



WRITERSTALK

Volume 24
Number 2
February 2016

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: PANEL ON SELF-PUBLISHING

RECAP: JANUARY, KYMBERLIE INGALLS

Tips and Tricks: Bring Your Books to the World

by Jenni Everidge

By now, we all have heard a lot of things about self-publishing. How it is changing the face of publishing and how it is a pain in the rear, but how often do we talk about the benefits? How often do we look at it as an opportunity instead of a resignation?

I wanted to hear from writers in our own community about the subject, because I know we have a lot of talented people already here in our club who are self-published. I wanted to pick their brains and ask them all sorts of questions about their journeys as self-published writers. I wanted to know so I could spread the word to others.

And then I figured, why not share this with the rest of the group?

Therefore, I am inviting you to the season's first Author's Panel, "Self-Publishing: tips and tricks to bring your book to the world." Come and pick the brains of our panel of writers, all located in the South Bay: Chess Desalls, R. L. King, and Mark Gelineau and Joe King, of the writing duo, Gelineau and King. They will be here on February 8th, telling you a little bit about how they came to be self-published, and some of the ways they make it all work and worthwhile.

Still undecided? How about tips for marketing your work? Where to find an amazing cover artist? How to find the time in your busy schedule to write multiple books in one year?

You'll have to come and see for yourself. Harry's Hofbrau, February 8, 6 p.m. — WT

Our Self-Publishing Panel:

All four of our panelists, Joe King, Mark Gelineau, Chess Desalls, and R. L. King, are starting promising writing careers; all appear on our Goodreads page and have been interviewed by SBW Talkbooks.

See ChessDesalls.wordpress.com/interviews.



Joe King



Mark Gelineau

Mark Gelineau and Joe King, the authors of *Faith and Moonlight*; *Best Left in the Shadows*; and *Rend the Dark*, are cranking out a book a month.

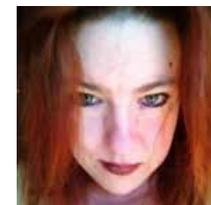
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Blog and Brand: Here's How

by Linda Judd

In January, savvy speaker on "Blogging and Branding: Why Aren't You?" Kymberlie Ingalls delivered good information about blogging and points to keep in mind for branding your presence on the web. Speaking to an audience who were up to 92% non-bloggers, Kymberlie shared her "why."

As a pioneer in blogging since 1997, only a few years after the World Wide Web was born, Kimberlie has pushed the limits. She found the best use of blogging is to have your blog focused and branded. She introduced to us her network of blogs. Each one serves a different type of connection with her audience: personal essay, news source, opinion, music, and one for her writings, both memoir and fiction. For a brand to truly thrive, it's become somewhat of a necessity to have a presence across multiple channels.



She uses the same photo from site to site with her brand verbiage: "Kymberlie Ingalls is native to the Bay Area in California. She is a pioneer in blogging, having self-published online since 1997. Her style is loose, experimental, and a journey in stream of consciousness. Works include personal essay, prose, short fictional stories, and a memoir in progress. Thank you for taking a moment of your time to visit. Beware of the occasional falling opinions. For editing services: <http://www.kymberlieingalls.com/p/editing-services.html>."

Continued on page 6

President's Perspective

by Patrick McQueen
President, South Bay Writers



In Memoriam: Carolyn D. Wright

"You must know
how it goes, known all along what to expect,
sooner or later ... the faded cadence of anonymity."

—"only the crossing counts"

—Carolyn D. Wright

Carolyn D. Wright edited for Lost Roads Publishing, 1978 – 2005. She was Poet Laureate of Rhode Island in 1994 and was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 2005. She passed away on January 12, 2016, at the age of sixty-seven.

For the last few days, I've been meditating on Wright's poems, letting her contrasts deepen my own perspectives as I reflect on her legacy.

According to her Wikipedia page, her work "honors those whose stories or voices might be lost were it not for her writing." Her poem, "Our Dust," autobiographically emphasizes this truth. Today, I read it as a eulogy.

Following her lead, I walk the streets of ghost towns lingering in silence after the factories bolted their doors and moved the jobs across the state. I flip through a quarter-inch phone book and pet a feral cat—all that remains of a failed roadside zoo—all while she makes "simple music/out of sticks and string."

At the end of "Our Dust," she writes:

"Believe me I am not being modest when I
admit my life doesn't bear repeating. I
agreed to be the poet of one life,
one death alone. I have seen myself
in the black car. I have seen the retreat
of the black car."

As her black car rolls away, knowing she is not coming back, I thank her for leaving her words and her legacy.

"Our Dust," in its entirety, is available at:

www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/01/14/c-d-wright-1949-2016/ — WT

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SBW Mission

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

Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Dual membership: \$25. Contact Membership Chair, Sally Milnor, or sign up online at southbaywriters.com



WritersTalk

is the monthly newsletter of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club.

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Submissions

Members of the South Bay Writers Club are encouraged to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. All submissions will be copyedited. The Managing Editor decides which submissions to publish.

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Suggested word limits are not absolute; shorter preferred. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files.

Anything Goes—Almost (300 words)

News Items (400 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

Creative Works

Short Fiction (1200 words)
Memoir (1200 words)
Poetry (300 words)
Essay (900 words)

Member Achievement and News:

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Announcements and Advertisements

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

An announcement is information of interest and value to writers that does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator and is published free of charge.

Advertising of workshops, conferences, and events is accepted from other Branches of California Writers Club. Because California Writers Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, *WritersTalk* is not accepting advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. Also, we cannot accept political advertising of any kind.

Authors retain all rights to their works. *WritersTalk* gratefully acknowledges the authors' permission to publish their works here. Contact individual authors for permission to reprint.

Our Mission

Encouraging writers at all levels of expertise to hone their skills in the craft of writing

Change of Address: Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com or use MRMS

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Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Managing Editor



On Can Openers

Cleaning out cupboards: not my favorite task. All this stuff—an euphemism for the junk of forty years: who needs ten can openers, ranging from a church key to a broken electric model. I wondered if they'd bred in the drawer, or where they'd come from.

Glad for a diversion, I raced to ask Google. It seems that Napoleon—yes, the French general with one hand under his jacket who was defeated at Waterloo—had a lot to do with can openers.

Napoleon once said, “An army travels on its stomach.” He had to feed an army of hungry warriors, and he couldn't always rely upon obtaining provisions locally. Worse, 200 years ago, food preservation was limited to drying and salting. He offered 12,000 francs (a large amount of money then) to anyone who could come up with a better way to preserve food for soldiers on the battlefield for months at a time.

In January 1810, the Frenchman Nicolas Appert won Napoleon's prize for his discovery that if you pack food in a vacuum, such as in a sealed wine bottle, it would last a long time. Home canners still use that technology, packing fruit and tomatoes into Mason jars. But glass breaks.

Later in 1810, the Englishman Peter Durand patented the idea of vacuum packing food in metal cans. Then, food could be preserved, but the cans were so difficult to open that soldiers attacked them with bayonets or smashed them against rocks until Napoleon's defeat in 1815.

The can opener wasn't invented until 1858, when Ezra Warner patented a bayonet and sickle opener that left extremely rough edges. Rough, indeed: I remember cutting my thumb years ago, when I used the one my mother kept in her junk drawer, a collection spanning fifty years which my sister and I cleaned out twenty-seven years ago.

So, why am I telling you this, in an editorial for *WritersTalk*? Each item of junk has a story behind it.

If you are suffering from writer's block, clean out those closets but save the memories. You will find many vignettes; send one of them to prompts@southbaywriters.com, “vignette prompt” in the subject line (see Page 8).

Who knows? Your “treasures” may lead to a memoir piece. If so, share it with us in *WritersTalk*, as your answer to “the junk drawer prompt.” —*WT*



View from the Board

by Sheena Arora

On Tuesday, January 6, nine South Bay Writers board members met in San Jose: President Patrick McQueen, Vice President Jenni Everidge, Secretary Sherrie Johnson, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Members-at-Large Robyn King and Sheena Arora, Hospitality Chair Carole Taub, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, and Membership Chair Sally Milnor. Kimberly Malanczuk also participated.

Future SBW board meetings will be held every month at 7 PM on the Tuesday preceding the monthly Harry's dinner meeting. We will meet at Lyon's Restaurant, 4233 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose 95129. Board meetings are open to all SBW club members.

The SBW Board thanks Hospitality Chair Carole Taub for hosting the holiday party. Apart from enjoying a potluck, club members also participated in a white elephant gift exchange.

The SBW club anthology is taking shape. Check South Bay Writers website www.southbaywriters.com for writing prompts. Keep in mind the submission deadline for the first prompt is March 31, 2016.

SBW board members say goodbye to Publicity Chairman Kimberly Malanczuk. Kim was a valuable part of the SBW board. In her two and half years, she spearheaded many changes for the club and made our web page shine. Our best wishes to Kim for her future creative projects; Kim plans to devote more time to writing. Good luck Kim! And a million times, thank you.

We hope everyone had a good start to the New Year. We are assuming that you got some writing done along with enjoying holiday treats. We have moved to a new location for future board meetings—good news that our new abode has all the food, seating, and parking you desire. So join us and share your comments and concerns. In case you can't make it to the board meeting, find us at Harry's on the second Monday of each month.

You can contact us via email at pres@southbaywriters.com —WT

Mid-Month SBW Board Update: Welcome Your New PR Chairperson

by Patrick McQueen,
President, South Bay Writers

Since August 2013, South Bay Writers has had a creative and proactive PR Chairperson whose value is evident in the size and culture of our membership. The best person to fill the role is a passionate, relatable writer already deeply invested in the club's members and activities.

I am pleased to announce my appointment of **Linda Judd** to the helm of our publicity and public relations. Linda comes highly recommended by some of the club's most active and influential members. Everyone who has worked with Linda knows she will pour her whole heart and soul into the position. —WT

New Option Available: *WritersTalk*

by Linda Judd

The SBW Board has approved an update of the mailing list database to reflect how members want to receive the newsletter.

New option available for receiving the *WritersTalk* newsletter:

If you would rather receive a digital copy than a paper copy of *WritersTalk*, please send an email with your choice to Linda Judd, publicity.sbw@gmail.com.

Thank you. —WT

Member News

Compiled by *WritersTalk* Staff

We applaud and celebrate your writing successes.

To have your writing accomplishments appear here, submit them by email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com or in writing at the registration table at any regular meeting of South Bay Writers. Examples of newsworthy accomplishments: story or poem published; book published; book signing; contest won; invited as a speaker; interviewed for television or newspaper; play produced. In addition, when your book is published, you can submit a thumbnail of the book's cover and a paragraph describing the book to *WritersTalk*.

The *WritersTalk* deadline is always the fifteenth of the month.

The January 2016 issue of *Today's Senior Magazine* contains a piece by **Betty Auchard**: "Back on Home Turf," from her memoir *The Home for the Friendless*.

Chess Desalls recently received two 5 Star reviews from *Readers' Favorite*. The first was for her novel, *Insight Kindling*, and the second (to appear) was for her novella, *Lantern*. Chess writes, "I'm very excited about this and encourage everyone to submit books for review. It's free, and if the reviewer can't give the book at least 4 stars, they don't publish the review. Instead, they provide the review to the author as critical feedback. The review can also be added to the Editorial Review section for Amazon. Check it out: <https://readersfavorite.com/> Also, see www.goodreads.com/review/show/1466337622, Chess's Goodreads page.

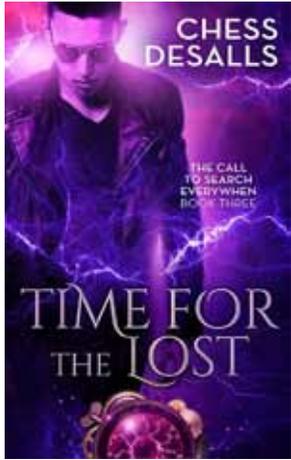
January 5, 2016: A new release from **Valerie Estelle Frankel**: *A Rey of Hope: Feminism, Symbolism and Hidden Gems in Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. Star Wars fans will recognize the pun in Valerie's title. Note: *WritersTalk* heard of Valerie's new book from **Linda Judd**, who is EditBuddy on Amazon.

At the San Mateo County Fair last year, **Judith Shernock** won an edit of her story, "My First Alcoholic," from Darlene Frank. Here is the link to her edited story: <https://sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2015/departments/alcoholic.pdf> You can read the edits to see how an expert editor handles a submission. —WT

Book Announcements

Time for the Lost (The Call to Search Everywhen #3)

by Chess Desalls



Book 3 of Chess Desalls' YA time travel series, *The Call to Search Everywhen*, releases this month.

The travel team reunites for a mission they never saw coming: a journey to a world caught between life and death, and hidden within the deepest recesses of time. A new search begins, one that sounds promising, even if it forces Valcas to confront his past. Ivory rediscovers a friend and Ray learns the meaning behind his tattoo. But the connections they make between travelers and the lost may twist the core of the Time and Space Travel Agency inside out. chessdesalls.com/books.html

Got Book?

If you are a member of South Bay Writers who has a published book, send a jpg of the cover and a descriptive paragraph to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. We will publish your book announcement. Also, be sure to join the SBW group on Goodreads and ask to be interviewed by SBW TalkBooks. It's easy: establish your Goodreads account and then join our group; the administrator lets members in.

You may also publish your photo and biography in our "Members Gallery" on the South Bay Writers Web site at <http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/>. Go to the menu bar and click "Members." In the drop-down menu, click "Update Biography" and enter your information. If you have any questions, contact Patrick McQueen at pres@southbaywriters.com. – WT

Got TalkBooks?

TalkBooks is a book club that selects books written by SBW members for its monthly group reads. TalkBooks has a presence on Goodreads where members can discuss books online. Goodreads offers networking opportunities through blogs and social media. Many authors have blogs in need of something to talk about; TalkBooks will help get that conversation going. Sharing leads to more sharing, as well as book buzz among readers whom an author might never reach alone. TalkBooks meets at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month at the Santa Clara Library on Homestead in Santa Clara. For info, contact Linda Judd at lindyjudd@yahoo.com. – WT

New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our two newest members.

Inga Silva joined us online, and we were happy to meet her personally when she came to our January meeting. Inga's primary area of interest is in writing novels, and she has published some of her poetry.

Mara Catherine Sippel also joined us online, and she is interested in writing children's literature. She has one nonfiction published piece, "Bitter Tea," about Tiananmen Square, to which she was a witness. Mara is currently working on a short story, as yet untitled, and in its final stages, which she hopes will be published. Also, she is learning the art of painting. On her membership questionnaire, she says her writing interests are fueled by children's literature, her six-year-old child, and art and the process. Mara's email address is jckry09@gmail.com.

See you at Harry's Hofbrau on February 8! – WT

Blog Posts: SBW Authors and Books

by Linda Judd

Featured: Mark Gelineau and Joe King
Books in the series: *The Echoes of the Ascended*

Blog: Books By Proxy: <https://books-byproxy.wordpress.com/2016/01/06/author-interview-mark-gelineau-and-joe-king/>

Date: January 6, 2016

Excerpt:

Hi Joe and Mark, thank you for joining me today. For readers who are unfamiliar with your writing, could you tell us a little bit about your *Echoes of the Ascended* series?

J: Mark and I are very big into myth and history and creation stories. When we were fleshing our world of Aedaron, we really wanted the legend of the First Ascended, the very first heroes of our world, to be at the center of everything. In the same way that Mark and I grew up dreaming about myth and creation, so do our characters.

Echoes of the Ascended follows the lives of five orphans who grew up together. In their own way, their lives and stories mirror those of the First Ascended. They, essentially, are a new generation, or echo, of what had come before.

We have four different series. Each follows different characters. You can read any of the four series in any order. *A Reaper of Stone* is a classic, epic fantasy story. *Rend the Dark* is action horror adventure. – WT

SBW Underground

by Bill Baldwin

What is this Underground Thing? It's creative minds who aren't interested in fame or refuse to commercialize their work. It's writers and artists unknown today because they are "too different." It's writers who refuse to become clichés.

If your interests/perspectives veer a bit off the standard fare, you may want to drop by on some third Tuesday.

See our calendar page 15 and contact Bill Baldwin at WABaldwin@aol.com. – WT

Self-Publishing Panel

Continued from Page 1

Our other two panelists are R. L. King and Chess Desalls.



R. L. King

R.L. King is the author of *Stone and a Hard Place*, *The Forgotten*, *The Threshold*, and *The Source*, the first four books of *The Alastair Stone Chronicles*. Read more about R. L. King on Amazon and Goodreads and at her websites, rlkingwriting.com and magespacepress.com



Chess Desalls

Chess Desalls is the author of *Travel Glasses* and *Insight Kindling*, books 1 and 2 in the series *The Call to Search Everywhen*; and anthologies *Awethology Light*, *Echoes of Winter*, and *Darkness Echoes*. Read more about Chess on Amazon and at her website, chessdesalls.com

All four panelists are on the front lines of publishing today. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how they're doing it at Harry's Hofbrau on February 8. —WT

Recap: Blogging and Branding

Continued from Page 1

Her brand verbiage becomes a familiar mantra, introducing new visitors and branding each web location as a “Kymberlie Ingalls” site.

In the early days, AOL offered Personal Pages for journaling online. As websites proliferated, those types of pages became known as weblogs, then blogs. Early on, everyone wrote whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted. Using blogs for self promotion developed later as the Internet flourished into a viable market place.

Kymberlie shared statistics, useful guidelines to measure your audience, and the social “shares” we garner on the web with our blogs. How do we know when we are making progress? Statistics are shared on just about every type of social media site today.

Numbers to know: 63% of people believe blogs with multiple authors to be more credible, and 80% of all daily traffic is first time visitors. The majority of your visitors don't land on the home page, so make sure each page is at its best. Blog math: 50 blog posts = 30% more traffic; at 100+ blog posts, traffic jumps by 3x. Blog posts of 1500+ words receive 68% more tweets and 22% more Facebook likes. Blog posts with images get 94% more views, a serious jump in visits to your blog. YouTube has become the second largest search engine — more than Bing, Yahoo, Ask and AOL combined. Smartphones and tablets now account for 60% of time spent online.

On social media sites in 2016, visual content is a big plus — 94% more views. Facebook and Twitter aren't enough to reach your audience. Social “shares” are important feedback.

Also social shares equate with credibility. The social influence of a blog derives from the number of shares it gets. Create interesting content, and make it easy to share. When sharing with others, put your own spin on it. Don't just click “share.” Know your social media. Keep up on what's trending, and find the sites that work best for you.

Design your brand to identify your skills and differentiate yourself. Be consistent; be a good source; know — but don't limit your audience; focus on trends; and follow a theme.

Blogs create a community. The collective experience is one of the best parts of reading a story, seeing a movie, hearing a song, cheering on a team. On your blog, you are offering that

experience. Empower your followers to become loyal brand ambassadors by engaging people and connecting with them.

One of the most phenomenal successes to date, fostered by blogging, is the movie, *The Martian*, written by Andy Weir. In 2009, Weir started posting the story chapter by chapter on his personal blog where anyone could read it for free. The early version of his self-published book attracted a lot of science-minded readers. Word of the book spread, and readers started asking for an e-reader copy. So Weir put it on Amazon for 99¢. In just a few months, it skyrocketed to the top of Amazon's best-selling science fiction list. And the movie is history.

If you're a writer who stands for something, you'll also elicit passion from both sides of the fence. It's a package deal that you should gladly accept. Don't let the critics stop you. Instead, focus on your fans, and your writing will reach and delight the right people.

Do you understand why you write? It's not selfish to want results from what you do — you have to earn a living after all. But ego-driven rewards can overshadow some of the more fulfilling aspects of your work. Marketing, like writing, works really well when you create value for others. When you make someone's life significantly better, that's an experience that ends up getting shared with others. There's no better marketing than that.

“Blogging is not for everyone,” Ingalls says. “Like anything else, there needs to be purpose before commitment. And readers want to know the author behind their favorite stories. Authors are as important as any character they create.”

Contact Kymberlie Ingalls, kymberlie@rainfallpress.com. —WT

SBW Web Editor Needed

The club's web editor is responsible for copy editing all content uploaded to the website on a regular basis. Updates include news about upcoming monthly speakers, special events, member biographies, and more. Collaborate with the SBW Board and our Webmaster to creatively design and implement web-based content at southbaywriters.com. Interested? Contact Patrick McQueen at pres@southbaywriters.com.

Picture Gallery, January 11, 2016

Page 7 created by Sheena Arora
Photos by Carolyn Donnell



Kymberlie Ingalls on Blogging



Encounter with a Rooster

by Frank Johnson

When I was seven, my family lived in Monterey. My father built an enclosure in the backyard for white leghorn chickens so that we had eggs for our meals and occasionally meat for our dinner. He bought baby chicks and raised them with an incubator.

My mother let me hold the chicks to experience those little yellow fuzz-balls. However, they grew into white-egg laying hens and cocks with bright red combs and a strutting walk. One cock became very territorial and would attack unprovoked.

One day, when I was playing in the enclosed backyard, my mother let the chickens out to roam and forage.

I imagined myself a submarine commander and had built a submarine out of several scraps of wood, which formed the outline of a boat if you looked from above. Also, I had procured four tires that had been thrown by the wayside along our street; those tires became the conning tower of my sub. I was very pleased with my naval masterpiece.

I got into the conning tower and imagined myself at sea and controlling the sub. The rooster came up behind me and pecked a hole in the back of my neck. I howled and ran into the house where my mother calmed me and attended the wound. (I still have the scar to prove it.)

A couple of weeks later, I was playing in the yard with my sister, who was two years younger than me, when the same rooster made threatening gestures: head low, wings spread out. He scared us, so I reached down and picked up part of the gunnel of my sub. As he approached, I hit him as hard as I could in the neck, whereupon he started flopping up and down in a convulsive manner.

My sister and I stared while he jerked around and then lay immobile. I had killed him!

We ran into the house, and I told my mother that the rooster had been hopping up and down, and we didn't know what happened to him. She came outside to investigate, and we followed her. She examined him, said that he must have been sick, and put him into the garbage.

Years later, when I was a teenager, I finally confessed to the murder. My mother replied, "I wish you had told me. We could have had him for dinner." — WT



White Leghorn Rooster

Writing Prompt: Vignettes

by Patrick McQueen

Deadline: April 30, 2016

Every genre is welcome! Stories of 20 – 2,000 words, vignettes are scenes or stories consumable in minutes but digested throughout the day as readers reflect on them. We're looking for provocative themes portrayed in scenes ranging from the innocuous to the opprobrious, evoking emotional reactions and conscious introspection. The use of a third-person objective point of view can give our readers greater freedom to interpret the underlying theme of each scene or story, but is not required. We're referring to these as vignettes instead of flash fiction because we welcome both fiction and creative nonfiction. With enough submissions before April 30, we hope to compile these into an anthology.

Submit at prompts@southbaywriters.com with vignette in the subject line. See more at: <http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/prompt-vignettes/>

Writing Prompt: One Dollar

Deadline: March 31, 2016

There's still time – but hurry. Help us to write the story of a dollar bill. "Prompts" are available at southbaywriters.com by clicking on writing prompts.

Prompt: *Perils of Progress*

Deadline: May 31, 2016

Genre: Science Fiction, Historical Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, and Creative Non-Fiction are all welcome

Length: 10,000 – 25,000 words

Deadline: May 31, 2016

Goal: *Perils of Progress* is a collection of novelettes and novellas portraying some form of progress intended to improve the quality of life for all parties involved. However, the form of progress came at an unexpected cost to the people or environment, resulting in mixed reactions and an ultimate deterioration of quality for at least one of the affected.

Submitted work is not limited to any of the following ideas, but this list is included to stir creativity:

- Climate Change
- Child Labor
- Human Trafficking
- Industrialization
- Invasion or Conquest
- Manifest Destiny
- Unregulated Commerce
- Vices (drugs, sex, rock & roll)
- Politics, mafia, or gangs warfare
- Family disputes over change

The page is already up on our website at: southbaywriters.com/wordpress/prompt-perils-of-progress/ — WT

Wah Lee's Good Luck Marble

by Valerie Lee

The Chinatown streets in Vancouver were filled with the usual commotion. Cars honked, shoppers chatted noisily, children ran in and out of stores, and truckers came to abrupt stops to double-park and unload fresh poultry and produce crates. A hunch-backed Chinese junkman wheeling his wares in a cart paused to look around, hoping to get someone's attention.

In the alley behind Chungking Restaurant, Willie Lee, Tommy Fong and Wah Lee shouted as they played marbles on the rough pavement. Normally this was not an unusual sight, except for one thing: they were not supposed to do this during work hours. Even though it was wrong to play marbles in the morning, they couldn't resist taking advantage of every chance to have fun.

Willie got up first to leave when his employer, Harry Wong, a laundry man, called him to help push the heavy cart of clothes back to the shop. "*Fai di lie, bong gnaw.* Hurry and come help me." The other two boys didn't look up when he left but continued with their game. Moments later, Tommy won all of Wah Lee's marbles and they returned to work.

His head hung low, Wah Lee headed down the street. He had lost his favorite, translucent, good-luck, rainbow marble. He walked slowly, thankful that he did not have as far to go as his friends did; he could run if he had to. He thought of the cook, Mrs. Chan Yee, and quickened his pace. If she caught him misbehaving when he should be working, she would give him a good scolding. He shuddered, thinking about that. He should get a job like Tommy who washed dishes in a restaurant near Main Street or Wally who did chores in a private house a block away on Columbia Street.

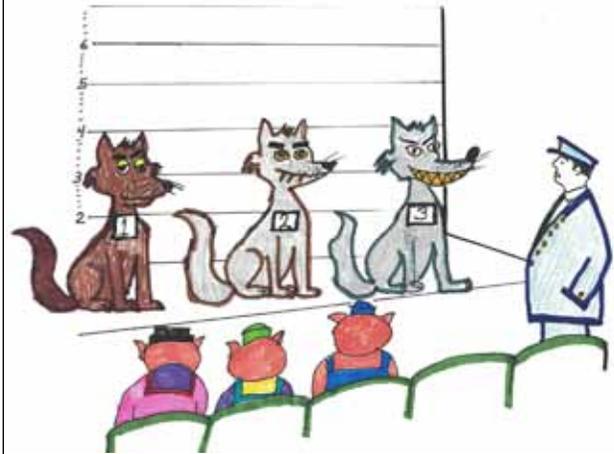
Back at the house, he found to his joy that unexpected company had arrived. Mrs. Yee was too flustered to reprimand him or say anything about his not returning earlier. She paused only long enough to send him out again in a hurry. "Go to Wing Sun, the Chinese Butcher. Pick up my order for dinner. Don't stop on the way and get back fast. *Fi-dee.*"

Wah Lee grinned and escaped outside. He ran, jumped, and hopped up and down the curb as he made his way to the meat market on Keefer Street. Inside the store, the sweet smell of barbecued ducks and pork and spareribs filled his nostrils. He drooled and stared at the meats hanging from separate hooks near the window. His stomach growled and his mouth watered so he licked his lips. He could almost taste the juicy, delicious duck. He wanted something to eat but he had no money. He had to get out fast before he was tempted to beg. Luckily, only two customers were ahead of him. When the bald-headed butcher saw Wah Lee, he smiled and handed him a thick piece of *cha sieu* barbecued pork to munch. "You good boy. *Gwai jai.* Wait one minute. I get package for you. I have ready."

Wah Lee thanked the butcher. Minutes later, with the package tightly in his grip, he walked toward Main Street. When he turned the corner, he came face to face with Tommy who laughed because they both carried similar bundles. He saw his chance to win back his lucky marble.

"Tommy, you got time. Let's play a game."

Off the Shelf — Edie Matthews



"Suspect number one. Step forward and say, 'I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down.'"

At first Tommy hesitated. He looked around, then nodded. "Okay, but let's go to the alley behind Chungking Restaurant where we usually play. No one will see us there."

Wah Lee, inquisitive, pointed to Tommy's package that he clutched firmly under his arm. "What you got in there? *Mut yeah ah?* You go meat market too?"

Tommy shrugged his shoulders. "No. I don't know and I don't care. I just have to toss it out at the water's edge."

Crowds of busy shoppers formed on Pender Street but the boys rushed past them and continued to walk until they reached the alley they wanted.

"Okay, you ready now. I want to win back my marbles." Wah Lee's eyes sparkled with anticipation and he crouched near the curb ready for action.

Tommy teased, "You have no chance. I'm better than you." Eager to play, both boys placed their packages down on the sidewalk. All cares and responsibilities were tossed aside and the boys entered their own private little world to try to beat the other with their marbles.

The hunched-back junkman had seen Wah Lee earlier with his package from the butcher. It was a opportunity that presented itself: a chance to make a perfect switch. He only had enough money to buy some barbecue pork. He knew that Wah Lee's package contained more. He moved closer, bent over as inconspicuously as he could to pretend interest in what the boys were doing. When he saw that they were engrossed in their game, he quickly switched his parcel with the one identical to his. The boys didn't pay any attention to him and didn't notice he got up to leave. After all, he was a familiar sight in Chinatown.

The three o'clock gun sounded from one of the ships on the bay before the two boys gave any thought to the time. Wah Lee grinned. He had won back his favorite lucky marble.

Continued on Page 12



Q

Very often it's called Q
 Maybe you've seen
 it too
 On the ferry to Larkspur
 it comes into view
 dingy, drab, old
 San Quentin

Inside there's a condemned row
 slated for those we'll never know
 but they wait day after day
 for their destiny

Some no doubt pray to
 get away
 from that ultimate end
 Waiting for the governor
 to declare a 'stay'

Many say the death penalty
 should be abolished
 Others feel it's only right
 they did evil that day or night
 and should pay

It's up to each person to feel what they may
 All I know is what I felt that day
 we rode across the bay and I saw Q up close

I couldn't grasp the massive walls
 or all those on the inside who
 rarely see the light of day

Soon the water lapped against the boat
 everyone disembarked and hurried away to what
 they would do

But when I got off
 I stopped
 to look back
 at Q

– Karen Hartley

Creators: A Diamante Poem

by Karen Franzenburg

Creators
 Young Old
 Wrote Achieved Pursued
 Novels Songs Paintings Photography
 Remember Recommend Create
 Brilliant Bold
 Works

(This was the only diamante poem received
 in response to last month's prompt. – WT)

Poetic Art in a Nutshell

by Stephen C. Wetlesen

Visual artists use oil, paints, watercolors, shapes, figures and sculptures to create or communicate a tableau, real, abstract or imaginary, of aesthetics they perceive.

Some such workers use cameras, computer graphics, or many other devices or instrumentalities.

Poetic artists, on the other hand, use elegant rhythmic language in and of itself to exactly the same effect and purpose, as a painterly medium.

Poetic art may stand alone on its own or be combined with other visual motifs, music, dance, Butoh, mime, or other creative motifs.

Poetic art is therefore a visual form more than literature, though they may overlap a little. Poetic art focuses on optical vision, not feelings.

Poetic artists should thus be seen and understood as painters rather than poets or literary personas. They see language and oil as equivalent.

Poetic art is therefore looked upon as gallery pieces. It is not verse. It is canvas, two or three dimensional, or more: Language as brushstroke.

As photographer Dorothea Lange declared, "The right words often greatly extend the visual image—but they must be very pure words." – WT



Want Poetry Contests?

See "Don't Talk to Me About Love," page 12; "The Literary Nest Contests," page 13; "Wergle Flomp," page 13; and "The Literary Stage: San Mateo County Fair," page 14.

To win any contest, read the rules carefully and follow them to the letter. Always study the website to ascertain that the contest is on the up and up.

In general, do not enter contests that ask you to pay a fee. However, "The Literary Stage: San Mateo County Fair" is an exception; they offer so many prizes that you can afford to pay the small fee, and their contests are real.

Contests to Avoid

The award-winning website winningwriters.com is designed to help authors build resumés through contests and writing community activities. Readers of *WritersTalk* may want to start the year perusing some of the sites that **wouldn't** be a good use of their time and effort. The article "Contests to Avoid," too long to reprint here, is available online at winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests/contests-to-avoid and is well worth a read. – WT

February Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante
Contributing Editor

Feb Is Fab

Sing! Sing! We can make every word,
Every sound of each animal and every bird.
The days fly by so fast –
Short is this month, you know it won't last.
But the reminder, you see,
Is how short time can be –
Use it now!
Today hand out your fabulous song
I know you know how
Make and write, right out of wrong.

– Pat Bustamante

What an interesting month – and this year is a leap year! I hope you leap into your dreams and make them real this year.

“Odd-day-month” this year is memorable because of differences. Come up with a new, different, and fabulous idea.

It's also “ground-hog-day” month and the month of my mother's birthday (though she passed away years ago, I still celebrate it. “Hi Mom!”) Consider how horoscopes are based on your birth during a particular season apart from Spring, Fall, Winter, Summer. Earth has its own collection of seasons, placements in our moving universe.

That ground hog that comes out of hibernation in February: will it see its shadow and dodge back into darkness? Will a new idea tiptoe out of your imagination this year? You and I are much braver than the little ground hog. That's one reason I enjoy our “SBW Underground” meetings – nobody is afraid of his shadow. I hope to see you there, too. – WT

Poetry Out Loud

by Erica Goss, Poet Laureate Emerita, Los Gatos

I am inviting you to attend Poetry Out Loud, www.poetryoutloud.org, at the Koret Library, San Francisco, on Saturday, February 13 at 10 AM. California Poets in the Schools has been involved in coaching high school students for Poetry Out Loud since 2006. Poetry Out Loud is a great program, one that encourages students to appreciate, memorize, and perform great poetry. www.ericagoss.com – WT

Smiling is Contagious

Smiling says much before a word is spoken
Smiling, a facial expression, an accepted token

A facial expression, smiling, saying pleasure
It's contagious, spreading, and that's for sure

Smiling is seen on one who is a baby, I know
Smiling is seen on one who is a person aglow

Smiling is seen on one who is a pleasant one
Smiling is part of one who is a person of fun

Smiling speaks saying fine, fine, good, good
Smiling speaks and says words like, I should

Smiling speaks louder than words of illness
Smiling speaks louder than ANY sadness

Smiling says everyone smile
Smiling is contagious – smile!

– Clarence L. Hammonds: Poem Number 2,337

Ode to Joe

I wait anxiously
To have my lips
Feel your warmth

My heart skips a beat
You make me feel so alive
You are strong

I love mornings with you
Sometimes short and sweet
Then you disappear

Time for a new pot of Joe
MY CUP IS EMPTY

– Karen Franzenburg

Subhaiku

by Stephen C. Wetlesen

Subhaiku is a piece where, in the English language original (not a translation), one or more or all three lines are even shorter than the standard Haiku 5-7-5 syllable pattern, especially the middle (second) line. As to other factors, such as seasonal terms, these may be omitted or included. Here is an example I just made up, without any title:

Dancelike.
Deep.
Painterly.

Cosmological Subhaiku and Beyond:

Incarnation.
Small is big.
Big is small.
Big Bang.

For the Curiosity Rover

Why Mars?
To teach Earth
to See.

The Most Famous Subhaiku of All

E = MC2

On Bonding

What we need
is nongenital
intercourse.

On Basho, Buson, Issa and Shiki

Japanese masters
look like
Russian novels.

My New Home

Oranges.
Lemons.
Eternal sunlight.

Language is paintbrush, words are camera. – WT



Wah Lee's Good Luck marble

Continued from Page 9

Wah Lee put the marble into his pocket and hurriedly picked up his package. Tommy did the same and they ran off in opposite directions.

On the way back to the house, Wah Lee ran into Willie. "Hey, you know what! I won back all my marbles from Tommy and some others besides. Want to see?" He placed his package down on the street and reached into his back pocket to show Willie his good luck marble. Willie shrugged his shoulders. "Why are you in a rush? What you got in package?"

"I don't know, it's some kind of meat. I've got to go. I'm late already." Wah Lee picked it up and shook his head.

"Wow, you better hurry. Maybe it rot already. *Ho chow*—it's smelly." Willie sniffed and wrinkled his nose. Then in his playful manner, he tried to snatch the package out of Wah Lee's hand but the boy broke out in a good run and left Willie behind.

In the meantime, Tommy walked on. He enjoyed the bright sunny day and watched the seagulls and made his way slowly until he reached the pier. He flipped his package up in the air several times before he released it into the water.

At that precise moment, a Chinese fisherman, desperate because he had no luck catching any fish, happened to be sitting in his boat worried about going home empty-handed. He couldn't bear to see his family's sad faces when he returned with nothing for them to eat. His eyes fixed on Tommy's approach to the water's edge and watched him toss in a bundle tied with a string. When the boy hurried away, he picked up the package.

The fisherman undid the string and grinned happily, displaying his even gold teeth. He muttered to himself, "What a rare find. *Gum ho choy*. Buddha has heard my prayers." He rubbed his hands together and headed home. He couldn't wait to show his family what he had caught. His four hungry children were in for a surprise—meat—something they hadn't eaten in months. He had plenty of home grown vegetables in his refrigerator and he found some pork bones in the package. He would make

some *jook*. The thick, rice gruel mixture would keep his children happy and well fed for at least a week.

About this time, the junkman sat at his kitchen table and grinned. He had hit the jackpot: roast pork and a can of applesauce. He turned his oven on. It would take hours to cook but he could wait. After tonight's dinner, the leftovers would be just as good. He opened the applesauce, grabbed a spoon and smacked his lips, savoring the sweet taste.

Wah Lee went outside to sit on the back porch after placing the bundle on the kitchen counter. He reached inside his back pocket and happily rubbed his lucky marble. Immediately he felt the warmth spread through his fingers. There had to be magic in the translucent stone and now he had won it back. It belonged to him.

Suddenly the cook screamed out in rage. His heart dropped. "Wah Lee, you naughty boy, *Kwai jai*, come here." He could tell from her high-pitched angry tone that he was in trouble but he couldn't figure out why.

In the kitchen, standing near the table, Wah Lee's eyes widened in shock. The cook pulled his ear. "This package isn't right. Where's the stuff I ordered from the butcher? Why don't you listen to me? What am I to do now for tonight's dinner? I ordered a pork roast and apple sauce."

Dumbfounded, Wah Lee lowered his head and didn't answer. He shrugged his shoulders, mystified.

"You naughty boy. *Kwai jai*. For your mistake and carelessness, you'll get no dinner. You can eat this. It should suit you fine. Go outside. You can't do anything right. I'll have to make some *chow mein* instead."

Wah Lee grimaced. The package he had carried contained someone's smelly garbage: discarded chicken skin, rotten meat, egg-shells, coffee grounds, old tea bags, onions, oranges, potato peelings, and paper wraps.

Discouraged, he walked outside and rubbed his good-luck marble. Why wasn't it working? —WT

Contests, Contests, More Contests

CWC Sacramento 2016 Short, Short Story Contest

by Margie Yee Webb

The CWC Sacramento Branch 2016 Short, Short Story Writing Contest is open for submissions, which must be postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2016. The contest is open to all writers, the category is fiction, and length is up to 750 words. For details on awards, entry fees, submissions and manuscripts, see cwcsacramentowriters.org. Questions? Contact Contest Chair Jo Chandler at joandler3@yahoo.com

Don't Talk to Me About Love

by Sam Hiyate, sam@donttalktomeaboutlove.com

Love is strange, love is beautiful, love is dangerous...

I'm one of the editors of a new literary website called "Don't Talk to Me About Love." I'm sending this to South Bay Writers in the hopes that you will peruse our site and spread the word about our debut contest, offering \$1,000 each in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for pieces about love. Contest deadline: Valentines Day, February 14. Read more at donttalktomeaboutlove.com



1000 Words

1000 Words, literary fiction on your phone, tablet, or Kindle, is open for submissions for the Summer 2016 issue. Published authors receive \$25 for their micro-stories. Submission fees are \$3.

Every issue of *1000 Words* includes four 250-word stories inspired by a single photograph. Truly, a picture is worth one thousand words.

Deadline: February 29, 2016, at <http://www.1000words.press/guidelines.html>

Contact Jo Haraf, Publisher, at Jo@1000Words.press

www.Facebook.com/1000WordsPress

Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell
Contributing Editor

Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition opened on November 1, 2015 and has a deadline of May 31, 2016. Get busy with your stories. Many categories. See writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition for complete rules.

Chicken Soup for The Soul has many categories, such as stories about teachers and teaching. There isn't a single one of us who doesn't owe something to a teacher. They are the unheralded heroes of society. **Chicken Soup** asks for your stories about the great teachers who changed your life. Deadline for story and poem submissions: June 30, 2016. Check it out on www.chickensoup.com.

Sci/Fi, Fantasy or Dark Fantasy? Quarterly contest. For new and amateur writers. Prizes \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 and Grand Prize, \$5,000. Enter online or via snail mail. Details at writersofthefuture.com/Contest-Rules-Writers/

If you uncover an intriguing opportunity, please share with us at WritersTalk. — WT

Sequestrum: Journal of Literature and Arts

Sequestrum's Editor's Reprint Award & General Submission. \$200 will be awarded to one piece of previously published fiction or nonfiction (plus runners-up prizes). The Reprint Award is a chance for writers to nominate their own work for a second breath of life — a rare thing today. See guidelines at sequestrum.org/contests. General submissions also open. www.sequestrum.org — WT

Masters Review Anthology

Every year *The Masters Review* opens submissions to produce an anthology, a collection of ten stories written by the best emerging authors. Submit fiction and narrative nonfiction, 7000 words maximum, \$20 reading fee/story. Ten winners each receive \$500, publication, and exposure to over 50 literary agencies. Deadline: March 31. Visit mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/ — WT

Independent Publisher Book Awards

Conducted annually, the Independent Publisher Book Awards honor the year's best independently published titles. Now accepting entries for books released between January 1, 2014 and February 27, 2016. www.independentpublisher.com

Book Buyers Author Talks

Book Buyers Author Talk Series is looking for local authors to speak. Typically the presentation takes place on a Tuesday or Thursday at 7:30 PM, though times and days are flexible. The next opening will be in March. The best way to contact them is online at bookbuyers.com/about-us/events-classes-author-talk-series/

Questions can be directed to Elizabeth@BookBuyers.com or call the store at (650) 968-7323. (Store location: 317 Castro Street, Mountain View 94041.) — WT

The Literary Nest

by Pratibha Kelapure, Editor

The Literary Nest is an online magazine of literary fiction, poetry, and visual arts. I invite all of you to submit to the next issue to be released in Spring, 2016.

Go to theliterarynest.com for submission guidelines. While you are there, check out the previous issues. We seek work that is edgy and pushes the boundaries. We appreciate and favor understated elegance in writing. — WT



The Literary Nest Contests

Fiction and Poetry Contests: Age groups 18 – 25; 25 – 55; 55+

Submit your best original, unpublished literary work — work that is edgy and pushes the boundaries.

Fiction: 2500 – 5000 words.

Poetry: up to five poems. Each poem must be 50 lines or fewer.

Deadline: March 30, 2016

One Winner in Each Category

Prize \$25 Amazon Gift Card

See <http://theliterarynest.com/contests/current-contest/>

San Francisco Peace/ Hope: 2016 Online Anthology

Call for Submissions. Unpublished poetry and artwork from new and established voices throughout the Bay area and beyond.

Poetry: Short to medium length poems 30 lines or fewer. 3 poems maximum.

Artwork Digital images of your original paintings, drawings and photographs. 3 images maximum.

Email submissions: sfpeaceandhope@gmail.com

Deadline: March 1, 2016

See www.sfpeaceandhope.com/submissions.html

Wergle Flomp Humorous Poetry Contest

Submit your entry to Winning Writers 15th Annual Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest through April 1. No fee to enter. Top prize of \$1,000. Winners are published on the website. Send your published or unpublished work. Your poem may have up to 250 lines.

See <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-free>

B & N Special Event

Barnes & Noble at Eastridge Mall is planning a ten-year anniversary. Date: March 15. The event coordinator is Michael Koller, who wants to fill the store with tables of authors signing their books. Interested? Send him an email at CRM2247@bn.com

Beta Readers Needed

Your writing project has had the benefit of critique and careful copy editing. But is it a good read?

Your Beta reader finds story distortion and missing or excessive passages. He looks for that certain appeal that keeps readers turning the pages. The Beta reader **does not copyedit**—his only interest is story. **Beta readers read and comment. The Beta reader is not an editor.**

To be listed here, send your interest in participation in an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Members willing to read:

David Strom: anything
dave.strom@gmail.com

Dick Yaeger: Fiction, no poetry
dyaeger@aol.com

Mike Freda: anything; fiction preferred
freda.mike@gmail.com

Patrick McQueen: any genre
droidpat@gmail.com

If you would like to be a beta reader, contact newsletter@southbaywriters.com —WT

The Literary Stage: San Mateo Fair

Sponsor: CWC SF-Peninsula
www.sanmateocountyfair.com

**It's a Conference! It's a Contest!
It's the Literary Stage!**

The San Mateo County Fair takes place June 11 – 18, 2016. Writing workshops. Author book sales. Open Mics. Poetry readings. Literary contests with prizes. The anthology, *Carry the Light*. Literary events, all week, free with admittance to the fair.

Many contests, all with cash prizes: fiction, memoir, poetry, and more. The deadline for all literary submissions is April 1. **Emails received after April 1 will not be honored.**

You do not have to live in San Mateo County, and you do not have to be a member of CWC SF-Peninsula.

For contest details, go to <http://sanmateocountyfair.com/contests/departments/literary-arts>

Want to present a workshop? Query Literary Director Bardi Rosman Koodrin at literary@smeventcenter.com. —WT

CWC Around the Bay

These are published meeting locations and times for other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you're thinking about attending one of their meetings, be sure to check the website first for details.

Berkeley: 2:00 third Sundays, Oakland Public Library Main Branch. cwc-berkeley.com

Central Coast: 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont Area: 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 120, Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Marin: 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. cwcmarinwriters.com

Mendocino Coast: 6:00 third Wednesdays, Mendocino Hotel. writersmendocinocoast.org

Mount Diablo: 11:30 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. mtdiablowlriters.org

Napa Valley: 7:00 second Wednesdays, venue is changing. napavalleywriters.net

Redwood: 2:30 first Sundays, Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa. redwoodwriters.org

Sacramento: 11:00 third Saturdays, Cattlemen's Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. cwcsacramentowriters.org

San Francisco/Peninsula: 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. sfpeninsulawriters.com

Tri-Valley: 11:30 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.com

Conference/Workshop Announcements

Children's Book Writers Workshop

We proudly present the fourteenth Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop in Oceanside, Oregon, July 11 – 15, 2016. The course is available for graduate level credit. The full-time instructors include five accomplished children's book authors, two full-time children's editors from major houses, and a full-time children's book agent. Check them out on our website. All instructors are immersed in writing, covering all genres, and they'll spend the week giving their best. The course is not only lectures, but lots and lots (and lots) of one-on-one with instructors everyday. You can connect directly with authors, editors, and agents. *Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop*: www.occbww.com —WT

Spring Conference: CWC Writers of Kern

The CWC Writers of Kern is sponsoring a one-day writers conference on Saturday, March 12, in Bakersfield. They have scheduled four speakers: Anne Perry, Best-selling Author: "Put Your Heart on the Page;" Victoria Zackheim, Author and Anthologist: "Writing and Publishing Your Personal Essay;" Matthew Woodman, Poet and CSUB Professor: "Poetry, Persona, and Perspective: Letting the Voice Lead;" Lois Henry, Columnist, *The Bakersfield Californian*: "Write Like You Mean It." Details at the WOK website writersofkern.com. If there's someone you really want to hear, ask VP Jenni Everidge to schedule him/her as a speaker. —WT

San Francisco Writers Conference

2016 San Francisco Writers Conference, February 11 – 16, Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. www.sfwriters.org

This conference is the biggest and best in the Bay Area and Northern California. There's still time to register. It's expensive but absolutely worth the cost. It's sponsored by CWC SF-Peninsula Branch, and sometimes SBW sends volunteers. Read about it on their website and put it on your calendar for February next year. —WT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:30PM Mystery Circle 2PM Valley Writers	2 7 PM SBW Board meeting	3	4	5 7:30P Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	6
7 10 AM Our Voices	8 6:00PM Regular Dinner Meeting, Harry's 2PM Valley Writers	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i> 2PM Valley Writers	16 7:30PM SBW Underground	17	18 7 PM Poetry readings	19 7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	20
21 10 AM Our Voices	22 2PM Valley Writers	23 7 PM TalkShop	24 7:30 PM TalkBooks	25	26	27
28	29 2PM Valley Writers	February 2016				
Future Flashes						
March 14: SBW regular meeting	March 8: SBW Board meeting					

Ongoing Events

Critique Groups

Our Voices: Meets at Le Boulanger in the Pruneyard in Campbell every other Sunday 10 AM. Genres: Fiction, memoir, nontechnical nonfiction. Contact: Dave LaRoche at dalaroche@comcast.net

Valley Writers: Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center, Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, Mondays 2 PM. Marjorie Johnson, marjoriej358@comcast.net

Emperor's Mystery Circle: Meets at Emperor Norton's, 7508 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose, 1:30 PM, first Mondays. Mystery genre. Contact Pam Oliver-Lyons, polpap@prodigy.net

Your Critique Group: Send info to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Open Mics

South Bay Writers Open Mic: Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen, first and third Friday evenings. See calendar for schedule. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email WABaldwin@aol.com

SBW Board Meetings

Our Board meets at Lyons Restaurant, 4233 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose 95129, at 7 PM on the Tuesday night preceding the second Monday SBW dinner meeting. Contact Patrick McQueen, pres@southbaywriters.com.

Ongoing discussion groups

TalkShop: Discuss topics of interest to writers – challenges, problems, and tips. Meets last Tuesdays, 7 pm. Contact Carole Taub at 777777ps@gmail.com

SBW Underground: Come to exchange ideas on non-mainstream art and writing. Meets at Coffee Society, Stevens Creek Blvd, across from De Anza, 7:30 PM, third Tuesdays. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or WABaldwin@aol.com

SBW TalkBooks: discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. Meets last Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Santa Clara Library, Homestead Road. For information, send email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.



Poetry Readings

Poets@Play: Meets at Markham House History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, Second Sundays most months, 1 – 4 PM. poetrycentersanjose.org

Poetry Center San Jose: Meets at Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, Third Thursdays, 7 PM. poetrycentersanjose.org 408-808-3045

Words Drawing Music: Ongoing open mic opportunity at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street, on second Thursdays, 7 to 9 PM. Information at workssanjose.org

SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
P.O. Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055
www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

South Bay Writers
February Regular Meeting
6 PM, Monday, February 8

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

Self-Publishing Panel: Bring Your Books to the World

February Program

WritersTalk deadline is always
the 15th of the month.

Regular dinner meetings are
second Mondays 6 – 9 PM
except July and December.



Harry's Hofbrau

From Highway 280, take Saratoga Avenue North.
Harry's is on your right near Stevens Creek Blvd.