



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 24  
Number 3  
March 2016

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

MARCH SPEAKER: KILLIAN MCRAE

## Audio Books: Easier than you think!

by Jenni Everidge

When I worked at a data entry center for the USPS, I would often listen nonstop to audio books. I liked to read while I was at work, but the job prohibited me from taking long enough breaks to read more than a few minutes. Luckily for me, the work was repetitive and lent itself to the audio book beautifully. I read over 250 books that way in two years. Since I left that job (and the State of Indiana), I haven't had much time to read. I no longer have the outlet for audio books that I had, but I do find myself driving for long periods, and during that time, I read. I know I'm not the only one. The audio book market is often seen as a market that has dried out, but I find that oftentimes, I prefer the audio book to the physical copy, especially if the content lends itself to being read aloud.

This month's speaker, Killian McRae, has been consulting with indie writers about marketing their books through the audio platform for the past two years. Killian



Killian McRae

will focus on an introduction to the audio book platform and the marketing it can provide, and less about the technology that allows for it. She will give you pointers about cost and benefits for presenting your book as an audio book, and she'll compare how different genres handle the process.

Killian McRae lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has a degree in Middle Eastern History from the University of Michigan and writes across many genres: science fiction, fantasy, romance, and historical fiction. In addition, she hosts the audio book review podcast, *Audific*.

Please join us at Harry's on March 14 to learn more about this interesting topic. — WT

## April is National Poetry Month

Remember to submit your poem for the *WritersTalk* Special Poetry Edition, April, 2016. Deadline: March 15.

This month, we're featuring contests from the San Mateo County Fair, Literary Division. Details on Page 13. If you submitted a short story, a memoir, or an essay to *WritersTalk* in 2015, brush it off and send it to the Fair. The Fair also accepts poetry. Deadline: April 1, 2016.

A third publishing opportunity: Submit a short story, 1000 to 2500 words, in which someone acquires a one dollar bill and then passes it on. We're collaborating on the life story of a dollar bill. Send to [prompts@southbaywriters.com](mailto:prompts@southbaywriters.com) with "dollar bill" in the subject line. More prompts online at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com). — WT

RECAP: FEBRUARY, SELF-PUBLISHING PANEL

## Bring Your Book into the World

by Karen Sundback

What is sweeter than seeing your name on a book spine, with all the bragging rights and the pride of accomplishment? You've done it! But wait! How do you save your book from instant burial under the avalanche of new books published each year? The U.S. alone publishes a third of a million new titles every year.

Here to help was our own self-publishing panel of experts at the February program: R. L. King, Chess Desalls, and the writing team, Joe King and Mark Gelineau.

Authors King and Gelineau have been releasing one book a month. Unlike books that come out once every few years, our release schedule gives us a bump in sales across all books every month.

R. L. King, an experienced freelance writer, started with four online books (*The Alastair Stone Chronicles*), but had a similar experience as King and Gelineau. None of hers sold when first launched, four big fat goose eggs. Frustrated, she invested in professionals to edit her books and design new covers. Still, her book sales flatlined. It was not until she introduced her books to social media that her sales turned the corner and soared.

Desalls elaborated on this most essential issue, promoting your books on social media, by using a box with a different word printed on each side: **visible, engaging, approachable, generous**.

**Visible.** Desalls attributes her growing following of readers to her participation on social media platforms. She uses every outlet available.

*Continued on Page 6*

# President's Perspective

by Patrick McQueen  
President, South Bay Writers

## Thank you Sylvia Plath



I have heard a few things about Sylvia Plath. A few details stand out more than others. In particular, she struggled with mental illness throughout her life and she produced amazing poetry. Ultimately, she stuck her head in an oven and let carbon monoxide suffocate her brain. In the thirty years before that, though, she allowed her experiences and her mental illness to fuel perhaps the most influential confessional poetry of the twentieth century. Her legacy continues to inspire others, including my creative writing instructor, Donnelle McGee.

Having just finished McGee's powerful debut novel, *Ghost Man*, and having recently heard him describe the inspiration he took from Plath's work, I would like to posthumously thank Sylvia Plath for her indirect contribution. I will never know if McGee would have written *Ghost Man*, or the poems in his published collection, *Naked*, without her influence. But, if I imagine a world without Plath's work, and that absence results in a world in which we also miss out on McGee's work, I find myself imagining a slightly more disappointing world than this one.

Sometimes you are like McGee. Others inspire you to keep writing, and to get that work out there into the published world. Sometimes, you are like Plath, inspiring people you may never meet, who may not experience your words until after you have moved on from writing in this realm. Your most influential work in the decades to come might not be the work you have published, but the work your kids---or your friends---find in your draft pile and publish in your name. Most of the time, though, you are a combination of both. You are inspiring while being inspired.

Today, I thank Sylvia Plath for inspiring writers like Donnelle McGee. In that, I thank McGee for inspiring my words the way Plath inspired his. I share that thanks with you, in the context of our professional writing club, hoping you will appreciate your value as an inspiration to others. Keep following the words that inspire you. Keep writing the words that brew within you. As presidents before me have said, and presidents after me will say: Sail on, my friends. Sail on. Your words matter more than you may ever know. —WT

### And now — the reminder:

Be sure to submit a story about a dollar bill or a vignette from your interesting early life to [prompts@southbaywriters.com](mailto:prompts@southbaywriters.com). Deadline, "dollar bill," March 31, 2016.

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California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

### Executive Committee

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- Workshops—Jenni Everidge  
[workshops@southbaywriters.com](mailto:workshops@southbaywriters.com)

### 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](http://southbaywriters.com)



## WritersTalk

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

### Managing Editor

Marjorie Johnson  
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

### Contributing Editors

Sheena Arora  
Pat Bustamante  
Chess Desalls  
Carolyn Donnell  
Linda Judd  
Sally Milnor  
Karen Sundback

### 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

**Circulation:** 200

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# Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Classic Writing Books 2: *The Art of Dramatic Writing*

We writers of fiction and nonfiction have thousands of writing guides to choose from, but most of them seem to rehash the same material. Of course, studying a writing guide can help us to improve and hone our craft. Where else can we turn?

I suggest the world of the theater: dramatic writing. People have been writing and producing plays for 3,000 years. While the theater is a highly visual medium, the words on the page are what make or break a play.

In a classic guide for writers, *The Art of Dramatic Writing: Its Basis in the Creative Interpretation of Human Motives* (1946), Lajos Egri examines a play from the inside out. Egri starts with the heart of any drama: its characters. He says that all good dramatic writing hinges on people and their relationships, which serve to move the story forward and give it life.

The author must have a basic premise—a thesis or central idea demonstrated in terms of human behavior—and develop the dramatic conflict on the basis of that behavior. Egri uses as examples everything from William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*: "Great love defies even death;" Sidney Kingsley's *Dead End*: "Poverty encourages crime;" to Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*: "Inequality of the sexes in marriage breeds unhappiness."

However, neither the premise nor any other part of a play has a separate life of its own; all must blend into a harmonious whole. Egri's book is divided into four main sections: Premise, Character, Conflict, and General.

In the short first section, Egri puts forth the caveat that everything has a purpose or premise; an understanding of that basic kernel of an idea gives substance and structure to the work. In the second section, Egri discusses eleven useful aspects of character development and suggests that a balance needs to exist among character types. In the third section, he begins with the origin of action and concludes with crisis, climax, and resolution. The final section contains useful thoughts on several aspects of writing, including exposition and dialogue.

Egri's four sections cover any story, even fairy tales: Once upon a time, a likeable hero went on an incredible journey where he learned something and grew.

And so, if you are looking for a tool to help your writing craft, by all means consider turning to the theater and the screen. However, whether you start with plot or character or theme, what's really important is to start. You did make such a New Year's resolution, didn't you? —WT

### Levi with no 49ers

I love blimps and zeppelins –  
the only good things  
about a Superbowl  
in Levi Stadium  
with no 49ers

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

Submit a poem to *WritersTalk* for our April special poetry edition.



# View from the Board

by Sheena Arora



Sheena Arora  
Contributing Editor

On Tuesday, February 2, ten 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, Publicity Chair Linda Myro Judd, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, and Membership Chair Sally Milnor. Kymberlie Ingalls, Carolyn Donnell, and Alfred Jan also participated.

- **We are excited about the first SBW club anthology.** Remember to submit before March 31. Check South Bay Writers website [www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com) for details.
- **The SBW board welcomes Linda Myro Judd as our Publicity Chair.** Linda is a graphic designer who worked with advertising clients and community organizations before turning her publishing talents to writing. Linda is also a contributing editor to *WritersTalk*. Hello Linda!
- **SBW is making its debut on Twitter!** Be sure to follow us: @SouthBayWriters.
- **A writing workshop is approved for April 16.** The SBW board is excited to invite Amanda McTigue to teach us about "The IT Factor: Amplifying Your Voice As A Writer." The workshop will include breakfast and lunch, so reserve quickly to get the early-bird price.
- **Want WritersTalk to arrive in your email,** instead of receiving a paper copy? Please send an email with your choice to Linda Judd, [sbw.publicity@gmail.com](mailto:sbw.publicity@gmail.com).
- **SBW Web Editor needed:** The club's web editor is responsible for copy editing all content uploaded to the website on a regular basis. Design web-based content at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com). Contact Patrick McQueen at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com).

Voila! We had three visitors, one a brand new face. Our new location at Lyon's Restaurant is a success. Thank you President Patrick McQueen and Vice-President Jenni Everidge for this find. If you are not able to join us, but have comments and concerns, catch us at Harry's – we are the ones smiling and mingling. Or send a message to [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) – WT



# Nominations Now Open for SBW Board Positions

by ArLyne Diamond, Chairman, Nominating Committee

South Bay Writers holds its elections in June. All current board positions will be available for the candidates you suggest. All nominees must be members in good standing. You may nominate yourself.

Please provide the following information about your nominees:

- Name of person being nominated.
- Position for which person is being nominated.
- Phone number and e-mail address of person being nominated.
- Why you are nominating that person.
- Skills/experience that nominee has relevant to the position being sought.
- Any other information you think might be useful to the nominating committee.

Please e-mail your nominations and supporting information to ArLyne Diamond, [ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net](mailto:ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net) – WT

# New Members

by Sally A. Milnor



Sally Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our six newest members.

**Blair Chen** joined us online. She writes short stories.

**Penelope Anne Cole**, a dual member with our Fremont Branch, writes novels, short stories, poetry, children's books, and memoirs. Penelope has self-published four books, and she has had four books published by GAP Publisher. She plans to republish all of her books in Spanish. In addition to her writing, Penelope tutors first through ninth grade students and reviews children's books. She also rescues dogs and cats. She believes that writers can and do change the world for the better. Penelope's websites are [penelopeannecole.com](http://penelopeannecole.com) and [magicalbookworks.com](http://magicalbookworks.com).

**Eboni Harris** joined us online, and we were happy to meet her personally when she came to our February meeting. Eboni's novel, *The Fourth Piece*, will come out this fall.

**Lynn Johnson** joined our Club at the February meeting. She writes novels, short stories, and nonfiction books. A scientist by training, Lynn currently teaches high school. She says her writing interest is fueled by personal growth. Lynn's email address is [CONRAOL@esuhsd.org](mailto:CONRAOL@esuhsd.org).

**Killian McRae** joined us online, and we were pleased to meet her at our February meeting. Killian writes novels, and among her publications are *The Vessel*; *Pure & Sinful*; *Once You Go Demon*; *With God Intentions*; *Snapped*; *A Love by Any Measure*; *Compliments*; *Have Gown, Will Wed*; and *Hung by the Fireplace*.

**Mildred Parra** joined us online and came to our February meeting. Her primary writing interest is memoir. Her published book, *The Town I Live In*, is aimed toward teenagers. Mildred's goal is to get her publication into middle and high schools, and many schools have ordered her book.

**Franz Spickhoff**, like our other new members, joined us online. He came to our February meeting. Franz writes poetry, and his book, *You're Eating My Words*, is available on Amazon.

Hope to see you at Harry's Hofbrau on March 14! – WT

**South Bay Writers Present...**

A WRITERS WORKSHOP

# The IT Factor

Amplifying Your Voice As A Writer

## With Amanda McTigue

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

9:00 AM – Noon

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose  
with Light Continental Breakfast and Lunch



### Amanda McTigue

“We hear it everywhere these days, certainly from agents, editors and publishers: what matters most in writing is voice. Voice trumps all other forms of artistry. Indeed, for many readers, it’s the why of reading.

But what the heck is it? And how the heck do we create it?

This hands-on workshop explores techniques for finding your writer’s voice. We’ll consider the “what” and experiment with the “how.” Through conversation and short writing exercises, we’ll investigate ways in which focus begets voice, playing with prompts designed to help you open and amplify that sensibility through which your writing is most powerfully expressed.”

**Amanda McTigue’s** debut novel *Going to Solace* was named a Best Read of 2012 by public radio KRCB’s literary program “Word by Word.” Her short story “I Won’t Tell” was anthologized by *The Writing Disorder*. Last year, the journal *Literally Stories* cited a new short story “You Don’t Say No to Ituango” as an Editor’s Pick. Amanda’s works for the stage have been produced in Carnegie Hall, the Minnesota Opera and Sonoma County’s Green Music Center. Amanda did her undergraduate work at Yale in the 70s as a member of a small-but-mighty minority, the fourth class of Yalies who also happened to be women. More recently, she’s an alum of both the Squaw Valley and Napa Valley writers’ conferences. Amanda just returned from the remote Sierra Maestra mountains of Cuba where she was researching her next novel, tentatively titled *Monkey Bottom*. This fall she will return to Sonoma State University to stage Mozart’s opera *The Magic Flute*.

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

Saturday, April 16th, 2016  
9am - 12pm

**Doors Open** - 8:00 am

**Registration** - 8:30 am  
with Light Continental  
Breakfast

**Workshop Begins** - 9:00 am

**Break** - 10:15-10:30 am

**Q&A** -11:30 am

**Conclusion** - 12:00 Noon  
with Lunch

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### EARLY BIRD PRICING

(until February 29th)

\$30 members / \$40 nonmembers

March 1st through April 16th  
\$45 members / \$55 nonmembers

### PAYMENT

Pay online with PayPal at:  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)  
or

Mail check as follows:  
Payable to South Bay Writers

SOUTH BAY WRITERS  
P.O. BOX 3254  
SANTA CLARA, CA 95055

**Note:** On your check, include your name, address, phone, and email

## As seen on SBW's FaceBook page:

www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWritersClubSouthBay or type California Writers Club – South Bay in the find box after you are logged on to FaceBook. – Carolyn Donnell



## Recap: Self-Publishing Panel

*Continued from Page 1*

Desalls has her own blog via WordPress, website, Facebook page, and Tumblr, to name a few. For convenience, many of her accounts are linked so that when she posts on her blog, the post will be shared on her social media feeds. In addition, she advertises on paid promotional sites, where ads can cost from \$10 to \$100, and submits her titles to Book Club Reading Lists, and online book clubs have chosen to read her books as group reads.

**Engaging.** Desalls makes her posts as interesting as possible with pictures and rich text.

**Approachable.** When readers reach out to her, she responds quickly to show her appreciation. It's a simple truth: be nice to your readers and they'll be nice to you, for the most part.

**Generous.** Desalls, as do the other authors on the panel, gives away books, especially the first book of an installment. These "reader magnets" come with the hope that they bring in paying audience

for other books. To prove the point, at the end of the presentation, Desalls gave away several of her books to interested members of the audience.

The panel members can be reached at the following:

R. L. King at her website, <http://rlkingwriting.com/>

Chess Desalls at her website, <http://www.chessdesalls.com/contact.html>

Joe King and Mark Gelineau at their website, [gelineauandking.com](http://gelineauandking.com). – WT

## Member News

*Compiled by WritersTalk Staff*

**We applaud and celebrate your writing successes.** Submit your writing accomplishments by email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) before the 15th of the month.

**Judith Shernock** got excellent reviews for *Sammi the Seahorse* – five stars from *Pacific Book Review*. See links on Page 10.

**Marjorie Johnson** was honored at the January 29 Celebrity Luncheon by the National League of American Pen Women, Santa Clara County. Marjorie is the author of two novels, *Bird Watcher: A Novel* and *Jaguar Princess: The Last Maya Shaman*.

The Saratoga City Council has proclaimed February 17, 2016 as "Random Acts of Kindness Day" and presented the proclamation to former *Saratoga News* reporter **Louise Webb**, who had written an article on the same topic. "The idea is to go the extra mile," she said. "Visit someone in the hospital. Give someone a hug." – WT

## Blog Posts: SBW Authors and Books

*by Linda Judd*

Author: Robert Balmanno  
Series: The Blessings of Gaia  
Book: *Embers of the Earth*, Book 3 of 4  
Website: [RobertBalmanno.com](http://RobertBalmanno.com)

Excerpt from interview on January 27, 2016:

Q: What writers made an impression on you?

A: A lot of writers influenced me. I'm a huge fan of George Orwell and his book, *1984*. I also love works by Margaret Atwood, Albert Camus, Thomas Hardy, and William Faulkner.

Q: If you could talk to any of your favorites right now, who would it be?

A: This question reminds me of an idea I had, and still have, for a play about an event that happened in 1945. George Orwell waited at a café in Paris to meet Albert Camus, who didn't show up. My idea would be to capture what would have happened had they both shown up.

Q: What does being "independent for your writing" mean to you?

A: I believe in being autonomous when doing my work. In other words, I'm not connected to a certain organization.

Read more: <https://chessdesalls.wordpress.com/interviews/> – WT

*See more about SBW TalkBooks on Page 14.*





SELF  
PUBLISHING  
PANEL



## CWC NorCal Report

by Jenni Everidge

The NorCal semi-annual meeting was held at Panera Bread on February 6 in Livermore. They discussed many exciting topics, including the February San Francisco Writers Conference and the Bay Area Book Festival, June 4 and 5, Civic Center Park, Berkeley. CWC will be represented at both events, and SBW members interested in volunteering can contact me at [vp@southbaywriters.com](mailto:vp@southbaywriters.com).

They announced another Building Better Branches conference, tentatively scheduled for October 8. The conference, open to any CWC member in the NorCal area, will focus on improving leadership within our branches by sharing tactics with other branch members. Please stay tuned for more information on this conference. If you are interested in attending, especially if you are considering a leadership or volunteer role in the South Bay Writers, please contact me at the above email address. —WT

## CWC Central Board

by Patrick McQueen

### Central Board Semi-Annual Meeting:

Twice each year, in July and January, all central board representatives and the executive committee of the statewide California Writers Club gather in Oakland for the daylong face-to-face board meeting. The most recent meeting was held January 31, 2016. This meeting consisted of reports and updates from board members, most of which had been discussed on the e-business forums, where central board representatives discuss and vote between these meetings.

As of January 31, CWC had 1877 members statewide. CWC is operating under budget this fiscal year.

Bob Isbill has been appointed Advertising Director for CWC. Go to [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org) to learn how to submit advertising for *The CWC Bulletin*.

Information about the Jack London Legacy Celebration in Glen Ellen, CA is available at <http://jacklondon.ouroakland.net>; Facebook: Jack London Legacy; and email: [jacklondonlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:jacklondonlegacy@gmail.com)

South Bay Writers will need to appoint a new central board representative, as I do not intend to serve in this position after June 2016. —WT

## California Writers Club: CWC News

### Shelf Life —Maddie McEwen



*The Writer*  
A lifetime of solitary silence in pursuit of communication.

## Be Seen Statewide in the CWC Bulletin

Deadline for advertising submissions for the August issue is Friday, July 29, 2016. The spring issue is in press.

All ads submitted must be self-edited, print-ready, and will be published as received. Capacity for advertising will be determined by the Editor-in-Chief. In case we receive more ads than can be accommodated, submitters will be notified of the option to reserve space in the next issue. All ads must be emailed as a jpg file to Bob Isbill at [advertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingCWC@gmail.com). Details at [CalWriters.org](http://CalWriters.org).

Checks or money orders, made payable to CWC Central Treasury for submitted ads, must be mailed to: HDCWC, The Bulletin Marketing Department, 20258 Hwy 18, STE 430, PMB 28, Apple Valley, CA 92307. —WT

**Paid advertising now accepted for CWC Literary Review**  
*See Page 14.*

## SBW Club Status for CWC's Bulletin

by Linda M. Judd

South Bay Writers is growing! Word of mouth has been a huge source for new membership as our members encourage friends to join. The branch continues to offer excellent monthly speakers and workshops in the South Bay. We hosted author Michael Bracken's Short Story Workshop in November and are preparing for another workshop in April. Also in November, SBW teamed up with a local chapter of NaNoWriMo to host a write-in during our monthly dinner meeting. We're also creating writing opportunities with multiple prompts on our website with the idea of publishing submissions in an anthology.

SBW has been successfully networking with the public through Goodreads.com and MeetUp.com to encourage participation in the club's dinner meetings, Open-Mic nights, and the discussion groups TalkShop and TalkBooks. Several of our members compete and win at the San Mateo County Fair, the only fair that hosts writing competitions. Our efforts to encourage participation and make our programs accessible also included awarding a student scholarship to our most recent workshop.

TalkShop is a potluck meeting providing a platform to discuss the art of writing. It is a forum where you may vent your writing frustrations, analyze challenges, and learn ways to improve.

TalkBooks is a book club in which we read books written by members of our branch. Featured SBW Authors, introduced on Goodreads, are interviewed in person at the Santa Clara public library each month.

Our new Publicity & PR Chair, Linda Myro Judd, is enthusiastic about educating members on using Social Media and developing online presence. Most of our 20 new members joined online, modeling how important online presence is to our success as individual writers and as an organization. Linda can be reached at [sbw.publicity@gmail.com](mailto:sbw.publicity@gmail.com). —WT

All SBW members should have received *The CWC Bulletin* as a link in an email from Linda Judd. Be sure to click on that link. The *Bulletin* has timely info and the new technology is awesome.





## Blog Posts: SBW Tweets and Free Publicity

by Linda Judd

Thank you everybody for the warm welcome that you gave me at Monday's dinner meeting. For those of you who managed to get to the meeting around 6 pm, my hat's off to you: you deserve a big applause, [Blinking APPLAUSE Sign]. As the new Publicity Chair, I'm still negotiating traffic on San Tomas and coordinating my clock. As my first order of fun, I signed the club up on Twitter so we can Tweet into the 21st century.

Copy this: [www.twitter.com/southbaywriters](http://www.twitter.com/southbaywriters). With this address you can "visit" our twitter page right away. If you go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and do a search on SouthBayWriters, one word, you'll also find the club's page.

For you more experienced Tweeters, please be there for our brave new Tweeters. Now that folks are getting on board, it's important to "Follow" each other on Twitter. Then a tweet, a message, has somebody to go to.

It's important, that I, as the club's person behind @SouthBayWriters, follow back those who follow @SouthBayWriters, within reason.

### In the Photo Image Above:

In the menubar above the header image, Twitter gives a "Notification" when a twitter user starts "following" the club, "likes" a club tweet, "retweets" a club tweet or "mentions" the club in a tweet. The app also sends me a complimentary email about these notifications, which is a choice by the user to receive or not. Some twitter users allow Messages to be sent from their Twitter page.

We have club members who have hundreds of followers, and some who have thousands of followers, and some, like our club, who have smaller numbers like, 28 Tweets, 37 Following, 24 Followers, and 22 Likes, as seen in the photo below the header image.

### The Reach of One Tweet:

Okay, let's say, that you and the club are following each other. When you send out a Tweet, the club will see your Tweet. I, as the club's person, can click the ReTweet button on your Tweet, and your message will be broadcasted to all the club's followers. Twitter is a free avenue for publicity.

If a tweet goes from user to users who have small numbers of followers, then the tweets are not going to have a far reach. If the people you are following have large numbers of followers, then your tweets are going to have a far reach. As a home base, the club needs to build its reach by having followers with a large reach. So it's important for members of CWC and SBW to support each other by following each other on Twitter.

Share our new Twitter handle, @SouthBayWriters, with writers who are in the mode to increase their audience, their reach, their free publicity. — WT

## Year of the Monkey

by Valerie Lee

*Gung Hay Fat Choy!*

Did you know that America was born in the Year of the Fire Monkey? Is it a coincidence that this mighty country seems to bear the same traits as the energetic, gesticulating Monkey—that of being a natural leader and innovator? Self-assurance, determination, aggressiveness, power and the ability to keep one step ahead of the game is what America is all about. Although competitive on the world scene, America is like the Fire Monkey. With great vitality, perseverance and constant drive, America will continue to remain on top.

Of all the animals in the Chinese lunar calendar, the Monkey resembles the Naked Ape, man, himself. The Monkey inherits man's intellect as well as his capacity for deceit. Those born in the Monkey Years: 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992 and 2004, are charmers with a natural flair for fun and mischief. Although friendly and congenial and noted for their intelligence, talents, and flexibility, they're practical decision makers with good common sense. Originality and creativity are their most prized traits.

Although Monkey people are lucky in business, they're not lucky in love. Sometimes they appear egotistical and selfish and can even be dishonest. However, since they're likeable characters, many people overlook their flaws. Once the Monkey gets what he wants, he loses interest. Because of his complicated and suspicious nature, he doesn't have many lasting relationships, but the Monkey is a survivor and always comes up a winner.

The Monkey is the ninth animal in the Chinese lunar calendar. His reign began on February 8, 2016, and ends on January 27, 2017. Chinese New Year or spring festival has been celebrated for over 3,000 years and is known as *Guo Nian* in Chinese, or "avoiding the mysterious being."

In 2016 prepare yourself for an exciting year. The Monkey will bring out our desires to succeed in the game of chance. We'll find ourselves speculating, gambling, and exploiting risky but ingenious options. The Monkey will put an end to the recession, and business will skyrocket. This year's motto will be, "Don't give up. No is not the answer." — WT

# Book Announcements and Reviews

## *Pawn in the Portal: A Novella*

by Madeline McEwen

Madeline McEwen wants to raise awareness about tech users vulnerability – particularly children. *Pawn in the Portal* highlights the exponential growth of cybercrime lurking in our technology-driven, “cloud-based” world. The number of susceptible victims is expanding rapidly with just the click of a mouse. According to RSA Research from April 2015, cyber attacks have increased 11% year-on-year. This past September, INTERPOL and the FBI started working even closer together to fight terrorism and cybercrime. Proceeds from McEwen’s absorbing new mystery will benefit the Terre Des Hommes Charitable Foundation, which supports exploited children throughout the world.



McEwen’s novella focuses on Henry Winestock’s suspicious suicide in the seaside town of Poole on the south coast of England; thousands of child sexual predators are exposed. The lead detective in the case, Corinne Prendergast, is bedridden by flu and can’t actively be involved with the investigation while her journalist partner, a friend

of the grieving family, struggles to uncover the truth.

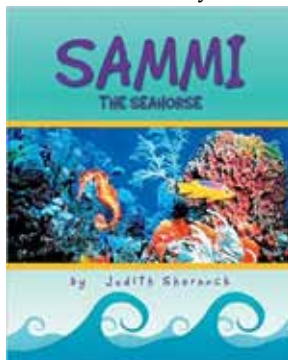
Henry’s credit card records show the history of his access to the Terre Des Hommes’ online interactive pornographic website. Did Henry unwittingly visit the site? Was he an addict or an innocent pawn in the portal? (Release date: February 2016)

## *Sammi the Seahorse*

by Judith Shernock

*Sammi the Seahorse* is a children’s book, written by Judith Shernock and illustrated by her husband, Donald Shernock. Carla Davala, on U. S. Review of Books, says: “The clever charm of this tale comes forth in Judith Shernock’s ability to disguise typically dry scientific jargon. Here she gently weaves the narrative with smart factoids about lifelong mating habits, and the unusual incubation process that takes place in the seahorse realm. Creative illustrations make use of snapshot-style seascape backgrounds.” [www.theusreview.com/reviews/Sammi-The-Seahorse-by-Judith-Shernock.html#.VsNZDeagu00](http://www.theusreview.com/reviews/Sammi-The-Seahorse-by-Judith-Shernock.html#.VsNZDeagu00)

*Sammi* received 5-Stars on Pacific Book Review: [www.pacificbookreview.com/sammi-the-seahorse/](http://www.pacificbookreview.com/sammi-the-seahorse/) and on Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/review/R2FXV1QSA4ZYQ1?ref\\_=nav\\_ya\\_signin&](https://www.amazon.com/review/R2FXV1QSA4ZYQ1?ref_=nav_ya_signin&)



## Serialize Your Book

by Betty Auchard

A few years ago I submitted a story to the free magazine, *Today’s Senior*. The editor wrote back, “I like this, but can you shorten it to 750 words?”

“Yes, sure...no problem.” I lied. Killing a hundred words was like cutting off a toe. I don’t remember how I managed, but I returned the story with 752 words that she accepted and put into the November 2008 issue. Now, it’s 2016, and my stories have appeared on that same page every month

since then. Do I get paid? No, but I get lots of email from friends saying they’ve read something by me in *Today’s Senior*. Does it sell more books? I don’t think so, but it’s fun seeing my work published.

Aside from being fun, I’ve learned something from this experience: how to tighten my writing. At first it was painful to delete my precious sentences. Now it’s easier and almost fun.

What do I submit? A whole book – one story each month. My first book, *Dancing in My Nightgown*, took about four years to



## New Releases from EditBuddy

### Chess Desalls

*Lantern* by Chess Desalls

Release date, Kindle: January 26, 2016

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01B54EH8K/ref=pe\\_re\\_csr\\_ea\\_t\\_ht](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01B54EH8K/ref=pe_re_csr_ea_t_ht)

Blurb at Amazon: Five days before Halloween, all sixteen-year-old Tori has on her mind is vacationing with her family and scoring lots of candy. Her grandmother’s estate, with its Gothic spires and trails that lead out to the woods, holds an unexpected secret: a lantern that lights up for Tori and nobody else. Certain that it’s a ghost or a prank, she investigates further and discovers a mysterious life that shines in the darkness. – WT

\* \* \*

### Valerie Estelle Frankel

*Conquer the New SAT Essay: A Skilled Professor Teaches the 2016 SAT Essay Section* by Valerie Estelle Frankel

Release date, Kindle: January 17, 2016

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01ARFAW5A/ref=pe\\_re\\_csr\\_ea\\_t\\_ht](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01ARFAW5A/ref=pe_re_csr_ea_t_ht)

Blurb at Amazon: Master the new SAT essay for 2016 and beyond! Here are fifty original SAT passage questions, plus the rhetorical tools you’ll need to answer them perfectly. Strategies, skills, sample essays, and much much more! – WT

finish. Now, I’m in my third year submitting monthly stories from my *second* book, *The Home for the Friendless*, and I’m only half way through it.

I’m now 85-years-old. If I continue submitting stories from *Friendless* every month, I’ll be 90. Soon, my third book, *Living with Twelve Men* will be released, and that’s why I’ve gotta stay alive until I’m 95. – WT

**Ed.: Mark Twain serialized his books and sold subscriptions.**



# March Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante  
Contributing Editor

## March Archery

Recall how history names the bow and arrow  
Our first weapon of war: off the straight and narrow  
It is to be hoped that PEACE is achieved  
All over this world, every dispute settled, relieved  
Without maiming or murdering; our Mars  
Being far from a war-god, just a light among stars.  
Children can play with bow and arrows for fun  
Let's hope "War's A Great Thing" is over and done.

— Pat Bustamante

March is a way of movement, a month, sometimes a description of a parade! Do you march to a drumbeat of creative writing ideas? Shoot as high as you can for your creating target.

Take away the 'M' of March: words are to play with sometimes, a bonus to our hard work on poems, stories, novels, memoirs, on and on. ARCH? Could be a bridge or a monument; could be a flirting attitude, something cute or maybe a part of your foot.

Then there's the Ark, or an arc like a rainbow; Arcadia sneaks in that arc.

Languages are made for more than communicating. Our English language has a huge amount of play possible. Puns are good exercises for getting creativity warmed up and ready to go. "Have fun, pun, run." The life of a creative word artist should include lots of joy and laughter. Go for the game! Good luck to you. — WT

Gleeful bird humming  
Purple blooms laughingly serve  
Pollen spiked nectar

— Richard A. Burns

Lilies of the Nile  
cry waiting 'neath pregnant sky  
rain just passes by

— Richard A. Burns

## You Are

You seemed untouchable  
There was a protective air about you  
Perspectives never imagined came to light  
Pieces of you unfolded  
Giving insight to inner truths  
Knowing some of your secrets  
Hidden for so long  
Opened a whole new world  
You are in memories  
Of yesterdays gone by  
As the sun sets  
You rise  
To talk of storytellers  
Near and Far  
Footprints Left  
Space Explored  
Now A Full Moon  
You Are

— Karen Franzenburg

Hyper thin sliver.  
Moonset cycle commences.  
None ever alike.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## My Savior, Sir Comic

*A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing.* — William James

When I'm feeling down  
Sorrow puddled at my feet  
Misery my queenly crown  
Despair my royal seat.

Sir Comic will arrive  
Twist my mood around  
Make me feel alive  
Giggles come unbound.

Blackness turns to rainbow  
Twinkles replace tears  
Nonsense puts on a show  
And chases off my fears.

Regal yet a clown  
Robes of rainbow hue  
He can erase my frown  
Make me want to coo.  
He'll visit if you let him  
Remove your evil sprites.  
When he sings a comic hymn  
Darkness turns to light.

— Judith Shernock



## The Tugboat

The rusted and tired tugboat  
left alone and all forlorn  
in the backwaters of the  
great bay  
along the shore in the now  
almost forgotten town  
The hull the pilothouse the bridge  
red, white and blue  
a sign in the window  
So tempting to one who  
would disobey  
just to see  
what it was all about  
Warning  
No Trespassing  
Keep Out  
The engine quiet  
the line coiled in a casual heap  
her smokestack pointing  
upward as if to speak  
The sun-drenched marsh  
caressing the boat  
as if wrapping her  
in a cloak of  
warm late afternoon glow  
No one around and  
not a sound  
only her spirit  
moaning and moving  
in search of the line  
coiled on the shore  
If not moored she might float away  
but where would she go?  
Where she rests now  
is the only home she knows  
in the water  
along the shore of that now  
forlorn almost forgotten town

— Karen Hartley



# Bad Language

by Jac Fitz-enz, Leading Edge, March 2016

I am appalled at the deterioration of the written and spoken word in America. I'm not even referring to Twitter, a patois invented for the truly demented.

It seems to me that apparently the teaching of the English language came to a close coincidentally with the cessation of World War II. No matter which medium I peruse, from newspapers to magazines, books, radio, television or email, I find instances of egregious spelling and grammar that would jar the teeth of a tenth grader. If you believe I exaggerate, read the newspaper. Journalists whose profession is founded on words often put together convoluted sentences that require two or three passes to decipher their intended message. Look at today's paper. I'll bet you can find a sentence similar to the one that occurred in our local newspaper yesterday, "Last night a man was shot in Los Altos." Where in his body is his los altos? Peter Drucker got it right: "Journalists call people gurus because they can't spell charlatans."

My intention is not to be a snob, but rather to elicit attention and action. Our children already have the burden of squinting at truncated electronic drivel. We owe it to them to provide examples of how their native language should be delivered.

Let me offer a few cases. First, try the word *forte*. It has two meanings and three possible pronunciations. Here's something easier for those who flunked recess. Do you know when to use farther or further? Ford has a commercial that says, "Go further with Ford?" I don't know what that means. I might have said "farther", but then I don't know their intention. How about complimentary and complementary? Is a complement complimentary or is a compliment complementary? Then there is redundancy: close proximity; continue on; and past experience. Possibly the worst abomination is the use of get. Rid "get my meaning" and replace it with understand.

Finally, there are just too many cases wherein someone uses the wrong word or words out of context in a sentence that is exceedingly and unnecessarily long without bothering to consider the benefit of punctuation. In this case KISS means keep it short, simpleton.

The other side of the communications issue is speaking, using the right words in a persuasive manner to win people to your views. Public speaking is number one on many people's list of great fears. Over the course of my career I've spoken to over 90,000 people in 46 countries. In the beginning I too was fearful of my ability and the audience's receptivity to my message. I learned that most people wanted me to be successful. I just needed to improve my speaking skills. The principles of effective speech are simple: credibility, logic and emotion. We can thank Aristotle for this. He called them ethos, logos, and pathos.

When I started I had no credibility so I relied on logic. That was a mistake. I forgot about emotion. Over time I learned that the best way to move an audience is to start with a story to which they can relate (not relate to). By using shared experiences in human resources, good and bad, I built credibility. They accepted that I was one of them. Then I could turn to data, logic, to drive home the evidence behind my argument.

Someone said that stories are just data with a soul. I started my

first novel, *Rough Waters*, with a story of what happened to a seven-year-old boy on his last day of school in second grade. Everyone has painful episodes from their school years and so can relate to this little boy's trauma. The reader will read on to learn how the boy coped and how that affected his life. Aren't you curious, too?

This reliance on emotion is why I often share my experience in human resources management when writing this column. I need to connect emotionally before I can apply the logic underpinning my position.

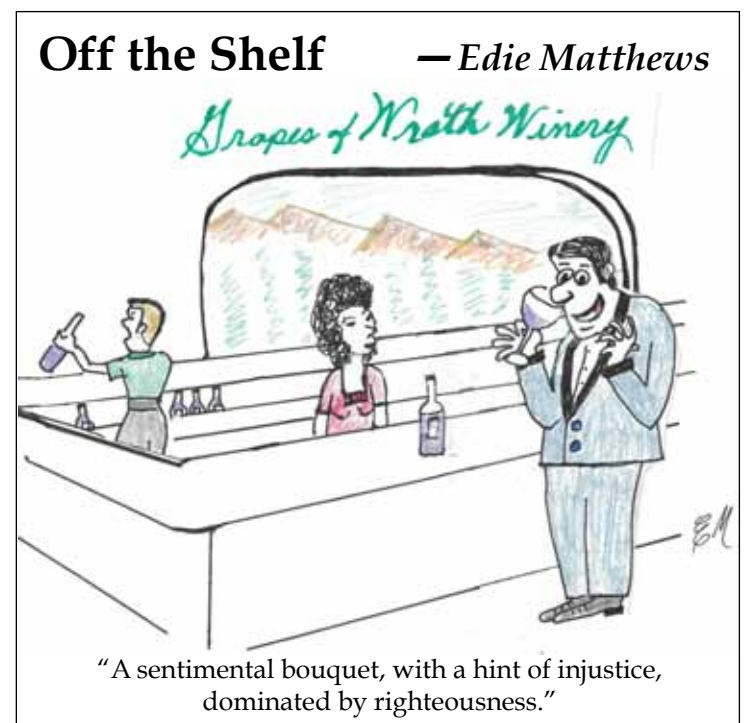
Whether you liked him or not, you have to admit that Ronald Reagan had a successful political career. Starting as president of the Screen Actors Guild, he was elected governor of California and finally, president of the United States. In every case he won two terms. The secret to his success was his ability to communicate, through stories and emotional rhetoric: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall." On the other side: Dan Quayle or Bush II.

I've learned you have to entertain as well as educate. Using the right word in the right context delivered with conviction and passion is the pathway to success. —WT

## CWC Sacramento 2016 Short Short Story Writing Contest

Category: Fiction. Length: up to 750 words. Open to all writers. First, \$100; Second, \$50; Third Place, \$25. Awards presented at the June 2016 CWC Sacramento Branch Luncheon. Winning stories to be published in a special edition of the *Write On!* newsletter. Deadline **Friday, April 1, 2016**.

Fee \$10 per entry, payable by check to CWC Sacramento Branch. **No online submissions.** Send four copies of each entry and one cover sheet along with payment to CWC Sacramento Branch, 2016 Writing Contest, P.O. Box 4706, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. See our website: [www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/2016/short-short-story-writing-contest/](http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/2016/short-short-story-writing-contest/) —WT



## Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

### Writer's Digest Self-published Book Awards closes April 1.

Prizes: \$8,000 in cash; a feature article about you and your book for the March/April 2017 issue of *Writer's Digest*; a press release from *Writer's Digest*, to be sent, along with a copy of your book, to 10 different major publishing review houses; a paid trip to the ever-popular *Writer's Digest Conference*! See more prizes and enter at [writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-book-awards](http://writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-book-awards).

**Another contest. Deadline April 25:** [writermag.com/contests/writer-great-break/](http://writermag.com/contests/writer-great-break/)

### Other sites that list competitions:

[www.pw.org/grants](http://www.pw.org/grants)

<https://winningwriters.com/>

[www.dystopianstories.com/writing-competitions-2016/](http://www.dystopianstories.com/writing-competitions-2016/)

<http://thewritelife.com/100-best-websites-writers-2016/>

[www.poets.org/academy-american-poets/](http://www.poets.org/academy-american-poets/)

and the site where you have to scroll through to find contests: [www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/](http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/)

**Site recommending contests:** [www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview](http://www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview)

**And a nice article on entering poetry contests:** "Entering to Win: On Poetry Contests | Academy of American Poets" at [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

Check out contests carefully: the smaller the entry fee, the better. If you uncover an intriguing opportunity, please share with us here at *WritersTalk*. — WT



## The Literary Nest Contests

Submit your best original, unpublished literary work — work that is edgy and pushes the boundaries. Fiction and Poetry Contests by age groups: 18 – 25; 25 – 55; 55+

Fiction, 2500 – 5000 words; Poetry, up to five poems, each 50 lines or fewer. One winner in each category; prize \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Deadline: March 30, 2016.

Check guidelines at <http://theliterarynest.com/contests/current-contest/> While you're there, check out previous issues. We appreciate and favor understated elegance in writing. — WT

## 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> — WT

## San Mateo County Fair, Literary Arts Division: June 11 – 18 Literary Submissions Deadline April 1

by Carolyn Donnell

It's that time again. The wonderful Literary Arts Division of the San Mateo County Fair is ramping up for 2016. The CWC San Francisco/Peninsula branch has been presenting free workshops and readings on the fair's literary stage since 2009 and conducting contests, and publishing entries in *Carry the Light (Vols I – IV to date)*. This year there are 11 divisions including fiction, memoir, essays, poetry, children's books and new divisions for songwriting and digital/audio entries. If you count the sub-divisions, including some with under age 55 and over 55 divisions, you have up to 30 different categories. More opportunities to win a prize. Many divisions also have a lottery option to win a professional critique of your entry.

New for 2016: Every winner of a first, second, third, or honorable mention award will be published in the Anthology, except digital media submissions, which will be posted on the literary web page. In addition, San Mateo County Fair will publish online each entrant's submission regardless of a win and will include an optional bio (75 words or less), plus website and/or blog links on the new, permanently archived web publication.

Deadline for all Literary Entries is **11:59 pm on Friday, April 1, 2016**. This includes your bio and web-links as mentioned above, if you want to be in the online publication.

Go to <http://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/contests/departments/literary-arts> (Scroll down and you will see some happy South Bay Writers Club faces from last year's fair.) Download the Contest Book Information ASAP. Read this **VERY! Carefully!** before entering. It is a long and detailed document.

When you are ready to enter, click on Online Entry Form. \$10 per entry. Yes, they charge \$10 per entry! But you have a good chance to win \$100, \$50, or \$25 AND you receive tickets for fair entry and for parking — that's \$10 back, right there. If you have difficulties, email [literary@smeventcenter.com](mailto:literary@smeventcenter.com) BEFORE the April 1st entry deadline.

Some highlights this year:

Saturday, June 11, 1 – 6 pm: *Carry the Light* Anthology Launch and Book Signing

Sunday, June 12, 1 – 6 pm: Annual Writers Mini-Conference

Monday, June 13, 2 – 4 pm: Kid's Day: "Create Your Own Space Alien"

Tuesday, June 14, 12 – 8 pm: Senior Day workshops; *Fault Zone* readings

Saturday, June 18, 2 – 4 pm: Author Day. Local authors sell and sign books

Watch website for additional writers' events.

You need not win a prize or buy a book to attend any of the free literary workshops and events — all free with fair entry. It's a mini-writers conference, and sometimes editors and agents attend.

Come and meet your fellow writers! — WT

## Ads Literary Review

News from Central Board, California Writers Club

The *Literary Review*, published by the California Writers Club with works of its membership, will now be accepting writing-related paid advertising. Space is limited and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The Editor reserves the right to reject ads that may not be appropriate for *The Literary Review*.

A full page has three columns ten inches in length and two inches wide. A one-column ad one inch in length would be one column-inch, or \$40.00. Discount for larger ads. Pricing details at [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org) or call Bob Isbill at 760-221-6367.

All ads must be submitted **print-ready** in a jpg file emailed to Bob Isbill at [advertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingCWC@gmail.com), and also physically mailed as a hard copy with check or money order made out to CWC Central Treasury to: HDCWC Advertising Department, 20258 Hwy 18, Ste 430 PMB 281, Apple Valley, CA 92307. — WT

Your ad will be seen by 2,000 writers.

## SBW TalkBooks Talks SBW Books

SBW 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 book news leads to 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](mailto:lindyjudd@yahoo.com).

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](mailto: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 you in. — 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.org](http://cwc-berkeley.org)

**Central Coast:** 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

**Fremont Area:** 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 120, Fremont. [cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

**Marin:** 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. [cwcmarin.com](http://cwcmarin.com)

**Mendocino Coast:** 6:00 third Wednesdays, Mendocino Hotel. [writersmendocinocoast.org](http://writersmendocinocoast.org)

**Mount Diablo:** 11:30 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. [cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com](http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com)

**Napa Valley:** 7:00 second Wednesdays, venue is changing. [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net)

**North State:** 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. [northstatewriters.com](http://northstatewriters.com)

**Redwood:** 2:30 first Sundays, Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa. [redwoodwriters.org](http://redwoodwriters.org)

**Sacramento:** 11:00 third Saturdays, Cattlemen's Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. [cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://cwcsacramentowriters.org)

**San Francisco/Peninsula:** 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. [sfpeninsulawriters.com](http://sfpeninsulawriters.com)

**Tri-Valley:** 11:30 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org)

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## Conference/Workshop Announcements Book Publishing 1-2-3: Tuesday, March 15

Packed with stories and tips, this fast-paced program is designed to empower and inspire writers of fiction and nonfiction alike. We'll start with a brief glance at the book business: self-publishing, e-books, and traditional publishing. Then we'll share ideas to help writers refine their craft, tips for connecting with literary agents and editors, and some thoughts on how to promote books.

Tuesday, March 15, 7 – 8 p.m. at Milpitas Public Library, 160 N. Main St., Milpitas

Presenter: CWC member Laurie Gibson, the editor who has served nearly 200 first-time authors and also proofread books for numerous publishing companies. — 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](http://writersofkern.com). If there's someone you really want to hear, ask VP Jenni Everidge to schedule him/her as a speaker. — WT

## Fremont Area Writers Fiction Workshop

CWC Fremont Area Writers is sponsoring a one-day fiction writing workshop, "Your World, Your Protagonist, Your Story," on Saturday, March 5 from 9 am to 3 pm, at DeVry University, Room 115, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Fremont. Led by Shelley Bates, RITA Award Winner and Christy Finalist. Workshop fee (includes lunch): FAW member, \$45; CWC member, \$50; Non-member, \$55. Checks payable to Fremont Area Writers. Mail payment with your name, email, phone number, and CWC Branch to Fremont Area Writers, P. O. Box 47, Union City, CA 94587-0047. Email Erika Anderson-Bolden at [rikadanie@hotmail.com](mailto:rikadanie@hotmail.com) with any questions. — WT



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 2016</b>			1	2	3	4 7:30P Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose
6	7 1:30PM Mystery Circle 2PM Valley Writers	8 7 PM SBW Board meeting	9 7 PM Flash Fiction Forum at the Works 365 S. Market, SJ	10	11	12
13 10 AM Our Voices	14 6:00PM Regular Dinner Meeting, Harry's 2PM Valley Writers	15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>	16	17 7 PM Poetry readings	18 7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	19
20	21 2PM Valley Writers	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 AM Our Voices	28 2PM Valley Writers	29 7 PM TalkShop	30 7:30 PM TalkBooks	31		
<b>Future Flashes</b>						
April 11: SBW regular meeting	April 5: SBW Board meeting	April 16: Workshop on Voice by Amanda McTigue	<b>APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH</b>			

## 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

**Expose Your Fiction!** March 9, Works SJ, [www.flashfictionforum.com](http://www.flashfictionforum.com)

### SBW Underground Goes Underground

February 16th was the last "official" meeting of SBW Underground. Folks interested in experimental, avant-garde, and not-always-socially-acceptable writing can always contact me (wabaldwin@aol.com) and get together. You never know when you may find me in a café, deep in thought or deep in writing. — *Bill Baldwin*

### SBW Board Meetings

Our Board meets at 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 TalkBooks:** discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. Meets last Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Santa Clara Library, Homestead Road. For more information, read article on Page 14 and 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](http://poetrycentersanjose.org)

**Poetry Center San Jose:** Meets at Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, Third Thursdays, 7 PM. [poetrycentersanjose.org](http://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](http://workssanjose.org)

### SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).



**California Writers Club**  
South Bay Branch  
P.O. Box 3254  
Santa Clara, CA 95055  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers**  
**March Regular Meeting**  
**6 PM, Monday, March 14**

Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

## Audio Platforms for Writers

**Killian McRae**

**March Speaker**

*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.