



# The Redwood Writer



November 2010 - [www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org) - Writers Helping Writers



## President's Message: Who wants a critic? By Linda Loveland Reid

"Gee, thanks," I said to my critique group, which had just dismantled my ten-page story, my cheeks aching from the fake grin pasted on my face.

One of the traits a serious writer must develop is the ability to take criticism. Feedback means you are not working in a vacuum, loving each of your well-crafted phrases, but that you are instead hearing how others perceive your plot and brilliant dialogue. It sometimes means you must "kill a darling" or two.

I have been in one critique group for six years and another for two. They offer me needed help in honing my writing pieces. You might think your story is finished, but believe me, when six very different individuals dive into it, you will be amazed at how much they lend to its improvement.

How do you find a critique group? This is a very personal issue. You'll want writers you admire and who write material that complements your own work. Redwood Writers offers many options for members to hear one another read. Go to a Salon or Odd Month Reading at libraries to hear a variety of readers. Ana Manwaring is chair of the RW Critique Club, pairing writers with critique groups already in process or forming new ones. She can *help*, but understand this is a "proactive" project. Only you can decide.

How should a critique group operate? I can attest only to the method used in my groups. We email our submissions ahead of the meeting. Our job is to read the pieces thoroughly and prepare comments. I find that this task enhances my writing because I am learning what does and does not work in the process. At our meeting we give each piece 30 minutes. The author must remain silent. We begin by commenting briefly on what we liked—the "feel good" part. Then, it's open season. In "kind-speak" we tell all: where we got confused, what we wanted more or less of, characters we liked and those we didn't understand, and grammar issues. When I'm author of a piece, I love it when opinions differ, when a hot discussion ensues. At the end, the author gets to tell what he or she was trying to convey. Often, I've changed my mind or have taken away new ideas that I can't wait to get down on paper.

All in all, I would not want to write without these cranky critics. Do I take every idea and change my story? No. I want to keep my voice and judge when to alter that magic moment when words were flying from my fingers. The key is to keep an open mind, let new concepts and thoughts whirl about, and not be afraid to be wrong. Then, get back to that piece and make it twice as powerful.

Redwood Writers offers you lots of opportunity to meet writers who might be right for your critique group. Go for it! You'll wonder how you ever wrote without constructive criticism.

# Redwood Writers Meeting November 14<sup>th</sup>

Guest Speaker: Norman Solomon

Come hear author and columnist Norman Solomon speak about Writers in Our Time of Turmoil at the Redwood Writers general meeting on Sunday, November 14th, 2:30-5:00 p.m. at the Flamingo Hotel, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (707-523-4745). A small fee of \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers is asked to cover speaking fees and light refreshments.



## About Norman Solomon:

As the author of a dozen books and countless articles, Norman will share his thoughts on dilemmas and opportunities for writers in this era. He'll discuss a range of factors that affect the writing experience, from personal needs and techniques to the marketplace and broader socio-economic forces.

Norman Solomon is a nationally syndicated columnist on media and politics. He wrote the weekly "Media Beat" column from 1992 to 2009. His latest book is *Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State* (2007).

Solomon's book *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death* was published in 2005. *The Los Angeles Times* called the book "brutally persuasive" and "a must-read for those who would like greater context with their bitter morning coffee, or to arm themselves for the debates about Iraq that are still to come." The newspaper's reviewer added: "Solomon is a formidable thinker and activist." The *Humanist* magazine described the book as "a definitive historical text" and "an indispensable record of the real relationships among government authorities and media outlets."

A collection of Solomon's columns won the George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language. The award, presented by the National Council of Teachers of English, honored Solomon's book *The Habits of Highly Deceptive Media*.

**At the November 14<sup>th</sup> Redwood Writers meeting** at the Flamingo, David Beckman, playwright of *Becoming Walt Whitman*, running now at 6th Street Playhouse, is coming to speak briefly about how to write a Ten Minute Play. See Ten Minute Play info at end of this newsletter.—

**Linda Reid**

## Redwood Writers Odd Month Reading



**THEME FOR THE MONTH: It's That Time of Year Again—The Relatives!**

SATURDAY, November 6, 2010

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Sebastopol Library (707) 823-7691

7140 Bodega Ave, Sebastopol

<http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/branches/Sebastopol.html>

Redwood Writer, Jeane Slone, will emcee this afternoon of literary delights from Sonoma County authors. Don't miss this opportunity to read your work in public!

Sign-up by emailing [omr@redwoodwriters.org](mailto:omr@redwoodwriters.org)

<http://www.redwoodwriters.org>



## Helene S. Barnhart Award

Congratulations to **Catharine Farrell**, Redwood Writers' first recipient of our new **Helene S. Barnhart Award**! Kate, as she prefers to be called, is a former RW Secretary, CWC Rep, RW Treasurer, amongst other things, for a period of over five years. She was also instrumental in starting our UP Publishing project and former Editor of our new website.

The Helene S. Barnhart Award is a branch-level service award created in 2010 to honor members with exemplary service to the Redwood Branch. This award will be given in alternate years of the Jack London Award, which is given by the state organization, California Writers Club.

This award is named for our wonderful founder, Helene Schellenberg Barnhart. Thirty-five years ago, in 1975, she founded Redwood

Linda Reid, Redwood Writers President, presented the Helene S. Barnhart Award to Kate Farrell at the October meeting.—photo by Jonathan Hayden

Writers, along with forty-five charter members, including current member Alla Crone. Helene was also the first president of Redwood Writers from 1975-1976.—**Juanita J. Martin**, Redwood Writers Historian 2010-2011

## The new Redwood Writers Website

### Team:

The new website team was introduced at the October meeting of the Redwood Writers. (L-R:) Lynn Millar- RW Website Editor, Elaine Maikovska-Events, Osha Hayden- Publicity Director, Redwood Writers President Linda Reid, Julie A. Winrich- Membership & Registration, and Kate Farrell- former Website Editor. Thonie Hevron and Laura Blatt also contribute regularly to the new RW website postings. They were not present for the photo. —photo by **Jonathan Hayden**



# Redwood Branch Emeritus Members Awards

Redwood Writers announced its recognition of longtime members Dorothy Molyneaux and Marion McMurtry for their outstanding contributions to the Redwood Branch of the California Writers Club. Both women are past presidents of Redwood Writers.

Marion McMurtry's Emeritus Award was personally presented to her at her home. She was present at the September meeting of the Redwood Writers to help celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Ms. McMurtry graduated from the University of California and worked at the San Francisco Examiner for about two years before entering into the Office of Secret Service (OSS) in the latter part of World War II.

An accomplished writer, Ms. McMurtry has published about twenty-five newspaper and magazine articles on travel and around 100 articles on history for the Sonoma County Museum. She wrote a bilingual coloring book titled, *Sonoma County is a Great Place to Live*, published by the Sonoma County Library, now in its eighth printing.

Ms. McMurtry joined Redwood Writers in 1975. She is a Charter Member and served the club as a newsletter editor, public relations chair, and conference committee member, as well as serving as president for two years (1998-1990).

Dorothy Molyneaux, a native of Chicago, moved to the West Coast with her physician husband, Glenn, in 1945. While Glenn served in Naval Hospitals in Oregon, Washington, and California, Dorothy earned her PhD degree in Communication Disorders at Stanford University. She and her husband moved to San Francisco after he was discharged from wartime service.

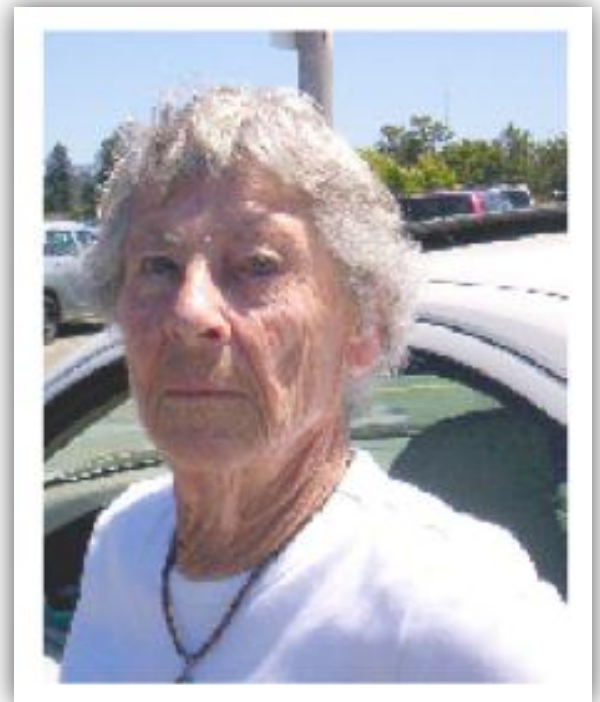
During the 1950, while raising five young children, Ms. Molyneaux began free-lance writing. Her articles have appeared in such varied publications as Home Life, House Beautiful, Modern Man, Catholic Digest, Lutheran Education, Kansas City Star, Healthy Kids, Our Children, The Degree of Honor Protective Association review, and San Francisco Magazine.

In the late 1950s, Ms. Molyneaux became an active member of the Berkeley Chapter of the California Writers Club and served as a member of its Board of Directors. During Ms. Molyneaux's 25 years of tenure at San Francisco State University, she wrote three university textbooks, co-authored with Dr. Vera Lane.

When Ms. Molyneaux and her husband retired to Santa Rosa in the mid 1980's, she transferred her CWC membership to the Redwood Writers. Ms. Molyneaux is currently working on two article projects for the popular market. —**Osha Hayden**, Redwood Writers Publicity Director



**Dorothy Molyneaux with Linda Reid**—photo by Jonathan Hayden



**Marion McMurtry**—photo by Juanita J. Martin

## Member in the Spotlight: Matthew Gollub

—Interview by Mark Sloan

Back when my children were young, when evenings ended with bath, books, and bed, one of their favorite stories was *The Moon Was at a Fiesta*, by Matthew Gollub. Beautifully illustrated, it tells the tale of the Sun and the Moon, who usually stay in their “separate skies,” until one day the Moon decides to throw a party with some earthbound friends and stays up far too late. Sweet and funny, *Moon* became a regular part of our bedtime ritual, right up there with that other lunar tale, *Goodnight Moon*.



I didn't know then that the story was based on a Oaxacan folk tale that explains why the moon is sometimes visible after dawn, or that its author lived in Santa Rosa, not far from where we read his book every night. So for my “Spotlight” I decided to finally meet the man who helped me put my children to bed so many years ago.

Matthew Gollub is a man of many talents. He describes himself as “a children’s book author/performer/publisher,” but that’s only the half of it. His true passion is encouraging young people to read, and encouraging parents to read to their kids. Matthew backs up his words with action—lots of it. He has appeared at more than 1,000 elementary schools, weaving story-telling and music into high-energy performances that encourage children to explore “Language, rhythm, color, life!”—Matthew’s trademark.

As a young man who loved to travel (he spent a year in Japan, for example, playing *taiko* drums and living in a *shinto* shrine), Matthew found his passion for writing children’s books in 1990 on a trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, where he was introduced to the painter Leovigildo Martinez. Their collaboration led to three books of Oaxacan folklore: *The Twenty-five Mixtec Cats*, *Uncle Snake*, and, of course, *The Moon Was at a Fiesta*.

Working with large publishing houses soon gave Matthew the confidence to strike out on his own. He founded Tortuga Press in 1997, and since then he has published his own books with great success: *The Jazz Fly* (2000), illustrated by Santa Rosa graphic designer Karen Hanke and published with an audio CD, won both a Benjamin Franklin Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association, and a Writer’s Digest National Self-Published Book Award. Another, *Give the Gift! 10 Fulfilling Ways to Raise a Lifetime Reader*, was a USA Book News “Best Books Award Finalist” in 2007.

What’s in store for the future? Between school performances and his publishing duties, Matthew is currently promoting his newest book, *Jazz Fly 2: the Jungle Pachanga*. Written in both English and Spanish, *Jazz Fly 2* introduces young readers to bongos, congas, timbales, and Latin jazz—a perfect synthesis of Matthew Gollub’s talents and passions.

Matthew lives in Santa Rosa with his wife, Kalane Wong, and their 14-year-old son Jacob, surrounded by a houseful of percussion instruments from around the world. That’s where you’ll find him most days—tapping out rhythms in between tapping out paragraphs.

To learn more about Matthew Gollub and his writing, go to: [www.matthewgollub.com](http://www.matthewgollub.com) and [www.tortugapress.com](http://www.tortugapress.com).

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## Redwood Reading List:

I am reading *Beat Generation in San Francisco*, a literary Tour by Bill Morgan, *Solitudes Crowded with Loneliness*, by Bob Kaufman and *Chalcedony's Second Ten Songs* by Clive Matson. This comes on the heels of my participation in the Northbeach Artwalk in September. —**Juanita J. Martin**

I am reading *Stepping Through Moons*, a poetry chap book by local poet Toni L. Wilkes. I attended the Londonberry Salon at her home and enjoyed a poetry reading by Lynn Thompson. Also brushing up on Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* for the new play by local playwright David Beckman, *Becoming Walt Whitman*. —**Linda Reid**

## Library Panels:

The **Sonoma County Library** in conjunction with **Redwood Writers** is continuing to offer the popular **Library Panels** where established authors are presenting their views on writing and 'getting published'.

The next session will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Rincon Valley Library from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on **Getting Published**.

Panels will continue through March, 2011. January, February & March dates are being set up, and will be posted at a later date.



Shown here at a Library Panel session are (L-R) back row: Jeane Slone & Sharon Hamilton. Front row: Persia Woolley, Ann Wilkes and Mary Lynn Archibald.

## Notes from a Library Panel session:

Our local library hosted a panel of four brilliant authors who pontificated on the life and methodologies of a writer. I thought I'd share the essential questions for this talk.

### What suggestions do you have for someone who wants to write?

Read everything. After you read everything, decide what you like about what you read and decide what you don't. How will you write differently? Find your genre, and then find your voice. The next step is to write what you think is the perfect form of your genre: are you writing mysteries, Steampunk, or the Great American Novel?

Now finish the novel. There is no better practice for a writer than to practice the big finish. Many aspiring writers find they are great at starting a work, but fail to finish the work.

Publishers are very picky; they buy only finished books.

A comment made to the panel is one I hear often - "I talk so much better than I write."

One of the panelists recommends a tape recorder, so you can capture the moment. My caution is that even in the world of podcasts, you will, at some point, still need to write down your brilliant thoughts. It may be brutal to hear, but writers write, not just talk.

Two of the panelists repeated the cliché: to write, apply your butt to the seat. Writers really do sit for long periods of time, often alone in their offices, and even more often, relishing their solitary splendor. One of the panelists admitted she liked the work of writing, not the speaking in public part that has become so necessary to a successful career.

Writers really love our lonely rooms; we love sitting in our comfortable chairs; we love creating fantastic stories and plots. What we hate is promotion.

### What obstacles or difficulties have you experienced as a writer?

My biggest challenge is finding the motivation to work on a book that has fallen into the trough between the rough or raw draft and the first real draft. The raw draft, perhaps something created during NaNoWriMo, is just fun. Molding the chapters so the action links together and makes some kind of sense, is work. I usually need a schedule either based on time spent or words written to help me focus.

Hank, one of the panelists and a friend, addressed his challenge of struggling to tell the truth in his memoirs only to discover his family members did not agree with his version of their childhood. The best solution was to wait until all the main players in your life were dead before writing about them. For some, that was not entirely practical!

Three of us discussed how we all sometimes circle around, postpone indefinitely, and fret over our work.



Catharine Bramkamp

## How do you manage your writing process?

Some panelist members outline. Some panelists don't. Some worked with the best writing group on the planet and recommended the experience. A couple of us described the writing group from hell. We recommended that in the face of an unsympathetic group, a writer should stay true to the work. If a writing group is not feeding your process, quit the group.

Many of us admitted to being completely obsessed with our work, sometimes resenting any interruption, be it the hungry dog, hungry children, or arterial blood. If we can, we schedule big blocks of time, maybe a whole day, to work on our project. When that day comes and we're all ready to go, what happens? We suddenly need to change all the beds and wash all the towels and trim the lawn. Many of us acknowledged that in the throes of writing, we are unfit for human consumption.

A good writing panel is peopled with authors who care about delivering usable and edifying information to the next generation of writers. We are here to share and help. Writing panels such as this one really focused on the emerging writer. The attendees really liked what the panel members had to say, and as writers helping writers, I think we did the job.

My favorite experience on a panel (for the Roseville Literary Festival) occurred after discussing the mystery genre. The author to my right turned to me and said, "You know, as a rule, I don't like tall, blonde women, but in your case, I'll make an exception."

Now that's success.—**Catharine Bramkamp**

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## Member News:

On Saturday, October 9th I autographed my book, *She Flew Bombers*, at the Second Annual Mustang/Warbirds at the Nut Tree Airport. I sold 24 books! People loved looking at my scrapbook about the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

The highlight of my day was meeting Lt. Col. James C. Warren (86 years old), a "real Tuskegee Airman." The first thing the Lt. Colonel said to me was, "I won't buy your book; there were no black women in the WASPs." I responded, "I know. Director Jackie Cochran turned down a black woman pilot, Willa Brown, because of the segregation laws back then. She told Ms. Brown that she was obviously qualified but knew she would have too much trouble staying in various hotels



while 'hop scotching' across the U.S., ferrying planes. Mrs. Cochran said she was sorry and was impressed that Ms. Brown had been trained by the famous black aviator, Bessie Cole."

The Lt. Col. came back to my booth a few hours later and, much to my surprise, we traded books! He wrote a book, *The Tuskegee Airmen, Mutiny at Freeman Field*, which I will talk about in my blog next week.

I would really appreciate it if members could comment on my blog: <http://blog.jeanelone.com>

In my other blog, every two weeks, I interview a different author about their book. Post a comment and you could win a free autographed copy. Please email me if you have recently written a book and would like to be interviewed on my Author-interviews blog: <http://author-interviews.jeanelone.com> —**Jeane Slone**

**Please welcome** the following new members to Redwood Writers:

Frances Caballo, Nancy L. Gallop, Dr. Venus Maher, Daniel McCann, Mary Ames Mitchell, Richard A. Perce, Mara Roche, George Wilhite, and from the youth group: Brendan Quinlan, Emma Quinlan, Theo Saarinen.—**Julie A. Winrich**,

**Redwood Writers** Membership Chair

**Redwood Reading List:** My wife came home with a pile of books recently. The first one I picked up was *Collected Works of William Wordsworth*. Not really my favorite, but I began reading. I previously was unaware of *The Borderers*, a five-act play written in Shakespeare style. Hero/bandit kills the father of the woman he loves, because another bandit lied to him.—**Farrell Winter**

# Poetry Place

## Tadpoles

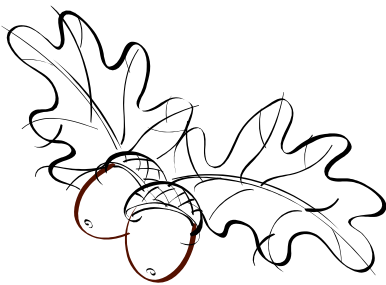
—Jane Person

She fed the neighbor's gold fish  
that hot Sonoma Summer  
frozen bits of liver

She scooped up black tadpoles  
clinging to green scummy pool walls  
Glass jars capped, they went to their death

They did not die in vain  
for she was the ten year old scientist  
an investigator of life not an implement of death

In early fall there were frogs  
The next summer the eleven year old  
fashion designer dressed in green



## The Garden Buddha

—Nancy Gallop

After the spring rain  
Holding diamonds in his lap  
The garden Buddha

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## West Coast Summer 2010

—Catharine Bramkamp

The red wheel barrow of course  
glistening with left over fog

light green tomatoes  
struggle against the chill

the next apocalypse  
will be more about depression

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**Editor's Note:** Poetry Place is now a regular feature in the newsletter. Each month, a poem or two will be selected to be printed in the newsletter. Poems will be chosen based on the space available. Send one poem per person. Use a 12 point Times New Roman font. Shorter poems work best.

**Send poems as a Word document** and email to:  
**Juanita J. Martin,**  
Acquisitions Editor  
[freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com](mailto:freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com)



\*\* Note: Poems need to be sent by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's edition.

## Announcements:

### National Novel Writing Month

Okay! On your mark, get set, GO!

November is National Novel Writing Month, meaning you write a 50,000 word novel from beginning to end in one month!

Yes, this can be done. Last year I wrote 33,000 words and had a ball.

Go to NaNoWriMo on web and sign up to be a contender. Every one of us can be a winner when we pass that 50,000 word goal.

It's fun and heck, you might be writing the next Pulitzer!—**Linda Reid**

### Where ya gonna go to NaNoWriMo?

As Poet Laureate for UUCSR, I am pleased to announce that they will be making their UUCSR Board Room at the **Glaser Center** available Monday nights from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Glaser Center is at 547 Mendocino Ave. Street parking is free after 6 p.m. Their program is "One day, I'd like to write a novel".

Mondays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, are the dates for the NaNoWriMo write-ins at the Glaser Center.

Check the website [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org) for more information. —**Tom J. Mariani**

### Redwood Youth Writers Group This could be the place for you!

At the core of the youth writing group is the monthly meeting which brings young writers together to network, enjoy readings, share ideas, gather for critique, and listen to guest speakers. Young writers participate in fun writing activities and workshops, as well as explore other avenues of interest such as hosting a writer's conference or publishing a young writer's anthology.

Come and be part of an exciting, fun, and creative force!

Redwood Youth Writers Group meets the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 1734 E. Cotati Avenue, Penngrove. For more information contact youth advisor and-award winning young adult author Pamela Pizzimenti at (707) 239-1398 or email any questions to [craigpam2@comcast.net](mailto:craigpam2@comcast.net).

<http://redwoodwriters.org/membership/youth-membership/>

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### Teen Poetry Slam

By Farrell Winter

THE 2010 SONOMA COUNTY BOOK FESTIVAL returned to Santa Rosa's Courthouse Square on Saturday, September 25. One of this year's venues was Fourth Street's "little blue room": Café Azul. It was here, at 3 p.m., that the Annual Teen Poetry Slam slammed into Rosetown, and it was a, well, *slammin'* event. **Juanita J. Martin**, the Sonoma County Library Slam Champion for 2005-2006, powerfully hosted the event. Juanita is quite a capable rapper herself, as she demonstrated before introducing the contestants. Judges were **Cyndia Cole**, **Tom Mariani**, and **Joan Wion**.

The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was **Jemal Williams**, 17, of Santa Rosa. Jemal won the appreciation of an enthralled audience ... and \$75. Congratulations, Jemal! On October 15 of this year, On October 15th of this year, Jemal began hosting the Sonoma County Library Adult Slam event for the 2010-2011 season. Congratulations again! **Brianna Sage**, 16, of Sebastopol, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, earning \$50. At least two people expressed their joy to this writer at hearing this strong young woman forthrightly singing her song of independence, love and justice. Right on and congratulations, Brianna! The prize for 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to **Madelaine Bixler**, 15, of Santa Rosa, for \$25. This lady's poetry really rocked the house. Congratulations, Madelaine! Additionally, every other contestant received \$5 for honorable mention. Congratulations to all! What a fun afternoon this was!

Ten thousand gratitudes to the Sonoma County Book Festival for the award fund. Thank you also to the Book Festival volunteers who helped make this afternoon happen. Special thanks to our judges Cyndia Cole, Tom Mariani, and Joan Wion. Extra special thanks to the person who produced this event on and carried us through, the hardworking Juanita J. Martin. Finally, to all the enthusiastic people in the house who were such an important part of the day, thank you! We eagerly look forward to the next TEEN POETRY SLAM !!

# All About eBooks Symposium

Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco

With the explosion of opportunities available for publishing a book, now is the best time ever to be a writer. On Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> leaders in the digital publishing revolution will join together at the Hilton Hotel-Financial District at the intersection of North Beach and Chinatown in San Francisco for a full day of insight and education at the **All About eBooks Symposium**. This symposium occurs the day before the third San Francisco Writing for Change conference November 13 and 14, and both events are projects of the non-profit San Francisco Writers Conference.

"Two years ago eBooks were considered a tiny afterthought by the publishing industry, but no one considers them insignificant any longer. Some large publishers estimate that more than half their revenue in five years or less will be coming from eBooks. That is an astounding change in a very short time," said Laurie McLean, Dean of the new San Francisco Writers University (SFWriters U), sponsor of this symposium. That is why SFWriters U selected the subject of eBooks for its first live event to kick off its online and offline hub for writers.

According to McLean, authors need to know about the realities of today's publishing technology and get a glimpse into the future of this quickly evolving eBook phenomenon. **The All About eBooks Symposium** offers this information all in one place, all on one day. Beginning with a brief historical perspective on eBooks and ending with where the market is going, the **All About eBooks Symposium** is for writers who are serious about their careers as authors. Literary agents will discuss their take on the eBook universe. Additionally, it is the one place where attendees will be able to experience all of the eBook reader devices at the same time.

"This event is great for authors, publishers, literary agents, publicists, librarians, booksellers, and anyone who needs to understand how eBooks are rapidly changing publishing," McLean said.

Mark Coker of Smashwords will join Rob MacDonald of Scribd to explain how authors can publish their eBooks for free. Philippa Burgess of Studio Mythopoeia and Brad Inman of Vook will discuss the future of enhanced eBooks. Successful eBook authors Simon Wood, Carla King, and Ransom Stephens will share their stories. A panel of agents including Nathan Bransford of Curtis Brown, Laurie McLean of Larsen Pomada, and April Eberhardt of Kimberley Cameron will be interviewed by Michael Wolf of GigaOM during lunch at Chinatown's famous R&G Lounge. Finally, a panel of eReader manufacturers will discuss their products, followed by a hands-on device exhibition and cocktail reception shared with San Francisco Writing for Change attendees and presenters.

**The cost of the all-day event, including the luncheon panel, cocktail reception, and eReader exhibit, is \$199. The event is limited to 75 participants. Find further information at [www.allaboutebooks.us](http://www.allaboutebooks.us), call Laurie McLean at 650-747-0796, or visit [www.sfwritingforchange.org](http://www.sfwritingforchange.org) and click on "All about eBooks Symposium."**

*This event is sponsored by San Francisco Writers University, a project of the non-profit San Francisco Writers Conference. The San Francisco Writers Conference, now in its eighth year, will be held February 18-20, 2011, at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Keynote speakers include Dorothy Allison and David Morrell. The San Francisco Writers Conference also presents the San Francisco Writing for Change conference, taking place November 13-14, 2010, featuring keynoters Dan Millman and John Robbins. Find further information at [www.sfwriters.org](http://www.sfwriters.org).*

## The Redwood Writer

P.O. Box 4687  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

[www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org)

**Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month**

Why I Write submissions are limited to 60 words

Redwood Reading List submissions are limited to 60 words

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Tam  
Chief Tech

**Poetry Course of Study:** I have recently typed a 'request for consideration' letter to Stanford University. This letter requests that the Extended Education Department survey the possibility of establishing an online Certificate Course of Study in Poetry similar to the residence course of study offered in Iowa. To add your request, go to: [www.continuingstudies@stanford.edu](http://www.continuingstudies@stanford.edu) —Don Hagelberg

### **GROWING GREAT CHARACTERS: ADVANCED SCENE WRITING**

**Martha Engber**, author of *Growing Great Characters From The Ground Up* and *The Wind Thief* will offer the following writing workshop at **Book Passage** in Corte Madera: **Sat., Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **Writers Forum of Petaluma proudly presents David Corbett**

Thursday, November 18th, 2010 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Petaluma Community Center, 320 No. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma  
\$15 at the door

**David Corbett will speak on: *Integrating Character & Story Arcs and Three-Act Structure***

Writers often intuitively understand character and story arcs, and sometimes even have a working command of three-act structure, and yet stumble when trying to integrate the two. In this course, using a variety of examples, David will show how to maximize the dramatic impact of character and story arcs by revealing the three-act structure implicit within them.

**DAVID CORBETT** is the author of four critically acclaimed novels: *The Devil's Redhead*, *Done for a Dime*, *Blood of Paradise*, and *Do They Know I'm Running?* His short fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies, including *Best American Mystery Stories 2009*. [www.davidcorbett.com](http://www.davidcorbett.com) —submitted by **Marlene Cullen**

## **Sonoma County Free Bookmobile**

We are pleased to announce that, due to the popularity of the Sonoma County Free Bookmobile, we need helping hands to maintain the highest quality service for our growing numbers of patrons. We have now surpassed the 15,000 books-given-away mark, just received word of our third mini-grant win (thank you, Santa Rosa Community Action Board!) toward purchase of a new bookmobile, and are blessed with the most consistently generous book donators in the land. In short, we are onto something great here, and we hope that you'll lend a little of your time and energy.

Here are the current volunteer positions. We will keep this list updated via a download link on our Help Us! page on the bookmobile website: <http://sonomacountybookmobile.org>.

For more information about these opportunities, just reply to this email or call 520-4536.

Thank you for your continued support,

—Glen Weaver, Director, Sonoma County Free Bookmobile

## **Submit Your Plays:**

**Tapas** is requesting submissions of plays, right on top of our own **10-Minute Play Contest**.

Get in the swing and fun of writing short plays and submit to both RW and Tapas!

See below for Tapas guidelines from Lois Pearlman.

**See the end of this newsletter for the RW 10-Minute Play Contest.**

Tapas: New Short Play Festival is also seeking submissions for its 2011 production. This popular production is scheduled to run four weekends in late spring 2011. It will feature eight short plays written by northern California playwrights, and includes an opening gala/playwrights' reception.

Playwrights may submit up to two plays, five to 15 minutes in length. There is no entrance fee and no royalty payment for production. Plays can be previously produced but not published. The deadline is Jan. 31, 2011.

Please email the plays to [lois5@sonic.net](mailto:lois5@sonic.net) as a pdf, or in some other Macintosh-compatible format. Include a cover page with your contact information.

For more information about the playwriting workshop, or submitting plays to Tapas, please contact Lois Pearlman at 707-869-0266 or [lois5@sonic.net](mailto:lois5@sonic.net) —Lois Pearlman, Creative Producer for Tapas



Lois Pearlman

# 10-Minute Play Contest

- Open to general public
- Deadline December 15
- Awards Feb 13 at membership meeting
- Production! April 29 & 30

## Join in the fun with Redwood Writers first Playwriting Contest!

Prize! Winning plays will be performed at the first ever  
Redwood Writers Play Festival Fundraiser in April!

### Submission rules:

- 1) Play must be 10-minutes in length
- 2) Play cannot have more than 4 characters
- 3) \$5 per play for CWC members; \$8 non-members
- 4) Maximum of 3 plays per person
- 5) Format: 12 point font, Times Roman, single spaced
- 6) On play: print name of play (do not print author name)
- 7) On Cover letter: print name of play, author name, email, home address, phone, and 60 word bio
- 8) Submit only via email. Send cover letter and play as attachment to:  
[lindareid100@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindareid100@sbcglobal.net)
- 9) Submissions must be received via email by midnight Dec 15

(Note: There is no submission form. Information about the contest is on website at [www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org))

Judges: Lois Pearlman - actor and director of Tapas  
Shirley Hall - actor and director

Redwood Writers April Play Festival Fundraiser will be full of  
Talent, Wine, Food and THEE!

For your convenience, here is a half-page guideline from Lynn Millar, Editor of the Redwood Writers website:

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the Redwood Writers website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://redwoodwriters.org>. The website header includes the text "A Branch of the California Writers Club" and the main title "Redwood Writers" with the tagline "writers helping writers". A navigation menu at the top right contains links for "ABOUT", "CONTACT", "BLOG", "PHOTOS", and "RESOURCES". Below the header, there is a secondary menu with links for "EVENTS & ACTIVITIES", "REDWOOD CONFERENCE", "CONTACTS", "MEMBERSHIP", "PUBLICATIONS", and "NEWSLETTER". The main content area features a "Presidents Message" section with a "Redwood Member Spotlight" icon, an "Upcoming Events" section with a "Don't miss our conference on October 30th" announcement, and a "Redwood Writers Conference" section for October 29-30, 2010. A search bar is located in the top right of the main content area. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the "start" button and several open applications.

Enter website address here. In many browsers, just enter [redwoodwriters.org](http://redwoodwriters.org). After you access it the first time, you can Bookmark it and find it faster next time.

Click on any of these headings to go to an informational page.

Click on any of these icons to go right to those pages.

Remember: "Click" means tapping your mouse. (Left button on your Microsoft mouse.) "Dragging" means holding the button down, while you move the mouse.

Scroll down this page, by clicking and dragging the scroll bar.

Or Scroll down this page, by clicking on the miniscule arrow.

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