



The Write News

May, 2024

A Monthly Newsletter
Denis Hoye, Editor

Mt. Diablo Branch

CWC Mt. Diablo Presents Crystal Graves: The Accidental Author, May 11, 2024 (What Can Happen When You Begin to Write!)

CRYSTAL GRAVES — MURDER, MYSTERY & ROMANCE



CAREER

I am a professional accountant and teacher. I am an author writing murder, mystery and romance. I am also a playwright and an actress.

EDUCATION

Associate of Science degree from Solano Community College in business administration and secretarial science.

BA Business Administration, San Jose State University
MBA Business Studies San Jose State University.

FAMILY

I am a mother of two, grandmother of two. Reside in Berkeley, CA with my husband. We are a blended family and combined we raised five children into adulthood. My enjoyment is in working out, staying healthy and developing my creative career.

TAKEAWAYS

- Your writing puts you on a path.
- Your path will change.
- Someone will discover you.
- You will discover you.

AUTHOR OF FOUR BOOKS

A Beautiful Book – A Celebration of African History
Code Black – A Silverstone Bay Story
Code Red – A Silverstone Bay Story
Code Green – A Silverstone Bay Story

PLAYWRIGHT: ACTOR

Code Black – A Silverstone Bay Story

Product Line: Code Black, Code Red, Code Green, Silverstone Bay Shea

ARTIST

Over 100 pieces of Art

REGISTRATION OPENED April 15th, 2024 AT

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

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.

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



Mt. Diablo Branch President's Message

Is it really heading towards the end of April? I haven't completed any of my New Year's Resolutions. Where does time go? Actually, I did complete one resolution – I took a bath. Just kidding – I took three.

This last paragraph came forth after I sat here to write the Presidents Message without any thoughts of where I was headed. I produced four lines – it may be nonsense, but the creative juices have started to flow and I am no longer stuck.

I have a feeling that I will beat the deadline for the Newsletter and produce a few thoughts that will encourage, amuse, or somehow engage with a few of you.

Recently, I have been thinking about a subject that has become the subject-de-jour for many writers as well as the general public. Writers have a particular issue that is theirs and theirs alone. I am referring to the topic of Artificial Intelligence and writers. How do we distinguish our human generated work from these artificially generated pieces? I am not going to share all of my thoughts here now. I may submit an entire piece on the subject to the Newsletter later. In writing about this topic, I have refined my thoughts and understandings of the subject more deeply. Am I an expert? Far from it, but I am not intimidated by it either.

What has been interesting is that the conclusion I reach is that human connection is the most important concern here. I love that a fear of robots or AI apps taking over our lives forces us all to become more intimate and delight in us all being human.

So for me, I would encourage all of you to write, share, write and share because in doing so, you are perpetuating the sense of togetherness that we as humans share. We may be isolated while we tackle those blank pages. But when they are flooded with words and punctuation, share them and allow for an exchange of ideas, thoughts, opinions, or laughter. We can become catalysts that promote connection and engagement.

Be authentic and write what fires you up. There are no bad storylines, unless they are hateful, and I hope that is not your basis for writing. When readers take in your words, they take in part of what makes you unique. That is a glorious exchange because it is when people are withdrawn and do not share themselves, they can breed fear and conflict. So be bold, be willing to write, to create, to share and prove that we human writers can and will persevere.

Write on.

Barry Hampshire

CWC — Mt. Diablo Branch Board of Directors

President—Barry Hampshire
president@cwcmtdiablo.org

Vice President—Michael Barrington
vp@cwcmtdiablo.org

MRMS—David George
backfence@cwcmtdiablo.org

Treasurer—Margie Witt
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Andrew Benzie
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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

May 4th at: 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm PDT

Ekphrasis Reception

May 11th at: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm PDT

CWC Mt. Diablo Presents Crystal Graves: The Accidental Author, May 11, 2024

May 11th at: 7:00 pm

Open Mic on Zoom

May 29th at: 12.00 noon

Writers Connection at the Chicken Pie Shop at: 1251 ARROYO WAY, WALNUT CREEK, CA

June 8th at: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT: Joint Book Venture Panel:

A Discussion of the Writing Conjointly Experience for “The Passage to Murder”

New Members

Elise Diriam-Ching heard about the club through Bill Carmel and Elana O'Loskey and through participation in Ekphrasis 2023. She is interested in nonfiction writing and has authored: "*The Creative Art of Living, Dying, & Renewal*," (2014); "*Chi & Creativity*" (2007); and "*Faces of Your Soul*," (2006). Elise is looking for "connections with other writers, support(ing) this organization, and its work in (the) community." She can help occasionally with an event and would be available to help participate with a specific program or event.

Benjaman Jones is working on a sci-fi/spiritual novel called "*Spiral*." He has also written "lots of short fiction, autobiography, and satire." His genres are: fantasy, humor/satire, memoir/bio, poetry, sci-fi, and spiritual. He heard about CWC Mt. Diablo through another CWC branch (but he's not a dual member). He's looking for feedback, critique, and help getting published. And, he can help occasionally with an event.

Ron Sacchi is interested in blogging, Non-Fiction/Business, General, and Non-Fiction/How-To. He wrote a book in 2004: HOW TO BUILD A SMALL BUSINESS. He feels "stuck as a writer (and) looking for like-minded souls to inspire me." He would be available to help with a specific event and would like more information about committees or chair opportunities.

Call for Mt. Diablo's 2024-2025 Branch Officer Election Nominations

At the June 8th CWC Meeting, the attending membership will elect officers for the Mt. Diablo Branch Board for the upcoming CWC year.

Currently, the slate is as follows:

- President: Barry Hampshire (incumbent)
- Vice President: Michael Barrington (incumbent)
- Treasurer: Marjorie Witt (incumbent)
- Secretary: Dita Basu (incumbent)

All members of the club can nominate themselves or another member for any of these four officer positions. If you have a nominee who you feel should be added to the slate, please first confirm that the nominee is willing to stand for the office. Forward the nominee's name and a brief description of the qualities that make them an appropriate candidate to me through the "Contact us" link on the Mt. Diablo branch website. <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/contact-us/>

Alternatively, members can add a nominee to the slate just prior to the election at the June meeting. Again, the potential nominee should have confirmed they are willing to stand.

I look forward to the election of the officers who will guide the club over the next year.

-Quynh Trinh, Nominations Chair

Short Story — Elizabeth the Cat

by: **Phil Scimonelli**

I'm guessing at some time you entertained yourself along with your family and friends playing the two-item personal preference game. For example, vanilla versus chocolate ice cream, dog or cat person, bacon or sausage with your eggs, ketchup, or mustard on your hotdog. How did you answer? For me chocolate, dog, bacon, ketchup.

However, my choice in the pet category hasn't been as stringent since I met Elizabeth. Our first encounter took place about three years ago. Now we visit approximately five times a month. I didn't know her name for almost a year. Not until I met a member of her human family who informed me, she goes by Elizabeth.

I take daily walks, contingent on the weather and life. To get to one of my favorite hiking areas, I start through my neighborhood. Well, about half a block from my residence, approximately seven houses down the street lives Elizabeth. She is pitch black, with yellow eyes, and on the scrawny side. When she stretches a certain way, she resembles the stereotypical Halloween-electrified hair look.

Now, my experience with the feline species has not been good. I grew up with dogs, and our son grew up with Scooter. A mixed-breed rescue mutt who became part of our family. My time with cats through various friends and family members reinforced the standoffish, can't-be-bothered, selfish, lazy full-tilt Garfield feline persona.

Well, my dogs only loving heart began to crack upon meeting Elizabeth. As I was walking past her house one sunny morning our eyes met. In a stealthy flash, she was down the driveway and at my feet. I'm sure she was looking for either a treat or a scratch. I didn't have a treat that day, or any of the other rendezvous. I gave her a good petting and rubbing behind the ears, her body contoured in pleasure. Of course, as humans do, my cooing baby voice appeared out of nowhere. I just thought I hope nobody heard that.

Salutations between Elizabeth and I continued anytime she was out in front of her house. Mind you she wasn't out very often, but our encounters were so opposite of what I had experienced with cats I was enamored.

When I walked by and she wasn't there for a few of my outings, I missed her and hoped she was ok. I was licked, this feline had me in the pads of her paws. Now when I leave my house to start on my walk. My first thought is, I wonder if Elizabeth will be out today. When she is, and after we greet each other and exchange pleasantries. I continue my walk with an extra pep in my step and a smile, on my face.

You may not be able to teach an old dog a new trick, but Elizabeth taught an old man to love her.

Meow!



Phil Scimonelli retired from education after 30 years in the classroom. Phil and his wife Róisín (Ro-sheen) moved from Southern California to the East Bay eight years ago. He spends his spare time fishing, walking, playing bocce, and writing. He enjoys writing short stories and poetry. In 2023, he published his first children's book, "*Bridget's Rescue*" to teach the importance of pet adoption. His most recent poetry piece was selected to be published in the 2024 ekphrastic book *Visions and Verse*.

He can be reached at: ROSESCIM@AOL.COM

A Note From Your Treasurer

I'm excited to see attendance at our meetings is growing in numbers and I enjoy greeting everyone at the sign-in table. Sometimes things get a little frantic at the door, especially near the beginning of our official meeting. If everyone could consider arriving closer to the sign-in time (a half hour before the scheduled meeting time), my job would be much easier. Plus, it gives us time to get to know each other better (and find our favorite seats).

I'm also asking everyone to consider registering by the Wednesday before our Saturday meeting. You will get the benefit of registering at the *discount price* and we can then provide Zio Fraedo with a more accurate count. Walk-ins are welcome but advanced registration assures we have plenty of tables.

Margie Witt, Treasurer

Spring Into Action With Your Flash Fiction

A Flash Fiction Competition with a twist.

Each entry **must have a specific focus**. Choose from:

- a) Murder mystery b) Romance c) Fantasy

Up to three submissions are allowed per person, any category.

Prizes: One \$100 prize will be given in each category.

Entry fees:

\$10.00 for first submission

\$10.00 for second submission

\$ 5.00 for third submission

Submission Period:

Midday April 15th Through Midday May 30th

Through Midday May 30th

Rubrics:

1. The word count is strictly 100. No exceptions
2. Print in 12 pt Times Roman or Calibri
3. Double spaced
4. Submit as a Word document
5. List story focus at top righthand of manuscript
6. No name or Personal ID anywhere on manuscript
7. Provide full name, phone #, email, and branch
8. All entries will be judged blindly



Winners will be announced June 30, 2024

Entry form: <https://cwcmtdiablo.org/cwc-mt-diablo-flash-fiction-contest/>

So You Wanna Get Published in a Magazine?

Article by Michael Barrington

I am often asked how do I get so many of my articles and short stories published; nine already this year. The glib answer I typically give is, "With difficulty." I have written ten books and published more than fifty short stories or articles, but getting published does not happen by chance.

I never intended to write short stories. I always thought of myself as a novelist, a person who would write fiction. While writing my first novel, I discovered that my publisher also produced a very successful, high class monthly lifestyle magazine.

After reading several editions, I realized there was no article addressing books. Eager to get my name in print, I offered to start writing book reviews. He readily agreed. I soon expanded my reach and began writing non-fiction articles on a variety of topics. It was not what I wanted to do, but now I was a published author.

I then contacted a publication in the UK, where my niece worked and offered to write book reviews. The editor agreed. However, I still wanted to write fiction, started producing short stories and then did all the wrong things. I thought I had written a masterpiece and sent it off to several magazines. The immediate rejections were a blow to my ego, but brought me back to reality. If I was to take writing seriously, I needed to hone and develop my craft.

I knew I could write fiction and write well, but obviously not good enough for publication. My sister played piano and spent years practicing, wanting to become a concert pianist, and I realized that if when she started, she had told us that within one year she would be on some world stage, we would have laughed at her naivety. And yet here was I doing exactly that, believing that masterful writing was pure intuition and inspiration. Writing nonfiction was easy, it was mainly a question of arranging factual items in an entertaining fashion. All I had to contend with was shelving my ego when what I believed were exciting and brilliant pieces, were shredded, cut or manipulated just because the art department needed more space, or a late advertisement had arrived.

Writing fiction demanded so much more. I saw there was no shortcut to closing the gap between my head and my hands; success would only come through hours of practice. It would take dedicated time and lots of it. And so I decided to write one story each week. Whether I kept them or not, they had to be completed. I pushed myself, editing, scrutinizing each word and phrase until frequently I ended up with my original version! And when I thought I had worked a story as hard as I could, when there were no more iterations to be made, I would shelve it and start another.

I realized that writing a novel is radically different from the short story. In the novel you have a lot of elbowroom to tell your character's story. You can develop different quirks, provide background and expose them at their most vulnerable. You can introduce back stories. With short stories, you are mostly limited to the present. What your character does in the here and now holds a lot more weight. In a short story, every action, every piece of dialogue, has to move the story along. It has to serve a specific purpose toward the end result. I knew that intellectually, now I had to execute it. My job as a writer was to take the main character through some kind of significant and intriguing change. The challenge was that I was working on limited space, and every bit counted.

It was only when I thought I had two stories ready for publication that I decided to test the market again. But why two? I believed that if I could get one story published, I might be able to repeat the experience by immediately submitting a second. However, in order to know where to send my story, I needed to do thorough and extensive research.

Getting published is not as simple as finding a magazine or journal that might be focusing on your genre. There are multiple factors to consider.

So You Wanna Get Published in a Magazine?

Article by Michael Barrington (Cont'd)

Until you have read several editions, you will not get a feel for the editor's focus. Sometimes, it could be a subgenre of what you write. A journal maybe states that it wants science fiction. However, it is only after reading some stories that you might discover they are looking for very dark gothic or horror. It might be a publication that has a specific theme for a particular issue, or it might only allow submissions from minority writers or solely from the LGBTQ community.

It may sound obvious, but I have heard more than once that writers have not done their basic homework. Rubrics are very important and are there for a reason.

- Who is publishing the journal? Many magazines are attached to the creative writing department of a university. I might suggest you avoid these. After reading many of them, it's clear most are attracted to stories that might appeal only to generations Y and Z, which is fine if that is your target audience. But remember, your submission will first be read by students! The competition will be stiff. If you dig a little deeper, you might also discover that only a fraction of freelance submissions actually get published.
- Frequency of publication? This is important since it could mathematically increase your chances. A magazine that is only published annually will draw fierce competition. And so too for one that is twice a year. However, a monthly publication opens up all kinds of possibilities, and even more so if comes out weekly. There are many magazines that are only online, and they offer their own solid options. I have successfully published several stories on three sites that actually publish short stories daily, and these kinds of sites are increasing both in numbers and readership.

But read the rubrics carefully. Every publication will have its own requirements and additionally, a writer cannot expect, given large numbers of submissions, that an editor will overlook sloppy grammar, syntax or not adhering strictly to the directives.

- It goes without saying that if you are just beginning to submit your work, you might want to wait until you have a track record before submitting to the big boys; The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The Paris Review etc.

All of this research will take a huge amount of time if you plan on doing it correctly, as will gathering the elements required and then making your submission. But back to my earlier statement: there can be no shortcut. There is nothing that can supplant the time we put into our writing and the efforts to market ourselves.

On the positive side, each story I get published impacts the sale of my books and improves my brand. There is nearly always a spike in sales after my article appears in print and the traffic on my website jumps. Almost all publishers will ask you for a very short bio. and I use it to market myself. At the end of each piece, readers are given a link to my website. And to answer the initial question, how do I get so many articles published? I am successful because I treat my writing as a full-time job. I choose to spend eight hours a day, five days a week, working on my craft, and that means doing research or actually writing. I prefer to write fiction but when the opportunity arises or I feel I have something personally to say, I will submit a piece of nonfiction. And it's a job I am passionate about.

If you want news about Michael Barrington, take a look in the May issue of **Pieces 'N Things**, two of my short stories will be published: *Magic at Stonehenge* and *Silk*. Also next month **Aether Avenue Press** will publish my short story, *The Man on the Train*.

Michael Barrington, PhD

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 29th through June 28th, with both 2-D and 3-D art. For questions and comments, write to Linda Hartmann at: 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 ccclib.org.

In Memorium — Kymberlie Ingalls



A Friend for all Writers

I am sad to have to share the news that *Kymberlie Ingalls* died recently. I think many of her knew her well as she had been a cornerstone of this branch for a long time.

Following are the notes I prepared before giving a tribute to Kymberlie during our April general meeting. I wanted to share them with you here as she was a tenacious and loyal writing partner who will be greatly missed.

“Yesterday, I heard some profoundly sad news. If you haven’t heard, this news could cause you to pause. On Tuesday, April 9th, Kymberlie Ingalls passed away. She had been on the Mt. Diablo branch Board for many years and had served as an officer on the Board of several other branches as well.

Kymberlie was always willing to help our branch. When we returned to in-person meetings after Covid, she volunteered to video the meetings for those who were out of state. Often, this necessitated her cajoling her husband Roger into driving her to the meeting.

One of Kymberlie’s greatest loves was her non-profit that she ran for quite a number of years. She started collecting socks, which she could distribute to shelters and organizations who supported the homeless. Her friends joined her in this effort. This last winter season they shared dry, warm socks to thousands of those people who were in the greatest need. Recently, she used her lagging energies to maintain this effort.

Within our own club, Kymberlie found her own unique way to demonstrate her dedication to our branch. Starting two or three years ago, whenever we joined Kymberlie on Zoom calls, she would often be busy crocheting or knitting. We were delighted when she offered to donate one of her crocheted bed spreads, which we auctioned during our December meetings. I believe Cindy Leonard received the last one. At the same time, auctioning off these beautiful bed spreads caused me to try my hand at being an auctioneer – something I never imagined myself doing.”

So Kymberlie, you challenged me to be a better and more versatile president. I, along with the Board, will miss you as you helped us through many trials and tough decisions. And we all, as members of this club, have lost a stalwart supporter in our efforts to become better writers.

Barry Hampshire

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.
-

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?”

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.
-

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.

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/>
-

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.

DONATIONS as of May 2024:

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

Robert Poirer

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 May 2024:

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

Joni Treadwell

Cindy Leonard

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)
- _____ 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: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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 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

Kymberlie Ingalls — In Memorium

Dita Basu

“Kymberlie Ingalls is no more...” - the message didn’t sink in until the end of the zoom meeting that day. As I shut the laptop, a blob of blue void engulfed my senses. Collages of images popped into that dark canvas.

I knew Kymberlie long before I knew about CWC. I met her in a writing class more than a decade ago. Next session, in another writing workshop, she was there. This tall, beautiful girl, all in black, sat next to me. “Hey, you’re here too,” she said.

After that class dissolved, we formed a close-knit writers’ group and met at the teacher, Ellen Starkman’s home. Then over the years at Antioch writers’ group, Pittsburg library and Concord Senior. Kymberlie always found a place for the fellow writers to meet whenever we ran out of options. And finally, one fall day she invited me to CWC, and I found a niche. That was eleven years ago.

Memories swirl like an indigo nebula with its fiery sparks. Images of Kymberlie emerge with her humorous tone and her dry wit.

One day when I shared my concern with her, “I need a good editor.” She replied, “Dita, it’s like finding a good husband... like a good marriage,” stressing on the word ‘good’. We laughed while stretching the joke as we strolled through the parking lot.

Another day she came as usual all in black, a shiny bowl in hand. “No writing to share, but some cupcakes I made this morning.”

I remember her sitting with a ball of yarn, listening to someone’s story, knitting away hats for the homeless. She gave herself generously whenever needed.

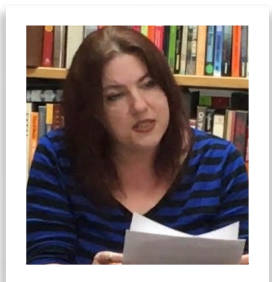
As I was going through one of my old journals, I stalled on a page with notes from her teaching. That day, she was teaching a workshop in CWC. I could see on the page a picture of a big triangle. According to her instruction on the apex point I wrote, “what kind of author do I want to be?” We had to divide the triangle into more thoughtful segments with publishing and marketing strategies. Today I wonder what Kymberlie thought that day? What kind of author would she wish to be? A best seller? An award winner or a beloved author appreciated by her readers and fellow writer friends? I never asked. Not more than what she shared.

Who was Kymberlie ? How was her world?

A book with a black cover and a thin spine on my bookshelf gives the answer. It covered all her blog posts where she gave it all.

Her style had a sad tone and a blue hue. And she was desperate to bring some light and some goodness to this world. She left a bit of herself to each of us she had touched.

My eyes blur as I write... it’s not fair. She was too young to die ... she had so much to give, so much to live. It’s just not fair.



A sad tune susurrated in the silence —

‘She can kill with a smile, she can wound with her eyes...

She only reveals what she wants you to see...

She hides like a child, but she’s always a woman to me.’

Scholastic Writing Award Regional Gold Key Winner!

By Linda Hartmann

I am excited to report that a local winner is most happy with getting her *Scholastic Writing Awards* admission entered in time for submission. This notice is a lesson in numerous things, including networking and reaching out to help when you might make a difference. A volunteer at *Art Embraces Words* introduced me to an interested parent of a high school student wishing to submit her work to the *Scholastic Art and Writing Awards* contest in 2023. I gave the links to learn more and spoke with the student's teacher about the program.

The teacher is the executive director of a local after-school extracurricular class for students interested in learning more about writing and has a regular venue for practice, feedback, and publication. Scholastic's new platform was found to have technological problems. I'd been made aware of this through my activity as a judge for the program. I received a text from the volunteer (their daughters had been writing together since grade school), who asked for assistance in helping to make her payment for submission go through. Scholastic's new technology platform was buggy and rejected her payment as well as those of others. Although alerted, there were no responses from the staff at Scholastic. I wrote to our *Alliance Partner Managers for Programs* to inform them of the issue, using names and dates. They were able to submit payment!

Since then, judging has occurred, and I received a huge "Thank You" for the help, as the student not only won a *Regional Gold Key* award but secured her a spot at the *Iowa Young Writers Studio* for this summer! To all of you who have helped with this contest as a judge or chair, please know that this resounding "Thank You" is meant for you, too.

We never know when life may change for someone local or for those whose work we judge in other areas worldwide! Thanks to a great *Scholastic Team of Jurors* this year, chaired by *Quynh Yuen-Trinh* and *Senait Mesfin Piccigallo*.

Reception to follow in courtyard

LAMORINDA **arts** COUNCIL PRESENTS

Art Embraces Words
Saturday, May 18 at 2pm

 <p>ELIZABETH PERLMAN Featured Writer - Intuitive Writing Project</p>	 <p>SALMAN ANSARI Featured Writer + Illustrator</p>	 <p>JENNIFER GRANAT Featured Writer + Artist</p>
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Lafayette Library Arts & Science Room
 3941 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, CA

LAMORINDA *arts* COUNCIL

Art Gallery

at the
ORINDA LIBRARY

Ekphrasis Exhibition 2024 | April 29 - June 28



Ekphrasis 2024

The term "ekphrasis" began in Plato's Greece as a literary description of visual art. Some of the best local authors and artists are contributing 100 total works -50 artworks and 50 writings displayed side by side.

This collaborative exhibit is presented by team members from three local arts groups:

Bill Carmel, LAC Board Member & Curator
Linda Hartmann, CWC Past President & Ekphrasis Chair
Ruth Stanton, LAA Board Member & V.P. Exhibitions

Recitations & Slide Show
Saturday, May 4th, 1:30 - 2:45 pm
Library Auditorium
Artist Reception to follow on the Patio
2:30 - 5:30 pm



Gallery Hours: Mon-Thu 10a - 8p;
Fri - Sat 10a - 6p Closed Sundays
+ May 27

Free Admission for All!

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library
 26 Orinda Way, Orinda
 Curated by Lamorinda Arts Council
 LamorindaArts.org

Visit us online at LamorindaArts.org to view and purchase art | Lamorinda Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Writers Table, May 11, 2024

Check back for upcoming information!

WRITERS TABLE is a 40-minute exploration of the craft of writing, held at our monthly meetings (except for workshops). Talks are led by our own members, sometimes as a presentation to the entire group, or as part of a “marketplace” of tables, each devoted to a different genre or topic.

Check back for upcoming information!



Bay Area native Andrew Benzie has over 30 years experience in the design industry. He has worked for both corporate art departments and as a freelance designer. In 2010 he established his own publishing company Andrew Benzie Books to help authors design, publish, and market their books.

A Book Design Service

Email me with your concerns, doubts and goals, and we can discuss how to reach your goals.

Brian Shea



Many writers feel obstacles deter them from getting their stories into print. The bridge is a metaphor for getting writers past those obstacles.

With 20 years of experience in print production and design, I’m happy to guide writers across those obstacles and over to the other side, to reach their goals of creating books. What I can offer is style – a look that goes beyond the “standard.”

- Unique typography
- Chapter openings with pizzazz
- Appropriate page margins
- Image prep and management
- Colorful covers that stand out

