

The Write News

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A Monthly Newsletter

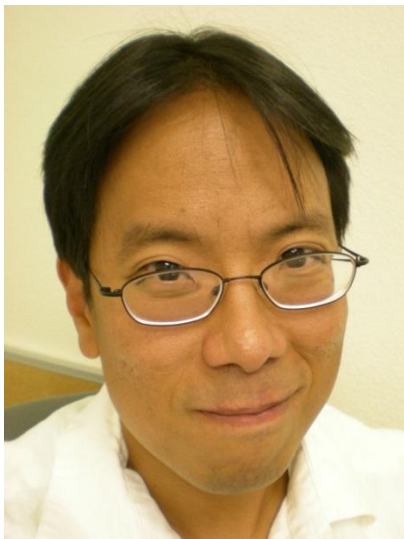
May 2013

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST BANQUET and LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 11, 2013; 11:00 pm to 2:00pm

"Writing--It's Not for the Chickenhearted"



Mike Jung

In addition to the courage it takes to be a writer, Mike will explain his thoughts on:

Choosing your idea

Finding your process

Sharing your work

Mike is the author of *Geeks, Girls, and Secret Identities* (Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic), a superhero novel. His essays have appeared in the anthologies *Dear Teen Me* (Zest Books, 2012) and *Break These Rules* (Chicago Review Press, 2013)

Come hear our speaker, meet our young writers and read their displayed winning entries.

Sign-in is 11:00am – 11:30 pm, buffet luncheon 12–12:45, and program 12:45–2:00 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. **Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, May 8.** \$20, or \$25 for non-CWC members; please contact Robin at ragig@aol.com or leave a message at: (925) 933-9670. Expect confirmation only when you e-mail your reservation.

Please Note: In accordance with our contractual agreement with Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, the club is charged for every reservation confirmed on the day before the meeting. If you are not able to attend this meeting, or if you do not cancel your reservation prior to noon on the Friday before the meeting, you will be asked to remit a \$20 or \$25 "no-show" payment according to your membership.

CWC is a registered federal non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



Our thoughts are with our regular newsletter maestro, Lyn Roberts, who has been hospitalized for nearly two months. Physically she is doing well but is frustrated with being indoors so long. She can receive e-mail but not send. If you have a funny item, she might be pleased by comic relief!

I attended the Tucson book fair in March and came away realizing what a boon the California Writers Club is. Because there were hundreds of authors scheduled at the book fair, I declined to

research them all and thought I would be able to just drop in to the various locations where a few authors who interested me were speaking. Not! Lining up was the order of the day often resulting in the inability to get into the room! A book signing? A three-block line up.

Here in the Bay Area we can choose from dozens of teaching writers who come to us to speak and who are happy to sign books with maybe a three-person line up at most. So to me, the value of the CWC has skyrocketed. **Go Mt. Diablo CWC!**

Jack London Award Nominating Committee Report by Al Garrotto

Branch President Elisabeth Tuck appointed Al Garrotto to chair a nominating committee for the biennial Jack London award. The Mount Diablo Branch is blessed with many outstanding members, who generously give of themselves to advance and enhance the literary arts in our region. There are a number of dedicated and generous members of our branch who are strong candidates for the award, which made the final decision a difficult one.

After consulting with committee members, Lee Paulson and Danard Emanuelson, Al presented **Judith Marshall** to the board of directors for consideration as our Jack London nominee.

During the past two years especially, Judith has served as our representative to both the state Central Board and the NorCal regional board. In this capacity, she has donated countless volunteer hours on our behalf and that of CWC members throughout the state.

She was instrumental in shepherding Publishing Pathways (mentoring toward publication) into existence and effective operation. At the same time, she has been a wise and consistent presence at our monthly board and general membership meetings. Judith has also been an avid promoter of CWC Mt. Diablo among the Central Costa County community of writers and book-loving readers.

The board overwhelmingly approved Judith as our 2013 Jack London awardee.

Ever heard about **BOOK BLOG TOURS** or **VIRTUAL BOOK TOURS**? by **Lloyd Lofthouse**

Virtual book tours are a promotional tool for authors to connect with readers via well-read book blogs and specialty blogs. In addition, there may be interviews and guest posts. Most book blogs have followers, varying from small numbers to thousands. Traditional publishers send out early proofs of books to be read by some of the top book bloggers but those sites are usually so busy that they ignore indie authors. Authors may contact the book bloggers directly or hire a publicist who specializes in virtual tours. Of course, not every blogger responds to every author.

A book blog tour is a way to get attention for a book, similar to a physical tour, but it is done on the Internet from home. The bloggers who agree to host an author may or may not post reviews on their sites and on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and/or Goodreads. Those reviews, if positive, may help generate interest in the author's book. In addition, every review, interview and guest post becomes another link to the author and usually shows up in Google searches, boosting the author's visibility on the Internet.

Following are some book blogger directories and rankings:

<http://bookbloggerdirectory.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.invesp.com/blog-rank/books>

<http://bookbloggerlist.com/>

Slate of Officers for the Central Board of California Writers Club for the year beginning July, 2013.

President:	Our own David George
Vice President:	Margie Yee Webb (currently holds this office)
Secretary:	Joyce Krieg (currently holds this office)
Treasurer:	Sharon Svitak (currently holds this office)

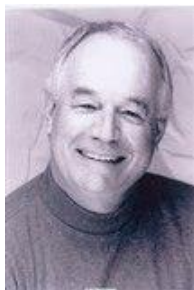
The annual NorCal and SoCal CWC picnic will be Saturday July 20th at Joaquin Miller Park in the Oakland hills. The event is social and all members are invited.

Any complaints about this issue of the newsletter will result in the complainer being given the job of producing the next newsletter !!!

Member Events, News and Salutes



Judith Marshall's novel, *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever*, has just received its 60th review on Amazon. The overall rating is 4.9 stars out of 5. The movie script is due any day.



Jerry Blair's one-act play *He Had Wings*, adapted from his short story that ran recently in the winter edition of the *CWC Literary Review*, is a semi-finalist in the Sonoma Stage Works 2013 Play Festival. A stage reading of the play will be held on June 1st in Sonoma.

Ted (George) Wells III published *SQL: Structured Query Language, A Universal Programming Language: Introduction To Structured Query Language* on Amazon April 1, 2013.

Don Maker has signed with www.CleanTeenPublishing.com to do a series of magical realism YA books. The first is *Miranda's Magic*, which they will publish in a few months.

Lani Longshore and her writing partner, **Ann Anastasio**, self-published *When Chenille Is Not Enough* as an ebook on www.Smashwords.com and as a paperback through Wingspan Press. They launched the book at the Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) conference in Santa Fe, NM. Their book is the sequel to *Death by Chenille*, with Susan and her friends again saving the world from space aliens -- this time with ice cream!

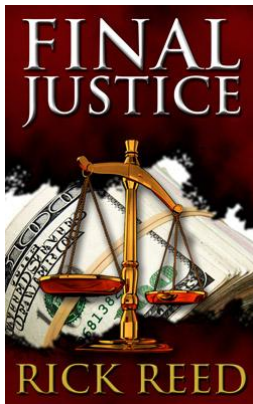




Patricia Evans's first book *The Verbally Abusive Relationship* now in its 3rd edition (each edition adds a chapter or two) has passed its 20th year in print and is still a top seller.

Pat suggests that if you have a self-help or other non-fiction book, set up a web site focusing your topic, offer phone consultations, establish an author Facebook page, give informative talks to networking groups or others who would benefit from the information, and build an email list from your site as well as from your speaking audience. She uses www.ConstantContact.com to send out a monthly newsletter to the more than 6,000 subscribers who have signed up at her web site.

Roger (Lee) Paulson's new humorous novel *Roly's Relic: The Cross of Baal* paperback edition is now up on Amazon. Kindle version to follow. Then he'll send out an official announcement about his latest humorous adventure. Also a YA Fantasy anthology is due out in May. Lee writes under the pseudonym of Jon Cory.



Rick Reed is happy with the book cover Maria at www.beautebook.com who for \$195 designed for his upcoming book *Final Justice* about political corruption, murder, and cover-ups.

They suggest several designs to choose from and if you buy the cover from them they will also format your book for \$99 into all ebook formats.

Lloyd Lofthouse's recently-released suspense thriller, *Running with the Enemy*, will be on a thirteen-site virtual book blog tour late May into June. Lloyd answered a Q&A for one site and wrote a guest post for another.

Authors may contact book bloggers directly but it's time consuming. Now Lloyd hires a publicist who specializes in virtual tours. She contacts the book bloggers and schedules the dates when each blog will post a review of the book, an interview, or a guest post. His last book blog tour resulted in seven five-star reviews on Amazon of *My Splendid Concubine's* 3rd edition.

During the tour that runs from late May through most of June, Lloyd is offering both novels free to CWC members. Send Lloyd an e-mail request at lflwriter@gmail.com. Amazon offers a free app that may be downloaded to read books on a smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop.

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771>

Lloyd hopes that if you enjoy his books, you will post a review on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and/or Goodreads!



New member, **Dr. Jeffrey Mark Paull**, genealogist and Jewish historian, has published *A Noble Heritage: The History and Legacy of the Polonsky and Paull Family in America*. This 670-page book traces his family's Jewish-American, Russian immigrant story. His research, including DNA studies, traces his heritage over 1,000 years of Russian and European history, to a rabbi known as Rashi (b. 1040 AD) in medieval France.

Dr. Paull's research has forged ties among an estranged contemporary Jewish extended family, and provided an educational path to understanding Judaism for that family and for future generations.

His book stands as a testimony to the perseverance and determination of the Jewish people to rise above the many challenges that they faced over the millennia while building a lasting legacy and contributing to the cultures and societies in which they live. The meticulous footnotes provide an excellent resource for anyone doing research on Jewish history or family genealogy.

Several book chapters can be previewed on Amazon.com at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Noble-Heritage-Deluxe-Color-Edition/dp/0741470470>



Bee Hylinski's *Contract Year: a baseball novel* is now available on Smashwords.com. Signed paperbacks and ebook downloads (Kindle and iPad versions) are available at: www.contractyearnovel.com.

Call for Volunteers

Would You Like To Be A Volunteer For Your Writers Club?

Our mission, as defined on our statewide website is: *"Educating writers of all abilities in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work"*. Sounds like a good plan.

Our writers club runs smoothly thanks to our talented and dedicated volunteers. Our board members are volunteers, our program chairs are volunteers, and all the other people who assist with various projects and tasks are volunteers. We want you to be our next volunteer. For more information about what opportunities are available, please contact:

Membership Chair, Catherine Accardi, at caacat@comcast.net

DON'T MISS OUR JUNE 8TH SPEAKER:

Margit Liesche

Historical Fiction Author

Weaving good stories around the spine of interesting historic events

Using current events and cultural norms as the backdrop for story



Let's Welcome Some New Members!

This past month has brought four new members into our Mount Diablo Branch. They are **Dave Case, Judy Bastin, Donald Mitolo** and **Edward Newhouse**.

Welcome Dave, Judy, Donald and Edward!

A huge

THANK YOU, JEAN to Jean Georgakopoulos

for all her years of taking reservations for us. We hope you now have time to come relax and enjoy a few CWC meetings.

And thank you to our new reservations person
Robin Gigoux at ragig@aol.com or 933-9670

Meet Your New Members

Member Profile: *Dina Colman*

By Catherine Accardi, Membership Chair



Dina Colman grew up in Palos Verdes, California. She is a Southern California girl born and raised, but Northern California is her home now.

Dina graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Cum Laude from Pomona College with a B.A. in Economics. After working at Price Waterhouse for a few years post-college, she went back to school, obtaining her Master's in Business Administration from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. For the following decade, Dina worked in the high-tech corporate world as a marketing and business strategy consultant.

Dina shares that she has always loved to write, but never considered it as part of her career until a few years ago. She considers herself a "career changer". She explains, "I always knew that it wasn't something that was filling up my soul. I went back to school a few years ago to get my Masters in Holistic Health Education from John F. Kennedy University in 2011. While in the program, I used one of my elective classes to take Advanced Writing and Publishing where we had to write an article to submit to a magazine. I am grateful to that class because it turned on a light bulb about how much I love to write. After that, I took a class called Media and Publishing where I had to write a book proposal as an assignment. This proposal became the inspiration for actually writing the book! I wrote the proposal in January 2011 and just recently completed the book. I am currently looking for a publisher or agent. My book is called, *You Are Not Your DNA: 48 Simple and Natural Ways to Create Your New Health Destiny.*"

In 2010, she founded her company, Four Quadrant Living to inspire others to insist on health in their lives "In this country we tend to focus on the body quadrant, but all four quadrants are essential for our health: Mind, Body, Relationships, and Environment."

Dina's writing genre is non-fiction on health-related topics. "Now that I am a healthy-living coach, I use writing as one of the ways to educate people on creating health in their lives. I'm a big believer that our genes are not our health destiny. We choose the food we eat, the sleep we get, the exercise we do, the stress we allow, the products we use, the people we surround ourselves with, and the environment we live in. All of these play a role in our health."

She has published several articles and many blogs on various online sites. She is now looking to get her completed book published and says, "Stay tuned!"

Dina lives in Danville with her husband and four-legged children: Hollywood (of the feline variety) is 10 years old, and Kora (of the canine variety) is 2.5 years old. She loves to run the East Bay trails with her pup.

Dina would like "CWC members to check out her website at www.fourquadrantliving.com Please like me on Facebook, follow me on twitter, and/or sign up for my newsletter. I'm trying to grow my platform to be more enticing to publishers and agents! I'm happy to follow you too!"

Member Profile: *Teresa Walsh*

By Teresa



Teresa Walsh is a transplant from the South with a childhood in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee then North and South Carolina. But Teresa headed to California which now feels like home although she'll always have a special place in her heart for the South.

Her love of reading and appreciation of storytelling come from years spent competing and coaching forensics in college giving her the opportunity to discover prose, poetry, and drama while gleaning the author's intent. She graduated from SFSU in speech communications with graduate studies in script writing.

As a marketing professional in the finance and real estate industries, Teresa honed her writing skills working alongside ad agencies, composing TV and radio spots. She longed to write fiction. Her first creative writing assignment in seventh grade was to be no less than three pages. She became lost in that writing experience and went on for fifteen barely-legible, hand-scribbled pages. "I could hardly wait to get to school the next day and turn in my story! I still feel that same exuberance every time I write. I get absorbed in the story and completely lose track of time."

A few years ago Teresa enrolled in a writing class and has written several short fiction pieces, which she hopes to have published. "Submitting my work is a leap of faith and nerve wracking, but it's just part of the process." She appreciates the opportunity to associate with other writers, "Joining CWC just seemed like the next logical step toward publication for me. I've learned a great deal from the workshops and the members are supportive and forthcoming with excellent advice."

Married with a blended family, Teresa and her husband live with their two dogs in Danville.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE COMING YEAR MAY BE SUBMITTED NOW. If you submit before May 1, you'll be in the drawing for a free lunch.

It Is Annual Membership Renewal Time

There really is such a thing as a FREE LUNCH! Renew your membership by May 31st, and your name will be entered in our drawing for a FREE LUNCH at a future meeting of your choice. Don't wait. RENEW TODAY!

Please print and complete this form and include it with your \$45 annual membership renewal payment. If you want to be completely electronic, please see the membership tidbit Elisabeth has sent/will e-mail. Save the renewal form, fill it out and email to Catherine. Since this is a pdf, you cannot write on it from your computer.

We are updating our member database and we want to make sure we have correct information about you. Please PRINT clearly!

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Membership Category: Active Associate Supporting Youth Affiliate

Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

Payment Information

You can renew your membership via check or credit card by following the instructions below.

Payment **by check** -

Make your \$45 check payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch."

Payment **by credit card** -

Note that payment via credit card requires a \$2 credit card transaction fee making the payment a total of \$47.

Please provide the following information:

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date (month/year) _____

Name as it appears on the credit card _____

Billing zip code _____

Mail this form (with a check or credit card info) to:
CWC-Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507.

Security Note: Membership information is not made public at any time.

Thank you for renewing your membership in the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch.

If you have questions, contact Catherine Accardi via email at caacat@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-9015.

2013 Annual Young Writers Contest

Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

The Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club invites you to support today's young middle school students of Contra Costa County who like to write by honoring the great California writers of the past. Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs. Your gift will be acknowledged in the Young Writers Contest program and in the Mount Diablo CWC newsletter. In addition, all donations are tax-deductible. The Young Writers Contest Committee and the Mt. Diablo Board of Directors wish to thank the following donors to the Young Writers Contest from July 1, 2012, to the present:

<p>Foundation Donors <i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p>The John Steinbeck Society</p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club <i>Barbara Bentley</i></p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club <i>Kathy Urban</i> <i>In memory of Nancy O'Connell</i></p> <p><i>Betty Iverson – in honor of all the young writers</i></p> <p><i>David George – in honor of Elizabeth Pentacoff's years of generous time contributions to the success of the program.</i></p> <p><i>Sheryl Ruzek</i></p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</p> <p><i>Sara Wilson – in honor of Elizabeth Pentacoff for her continued support of Young Writers</i></p> <p><i>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff – in memory of Al and Elmer Koehler</i> <i>Elisabeth Tuck</i></p> <p><i>Rick Reed – by donating proceeds from book sales after speaking at Mt. Diablo Branch</i></p> <p><i>Joanne Brown - In honor of Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff's work with the Young Writers Contest.</i></p> <p><i>Karen Tenney for the Betty Tenney Memorial Young Writers Contest Essay Prize</i></p>

~ The Jack London Founder's Circle - \$500

- ~ The John Steinbeck Society - \$250-\$499
- ~ The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club - \$100-\$149
- ~ The Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10-\$24
- ~ The John Muir Member Club - \$150-\$249
- ~ The Mary Austin Writers Club - \$50-\$99
- ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

Please consider joining a Donor Club in support of our Annual Young Writers Contest which awards cash prizes for excellence in the categories: short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative. Winners are notified in May and presented with their awards at a luncheon at a local restaurant. All expenses of the program are supported by individual donations and grants.

Your gift furthers our mission to identify and reward excellence among Contra Costa County middle school students and enables our club to continue and to expand our outreach to young writers. Your gift is fully tax deductible. Thank you to all our members who generously donated to the 2012 Young Writers Contest.

Please list my membership in the following donor club: _____

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

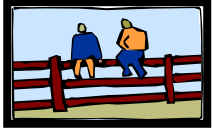
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (checks or cash only, please)

Acknowledge my gift in honor of/in memory of _____

Make your check payable to: *CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch* Mail check to:

CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, Attention: Young Writers Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 9450



The Back Fence

Don't forget to hang out at our **Back Fence**.

That would be our Mount Diablo branch site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>. At The Fence members can find topics of interest to writers. Members can also sign up for Back Fence e-mails. If you haven't yet joined the Back Fence, go to the link above and follow the simple sign-up process.



California Writers Club~Mount Diablo Branch
Post Office Box 606
Alamo, CA 94507

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

~ The California Writers Club is a designated 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. ~

Join Us!
Our next CWC-Mt. Diablo Young Writers Contest
Buffet Luncheon
is May 11, 2013 at 11:00 am, in Pleasant Hill.
For detailed meeting information, go to
<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com>

The California Writer's Club (CWC) shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide the literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership. All items in this newsletter are the opinions of the author(s) and do not in any way represent the views or official position of CWC.