has your CWC membership helped you or your writing?
- Do you have published works?
- Do you have any advice for new writers?
- How do you define success as a writer?
- What are your future writing goals?

Submit your answers to: [writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org)

## An Essay by: Dita Basu

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

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 crossroads 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?

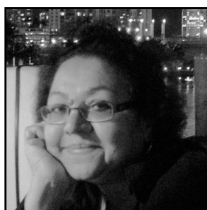
"I love to write. Please let me do that." The right side cried. But it got a harsh scolding from the logical side, the left brain:

"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, and 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."

## North State Writers Club Announces an Anthology

North State Writers is pleased to announce plans for publication of a 2024 anthology featuring the outstanding work of members of North State Writers and other California Writers Club branches. Submissions of stories and poetry will be open *April 1 through April 20, 2024* for all CWC members. They must be members during the submission period as well as the publication year, as it will be released in September.

We invite you to inform your members of this opportunity to have their written work published. The Guidelines and Submission form can be found at: [here](#).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Gwen Willadsen, North State Writers Membership Director, 2024 Anthology Co-Chair at: [gwilladsen@csuchico.edu](mailto:gwilladsen@csuchico.edu)



**CALL FOR POETS | Join us in April for National Poetry Month!**

**Saturday, April 6 | 1:30 - 3:30 pm**

**Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549**

We are looking for poets to read for the April Arts Embraces Poetry Event celebrating National Poetry Month!

[Apply Here.](#)

Each poet and artist is introduced by co-chair Linda Hartmann who also fields a short Q&A.

After the poetry and art presentation, join us downstairs in the lobby for a No Host Bar reception from 3:30 - 5:00 pm.

There is an ADA-compliant elevator available.

[Click Here](#) to view videos of some of our past events.

Questions? [Contact Us Here.](#)

Art Embraces Words & Poetry is made possible by a generous grant from the [Community Foundation of Lafayette.](#)

## **EKPHRASIS 2024**

### **INVITATION TO EKPHRASIS GRAND OPENING AND RECEPTION**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**SATURDAY - - MAY 4, 2024**

**1:00 – 5:00 PM**

**THE ART GALLERY AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY**

**26 ORINDA WAY**

**ORINDA, CA 94563**

**Artists Create Visual Works, Authors Respond.**

**Both will be side by side in the gallery for your viewing pleasure!**

Please join us for our second Ekphrasis Gallery Exhibition Grand Opening and Reception! The event is free and open to the public. The event drew a crowd of over 300 in 2023!

We begin with an opportunity to browse the Gallery at 1:00 PM, followed by a Speaker Program in the adjacent auditorium at 1:30 PM, that will include hearing from three visual artists and their paired responding authors. We promise you will come away with a more embellished understanding of what Ekphrasis is all about.

A reception with light fare and beverages, with an opportunity to meet and greet the artists and authors who are local and exhibiting. The event was highly-praised and covered in the press last year. Bring your smiles and have some fun!

This year the exhibition will be in the gallery for two months, from April 29<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>, with both 2-D and 3-D art. For questions and comments, write to Linda Hartmann at: [lindahartmann@gmail.com](mailto:lindahartmann@gmail.com)

### **Gallery Location + Hours**

Visit the Art Gallery in person at the Orinda Library located at 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Gallery Hours: Mon – Thu, 10 am – 8 pm; Fri/ Sat, 10 am – 6 pm. Closed Sundays.

For library information call 925.254.2184 or visit [cclib.org](http://cclib.org).

## Board Member Profiles

### Michael Barrington, Vice President

When I joined CWC, MT Diablo Branch, I had no idea what I was getting into. Writing can be a lonely experience and I was simply looking for a social setting where I could meet and discuss anything about writing with like-minded people. So what happened?

- I am currently the acting VP of the club and work very closely with Barry our President in planning & discussions as we try to help CWC MT Diablo meet the needs of all our members and become a dynamic entity. I attend all Board Meetings.
- Two years ago I initiated and currently facilitate the Writers Connection. This free-wheeling, open-ended group meets monthly for lunch to discuss and share anything to do with writing, books, and our craft. We usually have a Flash Fiction prompt followed by shared readings.
- I usually attend Open Mic each month, sometimes to share my material but more often to just listen to and appreciate the high quality of prose and poetry that our talented members produce.
- I am a great believer in new members being educated into the ‘mysteries’ of CWC, and I work with the head of the Mentoring Group, Lyn Roberts, by making cold calls to members and seeking their potential participation.
- I am currently mentoring three new members.
- I am acting as a personal writers’ coach for two members.
- I participated in the annual Scholastic Competition and last year assessed more than fifty short stories.
- I participated in the Ekphrasis Exhibition by submitting a short story and by offering an interpretation of a painting.
- Nine months ago I invited seven members to join me in the writing of a murder mystery, several of whom had never before been published. Our goal was to have the novel completed by the end of this year. An eighth member joined us as an editor. We have just published the novel, *Passage to Murder*. It is available for purchase on Amazon.
- As the Chair of the Program Committee, I work with a team responsible for inviting interesting and well-qualified presenters to our monthly meetings and two annual workshops. The flyers members receive with pertinent speaker information do not happen by osmosis; both content and format are generated by this committee.

### Marlene Dotterer, Webmaster & NorCal Representative

Marlene Dotterer has been a Mt. Diablo member since 2011. She has served as Membership Chair, President, YWC Chair, and is currently the Webmaster and NorCal Representative. She is responsible for the design, curation, and maintenance of the CWC Mt. Diablo Branch Website as well as the collection and submittal of all requests for publication to the newsletter, edited by Denis Hoye, and its distribution. She also is responsible for collection and passing on the donations to the Treasurer, handled by Margie Witt.

Marlene attends all CWC Mt. Diablo Branch Board meetings as well as all CWC NorCal meetings as a Representative of our branch, reporting back to us pertinent information as it is made available.

She has published four novels in the Speculative Fiction genre. Her latest short story, *Soul Singer*, appears in Redwood Writers Anthology, “*One Universe to the Left*.”

## Read and Write News to Keep up with our Branch

The Write News is our branch newsletter, issued monthly from September through June. In some years, there is also a Summer issue. All Mt. Diablo members receive a link to the newsletter via email. You can also view past issues. Just click [here](#) and scroll down on this page for our archived copies.

- The Write News is *YOUR* newsletter. Can you write something to be published? Get your name out there!
  - Denis Hoye is the editor of the Write News. Can you be an Assistant Editor?
  - Contact Denis at [writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org).
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### What to submit?

Denis says, “I always want to celebrate members’ successes in notices of published works, articles, stories, poems, etc., and appearances on TV, radio, bookstores, or social media. Include the author’s photo or a photo of the work, where and when the work is available, or where a reading can be seen or heard.

I’d love to collect member’s opening and/or closing lines and print them when I have several to print at once. Book reports and recommendations are accepted: Why was it a good or a poor book?”

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### A Few Rules

- Short stories, interviews, and articles of around 800 words or less are most acceptable; longer pieces may be considered.
  - No politics or gratuitous porn, no self promotion. Articles should be related to writing, publishing, etc.
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### 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: [writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org](mailto:writenews@cwcmtdiablo.org).

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### Sit in on a Zoom board meeting

- Meet the people who make this branch run. Ask questions.
  - Make suggestions. Next meeting: April 10, 2 pm
  - Contact branch President Barry Hampshire for the agenda and link: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/>
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### 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, April 17th, from 7-8 pm.**

To register to get the Zoom link: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/cwc-mt-diablo-open-mic-events/>

## 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. California Writers Club is an IRS 501-3c designated non-profit educational organization. The Mt. Diablo Branch EIN Number is: 94-3068331. Please consult your tax advisor for deductibility of your donation.

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!

*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 group:

- \_\_\_\_\_ JACK LONDON FOUNDER’S CIRCLE (\$500+)                      \_\_\_\_\_ THE JOHN STEINBECK SOCIETY (\$250 - \$499)
- \_\_\_\_\_ JOHN MUIR MEMBER CLUB (\$150 - \$249)                      \_\_\_\_\_ INA COOLBRITH LAUREATE CLUB (\$100 - \$149)
- \_\_\_\_\_ MARY AUSTIN WRITERS (\$50 - \$99)                                      \_\_\_\_\_ HELEN HUNT JACKSON GROUP (\$25 - \$49)
- \_\_\_\_\_ MARK TWAIN’S ADVENTURE PARTY (\$25 - \$49)                      \_\_\_\_\_ GERTRUDE ATHERTON GUILD (\$10 - \$24)

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!**

# Young Writer’s Contest Fundraising

**Sponsored by:  
The California Writers Club,**



Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs to benefit our programs in support of practical assistance to writers. California Writers Club is an IRS 501-3c designated non-profit educational organization. The Mt. Diablo Branch EIN Number is: 94-3068331. Please consult your tax advisor for deductibility of your donation. 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!

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/>

**DONATIONS as of March 2024:**

INA COOLBRITH LAUREATE CLUB (\$100 - \$249)

**Joni Treadwell**

MARK TWAIN’S ADVENTURE PARTY (\$25 - \$49)

**Wayne Gonzalez**

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 group:

\_\_\_\_\_ JACK LONDON FOUNDER’S CIRCLE (\$500+)

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

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