



# THE PENINSULA WRITER

Saturday, November 21st

Fact Based Fiction

With:

Douglas Abrams, Author of *The Eye of the Whale*

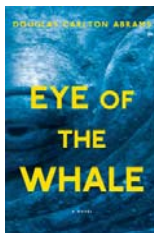


Douglas Abrams writes fact-based fiction that tells an exciting story while at the same time changing the world we live in. His latest book, *The Eye of the Whale*, has been on the best seller list of the San Francisco Chronicle. His first book, *The Lost Diary of Don Juan*, has been

published in thirty countries around the world and was recently optioned for film.

He is a former editor at the University of California Press and HarperSanFrancisco

Doug is also the co-founder of Idea Architects, a book and media development agency that works with visionary scientists, scholars, and spiritual leaders to create a wiser, healthier, and more just world. Abrams has collaborated with a number of the world's great scholars, scientists, and moral leaders, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, founder of EarthSave International and best-selling author John Robbins, primatologist Frans De Waal, and astrophysicist Joel Primack.



## CWC OPEN MIKE NIGHT



Wednesday, November 18th  
7:30 PM

Twelve writers read for ten minutes each. A great opportunity for authors to get exposure and practice public speaking skills

Open to all!! Readers, writers, and passers by.

To reserve a spot, contact emcee  
Jim Hanna:

[OpenMic@sfpeninsulawriters.com](mailto:OpenMic@sfpeninsulawriters.com)

WHERE: Borders Books and  
Music, 2925 El Camino Real, San  
Mateo  
650-286-1895

**FOR DETAILS ON MEETING LOCATION, PLEASE SEE  
PAGE 11**

**President's message  
by Tory Hartmann  
November, 2009**



I've always considered fall to be the beginning of a new year. When the Labor Day sun sets, people get back work. It's a great time to set new goals, start a new project, take that class or workshop, or market that book or short story.

If fall really is the beginning of the New Year, your club is off to a great start.

- 1) Thanks to the work of the Publication Committee, the club will be sponsoring an anthology of members' works. Watch for the call to submit!
- 2) We will be revving up our e-zine and making it more visible on the site. Check around for stories you may have had published elsewhere as this is a good place to give them a second life. Call to submit will come soon.
- 3) Members' Gallery: Send your bio and photo to [toryhartmann@hotmail.com](mailto:toryhartmann@hotmail.com). If you need help with format, check out what's there now and follow suit. We haven't uploaded any new bios yet because they are uploaded eight at a time. So get going! By the way, besides a photo you may also have a link to your site. This is a good thing to do and a nice benefit of membership.
- 4) Do you have a published book? Send us the photo of your book cover so we can put it on a page entitled Members' Publications. This is new. I've seen other clubs do it and it makes a very impressive page!
- 5) Save the date! We will be having a Holiday Party, Saturday, December 12th from 5:00 – 7:30 pm at the Peninsula Regent, One Baldwin Avenue, Penthouse Level, San Mateo (at El Camino).

See you at the next meeting! And in the meantime, brush off that short story, essay, or memoire and get it ready so when the call to submit comes, you'll be ready!

Tory Hartmann

## **The Members Showcase Returns!!**

We're bringing back the Members Showcase Table. All meetings will now have a table available upon which members can sell their work or services.

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## **Are you on the Members Gallery?**

One of the benefits of membership in the SF/Peninsula Branch of Cal Writers is posting your bio, photo and a link to your website on our website. Check out "Members" at [www.cwc-peninsula.org](http://www.cwc-peninsula.org) and join the Gallery.

To get on the Gallery, send your bio with your link as well as your photo to [toryhartmann@hotmail.com](mailto:toryhartmann@hotmail.com).

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## Break in the New Year: Share Your Writing\

I've never been a big believer in New Year's Resolutions. Oh, I'm not saying they don't work. I'm just saying I don't—usually—like making them. How can I look twelve months ahead and know what I want to have accomplished across that time span? And let's not forget the P word...pressure. So, usually, on New Year's Eve, you'll find me hanging out with my family, *not* watching the ball drop in Times Square. And on New Year's Day, I'm sleeping in and enjoying a big breakfast.

Because, of course, the next day I have to get back to that weight-loss resolution.

And start work on the one, annual resolution I really *want* to make: to move forward on my writing. And to share that writing with my critique group.

Obviously, I'm biased (see my bio below), but I believe that a strong critique group is one of the best tools you can give yourself to grow your writing. So, as my the-year-is-turning gift to you, here's a reminder of all the benefits of passing your writing around...and getting it back.

- A community of people who understand when you mutter about plot points and character arcs
- Deadlines, as firm or soft as you want them, to motivate you to turn out pages
- Two or three people, other than your mother, telling you what is and isn't working in your book
- Those same two or three people telling you these things *before* you invite an agent or publisher to take a peek
- Brainstorming time to help you get over humps and past blocks
- Support and encouragement during the hard times, praise and celebration during the good
- Chocolate

Yes, there are challenges in finding and building a strong critique group. Some of these challenges may have kept you from seeking out a critique group so far, or may have pushed you to step away from the one you were in. Or maybe you were lucky and had one of the good groups, which broke apart for one of many life-happens reasons, and you haven't yet started your search for the next good thing.

Start that search.

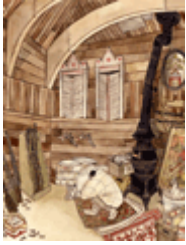
You're a writer, and writers write. You know what? They share, too.

Happy Holidays, and a wonderfully productive New Year!

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Becky Levine ([www.beckylevine.com](http://www.beckylevine.com)) is a member of the South Bay CWC branch. Her book, *The Writing & Critique Group Survival Guide* is coming from Writer's Digest Books, January 15, 2010. Becky's launch party will be January 30 at 3:00 p.m., at Books Inc, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto. Everybody's invited! If you'd like to be on the Evite list as a reminder, send Becky a note at [beckylevine@ymail.com](mailto:beckylevine@ymail.com).

## Looking for places to submit your work??



### dislocate

The submissions are pouring in for Issue #6, but our reading period is open through December 1st, so send us your work via email or post! We're looking for exciting new work from both emerging and established writers, and we're interested in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and hybrid/cross-genre forms. Check out our submission guidelines at <http://www.dislocate.org/submit> for more details, and pick up a copy to see the kind of work *dislocate* has published in the past (you can order at [dislocate.org](http://www.dislocate.org)).

We're also running a nonfiction contest: The Contaminated Essay. Send us work that is contaminated in content, form, or process (see <http://www.dislocate.org/submit> for detailed guidelines). We're excited that award-winning poet and essayist Lia Purpura (*King Baby, On Looking*) will judge. Prize: \$400 and publication in *dislocate* #6. The entry fee of \$15 will get you a 2-issue subscription to *dislocate*, and all entries will be considered for publication. We accept both electronic and postal submissions. We look forward to hearing from you!



The Short Story Award for New Writers competition closes November 30. We're looking for original, unpublished stories by writers whose fiction has not been presented in a print publication with a circulation over 5,000. Maximum word count: 12,000. (Any shorter lengths are welcome.) First-place wins \$1,200 and publication in *Glimmer Train Stories* Issue 77. Second- and third-place winners win \$500/\$300 (or, if chosen for publication, \$700).



The 2009 London Book Festival will consider entries in general non-fiction, fiction, biography/autobiography, children's books, cookbooks, compilations/anthologies; e-books; genre-based, how-to, photography/art, spiritual, music, teenage/young adult, unpublished stories and the wild card (anything goes!) categories published on or after Jan. 1, 2005. All entries must be in English and can be published, self-published or issued by an independent publishing house.

**FESTIVAL RULES:** London Book Festival submissions cannot be returned. Each entry must contain the official entry form, including your e-mail address and contact telephone number. All shipping and handling costs must be borne by entrants.

Deadline submissions in each category must be postmarked by the close of business on Nov. 25, 2009. Winners in each category will be notified by e-mail shortly after the final entry deadline and the results will be posted at [www.Londonbookfestival.com](http://www.Londonbookfestival.com). Please note that judges read and consider submissions on an ongoing basis, comparing early entries with later submissions at our meetings.

**TO ENTER:** Entry forms are available online at [www.Londonbookfestival.com](http://www.Londonbookfestival.com) or [www.diyconvention.com](http://www.diyconvention.com) or may be faxed/e-mailed to you. Applications must be accompanied by a non-refundable entry fee via check, money order or PayPal online payment of \$50 in U.S. dollars for each submission. Multiple submissions are permitted but each entry must be accompanied by a separate form and entry fee.



Stanford University Libraries, in partnership with the William Saroyan Foundation, announces the launch of the fourth William Saroyan International Prize for Writing (Saroyan Prize). Intended to encourage new or emerging writers and honor the Saroyan literary legacy of originality, vitality and stylistic innovation, the Saroyan Prize recognizes newly published works of both fiction and non-fiction. A prize of \$5,000 will be awarded in each of these categories. Literary fiction, including novels, short story collections, and drama, will be eligible for consideration for the Saroyan Fiction Prize. Literary non-fiction of any length is eligible for consideration for the Saroyan Non-fiction Prize, most particularly writing in the Saroyan tradition: memoirs, portraits and excursions into neighborhood and community. Entries in either category are limited to English language publications that are available for individual purchase by the general public. Entries must be received on or before January 31, 2010. Official entry forms and rules are available at <http://saroyanprize.stanford.edu>

## **Conferences and Workshops!!**

### **Mt. Diablo Branch, California Writers Club Presents a Creative Writing Workshop**

Award-winning novelist Janis Cooke Newman will lead a 2 ½ hour workshop on Saturday, November 14, 2009, on storytelling skills, plotting, and narrative, using the techniques of best-selling authors.

Ms. Newman is the author of *Mary*, an historical novel about Mary Todd. She teaches writing at Book Passage in Corte Madera, the Writing Salon in San Francisco, and at the San Francisco Writers grotto.

CWC members and all interested fiction writers are invited to attend.

The California Writers Club workshop is from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, November 14, 2009, followed by a buffet luncheon. Sign in begins at 9:00 a.m. at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. \$35 for CWC members (lunch only: \$20.) \$40 for non-members (lunch only: \$25.).

Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. Contact Veronica Rossi via e-mail at [verorossi@aol.com](mailto:verorossi@aol.com), or by phone at (925) 743-1886. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

The California Writers Club Mt. Diablo Branch web address is: <http://www.mtidiablowriters.org>

### **Learn More About Animal Interest Publishing and Improve Your Earning Potential: Attend the Business of Pet Writing Conference**

New York, New York-September 1, 2009- In today's shaky economy you need an edge. The world of niche pet writing is like any other these days; more individuals vying for less writing assignments and publishing opportunities. Transcend your pet writing competition by attending the second annual Business of Pet Writing Conference hosted by pet expert and author Charlotte Reed, on Saturday, February 13th, 2010 in the publishing capital of the world, New York City.

The 2010 Business of Pet Writing Conference features a variety of seminars designed to give pet writers inside information, detailed direction and constructive criticism about writing, publishing and selling their work. Topics include "How Libraries Build Their Pet Book Collections", led by Library Journal book review editor, Wilma Williams, "Leveraging Social Media for Profit", led by book marketing and media expert, Penny Sansevieri and "The Basics of Children's Publishing", led by author Harold Underdown.

In addition to the expert led seminars, the Pet Writing Conference also offers agent and magazine panels composed of animal interest magazine and successful agents discussing the direction magazine and publishing houses are taking. Specifically, the

agent panelists will discuss the future of the publishing industry and how the agent works with the writer to sell a book proposal. The magazine panel will cover the difference of pitching magazine versus online content. Beyond the panel discussions, representatives from Folio Literary Management, Epstein Literary, Foundry Literary + Media, and others will be available for one-on-one sessions.

Editors from such notable publications as Bowtie Press, Kennel Club Books, Animal Wellness, Dog Fancy, Doggie Aficionado, Alpine Publications, St. Martin's Press, Dog Wise Publishing, TFH Publications, Dogs in Review, Barron's Publishing, Storey Publishing and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will also be on hand for personal sessions with pet writers to discuss book and magazine pitches and proposals.

"The first Business of Pet Writing Conference was an unqualified success for all parties involved. Agents, editors, writers of all levels and sponsors had the opportunity to learn and network," states Business of Pet Writing Conference founder, Charlotte Reed. "The upcoming Business of Pet Writing Conference will be equally as successful and beneficial to writers, editors, agents, and publishers looking to get ahead in the genre of animal interest."

The Business of Pet Writing Conference is sponsored by a variety of distinguished organizations including the American Animal Hospital Association; Automobile Association of American; the American Pet Products Association; the Cat Fancier's Association; Dyson; Halo, Purely for Pets; the Metropolitan Dog Club, and the Pet Food Institute.

Guarantee a unique opportunity to meet with publishing insiders and pet industry experts by registering early for the 2010 Business of Pet Writing Conference. The conference is offering an Early Bird special of \$150 for applicants registering before October 31st. Applicants registering on or after November 1st, the price will increase to \$175 to attend. For more information about the Business of Pet Writing Conference, contact The Pet Socialite, Inc. 362 Broome Street, Ste. #20, New York, New York 10013. Email: [info@petwritingconference.com](mailto:info@petwritingconference.com). Telephone: 212-631-3648. Fax: 888-492-3452.

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## *Miscellanea...*

### **The Future of Books, November 16, 2009**

Publishing companies are coming up with creative ways to keep written media relevant in an overwhelmingly digital market

**Kevin Hunsanger**, Owner, Green Apple Books

**Jared Friedman**, Co-founder, Scribd

**Brewster Kahle**, Director and Co-founder, Archive.org

**Dan Clancy**, Engineering Director, Google Books

**David Hellman**, Associate Librarian, San Francisco State University - Moderator

Will the printed word become obsolete? Access to information is constantly changing, and the popularity of e-books and online material is on the rise. To survive, publishing companies are trying to adapt to new forms of written media. Discover how innovations such as the Kindle and Google Books will affect us both socially and economically and learn how industry insiders are keeping up with the changes.

**Location:** SF Club Office

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. networking reception, **6 p.m. program**

**Cost:** MEMBERS FREE, \$18 non-members, \$7 students (with valid ID)

**To register:** [http://tickets.commonwealthclub.org/auto\\_choose\\_ga.asp?area=1&shcode=1366](http://tickets.commonwealthclub.org/auto_choose_ga.asp?area=1&shcode=1366)

## Self-Publishing Boot Camp

We won't make you do sit-ups at the next Self-Publishing Boot Camp Workshop: Ten Steps to Self-Publishing Success on January 30, 2010! SBW members get a \$10 discount for this all-day workshop with Lisa Alpine and Carla King.

Self-Publishing Boot Camp <http://selfpubbootcamp.com/>

Fort Mason Center in San Francisco

Saturday, January 30, 2010

9 - 4 pm

\$125 (Lit Guide readers \$115)

The fee includes their hot-off-the-press 87-page Self-Publishing Boot Camp Workbook (a \$29.95 value)

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS



Have an announcement? Want to publicize an event, competition or writers forum of potential interest to other club members? If so, please submit your entries, no later than the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter to: Linda Okerlund, newsletter editor, at [lokerlund@comcast.net](mailto:lokerlund@comcast.net).



### YOUR BOARD:

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Newsletter Editor: Linda Okerlund

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### DIRECTIONS TO THE BELMONT LIBRARY:

**FROM HIGHWAY 280:** Take HWY 92 east to Ralston Ave. Turn left to The Alameda. Turn right.

**FROM HIGHWAY 101** Take the Ralston Ave, Belmont exit. Cross the El Camino to The Alameda. Turn left.

**FROM El Camino Real:** Head west on Ralston to The Alameda. Turn left.

Once on the Alameda, the library is two blocks further, to the right.

**BUS ROUTE:** Use SamTrans 295 on The Alameda or SamTrans KX, PX, or TX and get off at El Camino and Ralston in Belmont. Call 1-800-660-4BUS or check out [www.samtrans.com](http://www.samtrans.com) for further information regarding details on schedules and routes.

\*\*\***PARKING**\*\*\*: There is free parking at the library. Some free street parking is also available. The library parking lot is very limited. **Please use the street and use the lot only if is absolutely necessary!**