



WRITERSTALK

Volume 25
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July 2017

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™



Annual Potluck Barbeque

by Carole Taub, SBW Hospitality Chair

You're invited to South Bay Writers' annual potluck barbeque on Sunday, July 16 at 3:00 PM. The grill will be fired up as will be the mood of the day. Come for a day of feasting, fun with friends.

Please bring an item to share for the potluck according to the first letter of your last name: A - H Appetizer or Dessert; I - R Main Dish or Significant Side; and S - Z Salad. South Bay Writers will provide meat, wine, beer, water and soda.

Location: Edie Matthews' home, Santa Clara

Please RSVP: 408-985-0819 or edie333@sbcglobal.net

Note: It is not good form to publish a member's address on the Internet. Thus, if you receive *WritersTalk* electronically or read this on the SBW webpage, you must inquire when you RSVP. — WT

RECAP JUNE SPEAKER PANEL

Facts and Friction behind Truth and Fiction

by Chess Desalls

Edgar shot me a sly grin. "If only you and I tell a story, how many versions are there?"

"Two."

He chuckled and shook his head.

"Three, Valcas. Yours, mine, and the truth."

—Chess Desalls, *Time for the Lost* (Czidor Lore, LLC, 2016), 19.

The dialogue before and after the quoted excerpt examines, in greater detail, what constitutes truth and whose memory, or interpretation, is most true. The questions are philosophical and, yet, offered tongue-in-cheek in the context of science fiction. Words and pictures tell a story from the viewpoint of the speaker or photographer. The speaker's intention and perspective affect the listeners' perception of truth. What do listeners take from this, and what are they to believe?

June panelists, Dana Nachman, ArLyne Diamond, Steve Kettman, and Pete Carey, discussed writing truth through fiction (and nonfiction) by answering a series of important questions. What are facts? What is truth? What is fiction, and how is it related to expressing the truth? Finally, what are the responsibilities of writers in each of these areas?

With a combined background in writing, reporting, film production, and journalism, the panel offered examples from professional experience to events surrounding recent allegations of fake news.

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Presidential Message

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



Between the Lines

Being transported to the world of your novel is a compelling experience, but as a people person, I often found the solitude of writing a challenge. I yearned to socialize with other writers, discuss my work, and improve my craft. Consequently, in the late 90s I was drawn to the comradery of South Bay Writers.

I had already self-published a thousand copies of a joke book, *You've Been Around Small Children Too Long When* I sold it after the comedy show I wrote and performed in called *Mothers and Other Goddesses*. It was the perfect platform, and I quickly sold out. (I wish I had printed 2000 copies.)

However, I always planned someday I'd write a novel. I can point to three influences. First, my mother: most of my childhood she worked on a million-dollar "bestseller." Second, while driving to gigs, I listened to hundreds of books on tape. Third, I read my mother's unpublished book based about her parents' movie theater, one of the first in England.

When I joined SBW, the club was in transition. Board members were burnt out and scrambling to find replacements – plus attendance had fallen. Soon I was tapped to be vice president. I accepted the position with gusto. I also volunteered to do PR. I had worked in media and felt my experience could benefit the club.

As VP and Publicity Chair, my chief responsibility was to book and publicize the meetings. SBW needed speakers who would inspire, inform, and draw attendees. I sought out people to provide insight into the odyssey of getting published. How did they stay motivated? How did they overcome writer's block? How did they find an agent? What did they learn in the process? What would they advise new writers?

Fortunately, I already knew a diverse group of potential speakers. I belonged to the Breakfast Bunch in San Jose, kind of an Algonquin Round Table West. Regulars included *SJ Mercury News* columnist Leigh Weimer; author and TV host Michael S. Malone; publisher Robert Reed, and English Professor Alan Soldofsky. A variety of eclectic individuals showed up at our weekly gatherings. For example, the editor of the *Metro Silicon Valley* and visiting authors speaking at SJSU's Center for Literary Arts.

In addition, I contacted Bay Area writers whom I'd learned of from newspapers, bookstores, agents, etc., and whom I believed would be dynamic speakers. I booked Laurie R. King (mystery writer), Tamara Straus (*Zoetrope* Editor), Ellen Bass (poet), Trina Robbins (cartoonist & author), Larry Wilde (joke writer), Kimberly Cameron (Kimberly Cameron Agency), and Terry Ryan (*How My Mother Raised 10 Children on 25 Words or Less*). SBW became the largest branch and we sponsored four successful East of Eden Writing Conferences.

Now SBW is in another transition period. As we embark on the next chapter, we have a new board of vibrant talent – individuals of diverse ages, genders, and experiences. I hope you will join us in the next episode of SBW. – WT

A reminder: It's time to renew for 2017-18. See Page 12.

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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. Renewal dues are \$45 for membership through June 30, 2018. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. New member, \$65. Contact Membership Chair or sign up online at southbaywriters.com.

WritersTalk

The monthly newsletter of South Bay Writers, the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club

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Deadline

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

Submissions

SBW encourages writers at all levels of expertise to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. All submissions should be sent to the above email address in the form of text or an attached MS Word file (sorry, no hard copy submissions can be accepted). Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files, with separate instructions for placement in the submission if placement is important.

All submissions will be copyedited. Titles and headlines subject to change. Managing Editor reserves the right to selection.

Suggested word limits (less is more):

Member Achievement / News (200 words)

News Items (400 words)

In My Opinion (300 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

Creative Works

Short Fiction/Memoir (1800 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay/Nonfiction (1000 words)

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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.

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Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Managing Editor



Book Expo America 2017 And a Visit with Rexie

My novel *Lost Jade of the Maya* appeared at Book Expo America in New York, May 31 – June 3. One of some 5,000 new books, mine wasn't featured prominently, but I found both places where it was shelved, definitely photo opportunities.

I used a California Writers Club discount from the Combined Book Exhibit, managers of the Title Showcase for Book Expo, the major book industry event in the US. They displayed a print copy of my book and listed it in the New Title Showcase catalog but erroneously pictured the cover from *Jaguar Princess*.

Lost Jade was displayed on a shelf in an attractive booth with LitFire Publishing at the Expo, and it is featured in *WayFairer*, a free magazine given to all attendees, but not included in the catalog for Book Expo. LitFire also created a website for me: www.lostjadeofthemaya.com. LitFire encouraged me to go to New York, and while it was thrilling to see my book displayed, only authors who are famous or rich had a book signing or book talk at the show. (Note: *Caveat emptor*. See page 6)



In addition to attending the Expo, my daughter Jan and I enjoyed three Broadway shows – *Hamilton*, *Wicked*, and *Aladdin* – and spent a day at the Museum of Natural History, where I said hello to Rexie, the Tyrannosaurus Rex, my favorite dinosaur. (Rexie – why not? Locals call the Loch Ness lake monster Nessie.)

We learned where they find all of those extras for zombie movies: they walked through Times Square. Hypnotized by the crush of people and the constantly flashing billboards, people with blank stares flow by. The rivers of people avoid police barriers, cross streets, and randomly intertwine with taxis, buses, and trucks, without accidents. We heard New York pedestrians are called survivors.

Next time you go to New York, give Rexie a hug for me. Until then, keep writing and send some articles to *WritersTalk*. – WT

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View From the Board

by Trenton Myers, SBW Secretary

The May Board Meeting was held on June 6th at Mariani's Inn & Restaurant in Santa Clara and was attended by President Pam Oliver Lyons, Secretary Trenton Myers, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Newsletter Chair Marjorie Johnson, Policy Chair Dave LaRoche, Hospitality Chair Carole Taub, Member-at-Large 1 Janet Patey, Election/Nominations Chair Steve Lyons, and guests Kymberlie Ingalls, Colin Seymour, and Dr. Jac Fitzenz.

Bylaws Revision: Approval of the revised bylaws, written by Dave LaRoche and mailed to all SBW members as required by our present bylaws, was added to the agenda for the SBW general meeting, June 12.

Website Redesign: The revamped SBW website is nearly finished and members are implored to check out the changes. Feel free to share our website among peers and possible new members as well as upload a bio on yourself under the 'update member bios' section.

B&N Eastridge Book Fair: The June B&N Eastridge Book Fair was canceled.

SBW Anthology: The SBW Anthology is currently being proofed and members will be informed when the work is published. Members will also be encouraged to share the anthology with peers and passionate writers within SBW.

BBQ/July Guest Speaker: The annual SBW BBQ will be held on Sunday July 16th at 3:00pm at Edie Matthew's house. Please be aware that we will not be having a guest speaker or general meeting for July due to the club event.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the SBW Board will be on Tuesday, July 11th, 7:00-9:00pm at Edie Matthews' home. — WT

Postponement of Approval of Bylaws Revision: At the SBW general meeting on June 12, Dick Amyx made a motion, seconded by Carolyn Donnell, to postpone indefinitely the discussion and vote on adopting the revised bylaws. Motion carried. See articles on Page 5.

New SBW Officers, as of July 1: President, Edie Matthews; Vice President, Jamal Khan; Secretary, Karen Sundback; Treasurer, Trenton Myers; Members-at-Large, Janet Patey and Tatyana Grinenko. — WT

SBW Board of Directors 2017-18



Left to Right: Secretary Karen Sundback, Member-at-Large 2 Tatyana Grinenko, Treasurer Trenton Myers, President Edie Matthews, Vice President Jamal Khan, and Member-at-Large 1 Janet Patey.

—Photo by Dick Amyx

New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our two newest members.

Kevin Carroll joined us online, and he is interested in writing fiction and non-fiction. On his membership questionnaire, Kevin says: "I was born and raised in San Francisco. I moved to the South Bay for college and decided that this is where I want to spend my life. I majored in English, with an emphasis in writing, at Santa Clara University. I devoted forty years to teaching, mostly at the high school level, but it also included some experience with middle school students. I retired in June 2015 to devote more time to writing and to my grandkids. My wife Kathy and I live in San Jose. We have three adult sons and two grandchildren. I have enjoyed writing from my earliest days. I began with thank you notes, then letters to friends, stories and poetry. Writing, for me, has always been therapeutic. I want to leave a written legacy for my sons and grandchildren."

Kevin is currently organizing some of his blog posts for publication. His website is <http://attitudeofgratitude.typepad.com>.

Heidi Holzer also joined us online, and she is interested in writing fiction. On her membership questionnaire, Heidi says: "I've made my living as a German-English translator for the past twenty-five years, and have lived in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. I love to travel and have been all over Europe, Morocco, Mexico and Iran, where my husband was born. My passion is cooking Persian food and collecting recipes (as well as stories that go along with them) from friends and family members. My writing is a journey to find the place where cultures intersect. I like to peel away the layers of tradition and custom to finally arrive at a place deep down where we are all the same.

"My short story, "Trading Places," was published in the "Secret Codes" issue of *Nautilus Magazine*. Two others have appeared in German crime fiction anthologies and translated into French, Polish, Estonian and Slovenian. I'm currently working on the final edits of a crime novel set in contemporary Iran and planning another set in 1980's East Germany." Heidi's pen name is Heidi Noroozy, and her website is heidinoroozy.com.

We wish you both a warm welcome and hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment. See you at our annual BBQ on Sunday, July 16. — WT

Let's Repair, Not Replace

by Meredy Amyx

Repeal and replace SBW bylaws – what, again?

That's exactly what we did in 2010. By a vote at the meeting of June 8, 2010, members of SBW adopted an entire new set of bylaws, effectively rescinding the previous set that dated from 2003.

It made sense to do that. The older set was inadequate and deserved a makeover. The new (2010) bylaws still left too many gaps and provided too few safeguards, but they were a big improvement.

But why are we being asked to do it again? Why should we discard our legally adopted self-definition and basic rules and start over? Is our existing set of bylaws totally and completely wrong and inadequate? If so, why did we pass it seven years ago? If we shouldn't have – if we just rushed it through under pressure, without due consideration – wouldn't we be wise to spend a little longer examining the new draft so we don't find ourselves in the same position a few years from now?

And if our current bylaws are salvageable and not an utter loss, shouldn't we concentrate on fixing what needs repair, using the duly defined process of amendment, instead of ditching the whole thing for a total replacement?

At this year's election meeting, on June 12th, a proposed new set of bylaws was brought forward for a vote. The draft had been distributed to SBW members in a special issue of *WritersTalk* produced in mid-May, in time to comply with the required two weeks' notice prior to balloting.

A great deal of thought and effort went into the proposed bylaws, and that's worth acknowledging. However, when a motion to postpone adoption was made, I voted in favor of it. Not because I don't think they need to be changed. They do. Rather, because I favor an orderly process that begins with what we have now, maintains some continuity, changes only what needs changing, and allows members time to consider those changes as they are made. In other words, amendment.

I'm not writing as an entirely objective and uninvolved member. I conducted the 2010 SBW election at which the current bylaws were passed, in which capacity I received them from their author, Dave La Roche, and saw to their distribution to the members. It was indeed a complete repeal-and-replace operation.

I don't think anybody thought those were the ultimate bylaws and would never need changing, but they were a good place to work from. They still are.

Subsequently I was asked to chair a committee to see to further refinement, and I spent a lot of time studying them, looking for everything that might be a weakness, every loophole that ought to be closed, and every intent not fully expressed that could come back to bite us if things went awry. I dropped the ball on that exercise, but I did preserve all my notes, and I submitted them with extensive commentary to Dave as he worked on the 2017 draft. I probably have more highlighted, color-coded, annotated, word-by-word comparisons of the various SBW bylaws, both enacted and defeated, than anybody else within driving distance of Harry's Hofbrau.

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I Must Say This

by Dave LaRoche

I see the scenario now. Dick Anyx makes motion to postpone indefinitely. Meredy Amys follows with plans of her own. I am amused--so much political wrangling and personal agenda in a writing club.

Yes, there were significant changes from the 2010 amended bylaws presented in the recent revision. They were needed. Not because our board – six elected, four appointed – thought so and approved, but because the club, from an administrative point of view, is faltering.

- Little visibility/control requirements for a treasury exceeding \$20K
- No records retention requirement (in default of state requirements).
- Not enough interest or resource for workshops (not one in over two years).
- No means of terminating an officer for cause (recent bumbling creating hard feelings and quits).
- No means of filling a vacancy on the board or rules of succession.
- No state of the club reports at the end of a term – financial or otherwise.
- No process for conducting elections (today that left to the chair, and two this year because of unresolved differences in what is required).

There are other grammatical and construction changes as well, to make the bylaws an easier read and specifics easier to find.

To say, as Meredy asserts, that the 2010 revision was repeal and replace is patently false. The fact is our first set of bylaws was approved in 1987 with the chartering of our branch. The first and only revision to date occurred in 2010. While the club had grown from about 25 members to over 200 and our operation became more complex, we did nothing more than add two members-at-large to the board. Each revision is additive. The recent revision is significant in size, but it too is built on its predecessor and nothing is lost. In her piece she implies lack of focus and clarity. Please read the revision sent, and see if you agree.

It's of interest to know that we use the spirit invoked by *Roberts Rules of Order* to conduct board business: an agenda; be recognized before speaking; and the parliamentary approach to legislate – the motion, second, and vote. It makes good sense as order is maintained and we get things done. But Roberts Rules in whole applies only when our bylaws, the state constitution, state bylaws, policies and procedures do not respond to a question at hand, and Roberts Rules does propose a solution.

The purpose of bylaws is to inform those running the club how it is organized and expected to run. This is particularly important for us as each year a new administration takes the helm and needs those rules of the road. Recently those new officers have also been new to the club and needed a somewhat detailed set of bylaws. But, as Meredy says, and I agree – no more than enough. That is exactly what we intended and achieved.

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Facts and Friction

Continued from Page 1

A key theme that developed was that real journalism still exists, if the listener is willing to find it amid the barrage of distractions and opinions on television and social media. And, more importantly, if the speaker is willing to dig deep enough for the truth.

“Truth starts and ends with telling a larger story,” said Steve Kettmann, a former San Francisco Chronicle sports writer. Access and the amount of time to investigate have grown tighter; financial resources are strapped; and people are less willing to speak with the press for fear of retaliation and lawsuits. Film producer Dana Nachman explained that as access and sources have gone down, “journalists aren’t able to sink their teeth into things as much anymore.” Pete Carey, a Pulitzer Prize winner and retired reporter, said there’s access in the sense that reporters collect leaks.

Despite constraints, there are newspapermen out there trying to tell the truth. This requires bravery, developing relationships, and working one’s sources. Steve and Dana described this as an obsession or compulsion to find the truth.



June Panel, left to right: Steve Kettmann, Dana Nachman, Pete Carey, ArLyne Diamond, and Colin Seymour, Moderator.
—Photo by Dick Amyx

Pete defined truth as “the collection of enough facts to represent a correct representation of reality or a relevant subject.” SBW member, ArLyne Diamond noted the importance of interpretation: “You can have the same exact facts and two different truths based on those facts.”

Fiction invokes a search for larger truths, even though the facts are made up.

“There always has to be a creative alchemy or it’s not storytelling,” said

Steve. “Fiction requires a strong sense of place.” The fiction writer must do his or her research to make real-world elements believable.

“Great fiction,” added ArLyne, “resonates with you and leaves you with a greater truth.”

Learn more about each of the panelists at southbaywriters.com/truth-and-fiction-june-12-sbw-panel-to-discuss-where-a-writers-duty-lies. —WT

I Must Say This

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We don’t operate in a vacuum. We are obligated through charter to the State California Writers Club. We are a 501(3)(c) corporation and exist with obligations to the State of California and to the IRS. Our bylaws need to reflect our compliance with those related rules.

Dick Amyx’s motion to postpone indefinitely takes on more meaning today, as Meredy promotes her version of enacting bylaws—a piece here, another there, so that each meeting or so, another vote and another step, hopefully forward.

Yes, the proposed revision appears a big lump. Of course it isn’t, once read, and we do it only one time, not a little at each meeting. We want our meetings to deal with story, craft, and publishing, not amendments to bylaws. —WT

Giant bumblebee
hovers in dead branches maze
It finds no nectar

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

What is the Truth? Lit Fire Marketing

by Marjorie Johnson

In my editorial, I reported the good things that Lit Fire Publishing’s marketing package did for me, and what a thrill it was to have my book at Book Expo America in New York. That is one Truth.

However, here is a second Truth. I did not get much bang for my buck.

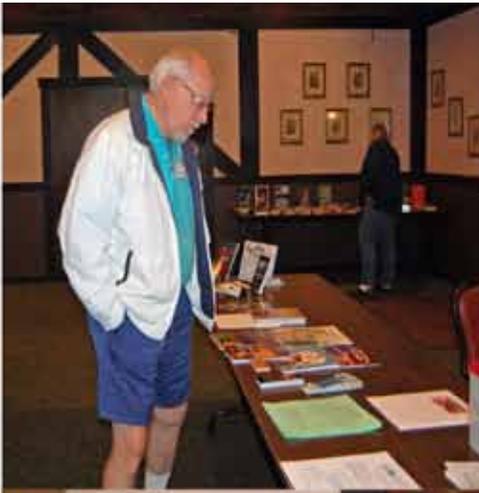
Lit Fire encouraged me to travel to New York. At Book Expo America, Lit Fire did have a booth and my book was on the shelf, but I had to pay \$150 to enter the show and authors were told that they could not promote their books.

My book was not included in the catalog of books at the Expo. Instead, according to Lit Fire, it appeared in *WayFairer*, a free publication given to all persons visiting the Expo. My daughter and I did not find *WayFairer*; we both paid \$150 to enter the show.

Lit Fire said they would mail me my copy of *Wayfairer*—not seen as of this writing. I also have not received my 100 business cards, bookmarks, and postcards, or my 5 posters.

Is there a third Truth? —WT

SOUTH BAY WRITERS CLUB JUNE 2017



Collage and Photos by Carolyn Donnell



2017 San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Division



Collage and Photos by Carolyn Donnell

Bad Boys

by Betty Auchard

At the young age of forty-three, a plague infected my body and disrupted my life. It was called menopause. I was teaching high school art at the time, and my tolerance level was nonexistent. With thirty lively students, I found it almost impossible to keep my composure. I lost it often, so often that I'm surprised the principal didn't fire me.

One of my classes swarmed with bad boys. They were the kind of boys who loved distracting the class during my instruction. It was never girls. Those guys were always getting into trouble, and I wasted way too much energy trying to keep them in line.

One boy plastered a student desk chair with rubber cement. Another refused to work on the color wheel assignment, claiming to be color-blind. A third pulled a chair out from under a girl when she was about to sit down, and she smacked the floor instead.

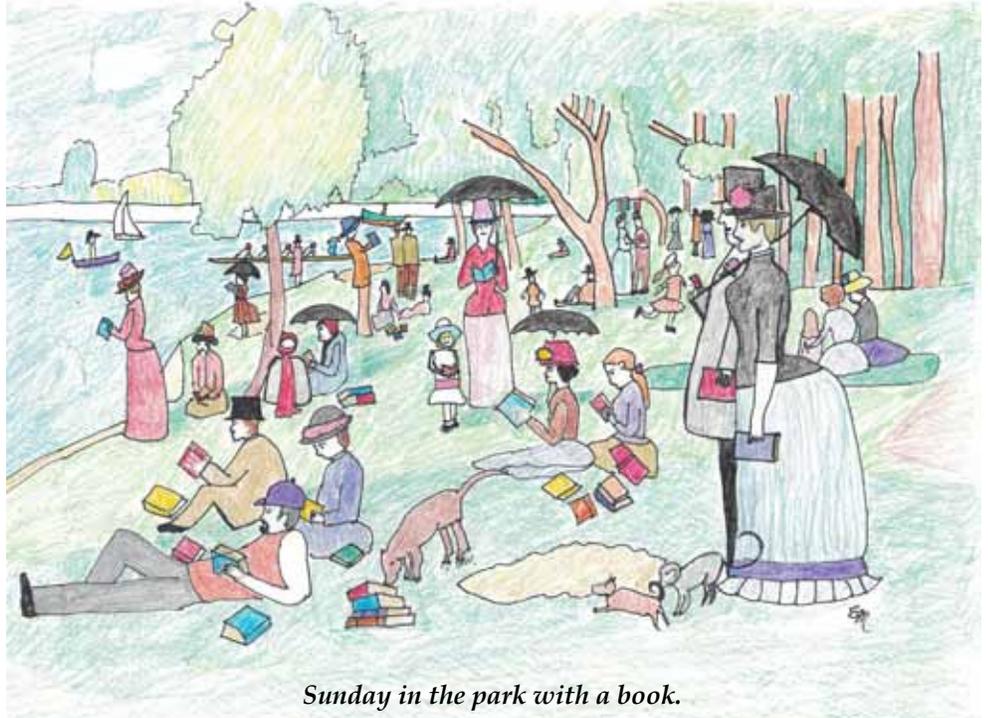
One day two boys in the back of the room started fighting. I screamed for them to stop. They either couldn't hear me or decided to ignore me. My yelling had no effect, even when I walked to the back of the room and yelled louder. Boiling with rage, I stomped to the door near the front of the class. Before exiting, I kicked the large garbage can so hard that the whole side caved in. I was sure I had broken a toe. Then I slammed the door behind me with such force that it bounced open again.

I limped to the principal's office to report the two boys and then hobbled back to my room. Dreading what I'd find inside, I lingered with my hand on the knob for several minutes. When I finally got up the nerve to open the door, I couldn't believe what I saw. Every student was seated, quiet and working hard on the project. I said nothing until clean-up time, and I supervised that job like a guard in the penitentiary. When the bell rang, I didn't say goodbye to a single student.

A girl stayed behind after the rest left and approached me with caution. She said, "Uh, Mrs. Auchard, while you were in the dean's office, those two boys and some other kids worked hard to get that big dent out of the garbage can."

Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



Sunday in the park with a book.

"What?" I asked. "Why would they fix it?"

"Well, they didn't want you to get in trouble."

Her revelation was hard to believe, but I thanked her for telling me.

I had spent so much time disliking those boys that my jumbled emotions kept me from thinking straight. They were no doubt nervous about being reported to the dean, but they also knew a damaged garbage can would take some explaining. It was hard to understand why they were concerned about me getting in trouble, and I couldn't get it off my mind.

I never dreamed those boys had it in them to do something nice for anyone. I was wrong, and my heart softened. Then I realized I had categorized students as good or bad, and that's where they stayed forever. The boys' unexpected kindness touched me, which felt very strange.

That experience taught me that no matter how ornery and unlikeable some students might be, they probably weren't mean to crippled kids and would probably cry if their dog died. I knew those boys had softened, too. — WT

ESSAY

Damsel Not in Distress

by Judith Shernock

The movie *Wonder Woman* has broken box office records all over the world. The only exception to this fact was Lebanon, where it was banned.

A blazing feminist didn't create this super hero, but rather a bespectacled psychologist, William Marsten, who helped invent the polygraph. His wife, Elizabeth, also a psychologist, helped him in both endeavors. After testing thousands of people with the polygraph they came to the conclusion that woman were the more honest and trustworthy gender. In 1939 they created *Wonder Woman*, and William wrote the dialogue for the comic book heroine until his death in 1947 at age 57.

The author had the heroines' place of birth as an island in the Bermuda Triangle known as Paradise or Themyscira. Only females lived on the island, so her Mother, Queen Hippolyta, sculpted the daughter out of clay and blew life into her.

On the Island every ancient art of battle was taught, from archery to spear fighting. Diana (*Wonder Woman*), being the

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Let's Repair, Not Replace

Continued from Page 5

What I would like to see happen now — and I'm willing to help make it happen — is to initiate a process of amendment that respects the following principles:

Compliance with the bylaws still in effect — that is, the set adopted as Revision 1, of June 10, 2010.

Incremental change by means of amendments targeting specific provisions, rather than trying to do it all at once.

Focus. This means confining our efforts to those rules and definitions that are essential to the club's functioning and that by their nature ought to require members' consent to change. This, says *Robert's Rules of Order* (proposed as our designated procedural authority), is the purpose of bylaws. It also means not incorporating rules about things that don't need to be hardened into the organization's fundamental structure.

Clarity in language and care in presentation; for example, avoiding ambiguity, eliminating typos, and treating terms consistently.

It's fair to say that this process could turn out to be a pain in the butt for a little while. It would involve proposing amendments one by one, submitting them to *WritersTalk* for publication, reading them aloud at general meetings, allowing for discussion and possible revision, and voting on them. Anyone can

see why it might be less of a nuisance to revise the whole thing in one fell swoop.

But the problem with that is that we completely lose the benefit of gradual improvement and refinement over time. Starting over from scratch is a crude and drastic approach that invalidates everything that's gone before, divorces us from our history, and erases our audit trail. It implies that what we had was too flawed to be worth saving. And it exposes us to unpredictable results by binding us to an untested, minimally examined organizational framework instead of letting us revise and correct as we go along — something that we writers and editors ought to understand better than most.

Besides, it's almost impossible for members to give the whole thing proper consideration and evaluate the implications without a whole lot of time and attention — and there aren't that many people in the normal world who want to spend much time talking and thinking about bylaws.

But let's try to do it right, guys. Let's accept a little pain in the process and get it done so we don't have to keep doing this.

Maybe then we'll have a sound basis for further amendment as the need arises — and a precedent for accomplishing it. — *WT*

Proposed Amendment to Article VIII of SBW Bylaws

by Meredy Amyx

The bylaws currently in effect for South Bay Writers, labeled Revision 1, adopted June 8, 2010, include the following article:

From the existing bylaws:

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendment to these bylaws shall require that the proposed amendment:

- (a) be published in the branch newsletter and/or distributed to all members by way of an email to email addresses of record no less than two weeks prior to a regular scheduled meeting; and,
- (b) be submitted in writing as a motion, read at a regularly scheduled meeting, and be approved by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

By the process specified in that article, I am submitting the following substitute article for consideration and vote at the next general meeting of SBW, on August 14, 2017.

Proposed replacement:

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

1. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by the executive committee or by a petition signed by six (6) members of SBW. A digital signature shall be considered a valid signature for the purposes of petition for amendment.
2. Proposed amendments shall be distributed to all members by U.S. mail, through the newsletter or by way of a special mailing, not less than two weeks prior to a regularly scheduled general meeting. Timely distribution of proposed amendments shall be the responsibility of the secretary of South Bay Writers.
3. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing as a motion at the next regularly scheduled general meeting after the two weeks have elapsed and be read aloud at that meeting.
4. To take effect, an amendment to these bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those casting valid ballots at the general meeting.

If adopted, either as written or as amended by appropriate measures at the meeting, this revised article would then set the process for further amendment to the 2010 version of the bylaws, allowing us to rework them incrementally toward a goal of overall strengthening and improvement. — *WT*



My Love for Poetry

The poems of e. e. cummings, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost quite simply left me frustrated, confused, and somewhat lost. I hated high school poetry – to me it didn't make sense, yet teachers claimed the messages were relevant, intense.

"Persuasive," "thought-provoking" is what my teachers said about these rhyming lines of verse resounding in my head. From lack of punctuation to the imagery I missed, the words of Poe and Emerson I easily dismissed.

But then arrived Shel Silverstein – his poetry was cool. It wasn't like the boring stuff I had to learn in school. With images familiar, like ice cream cones and stew, his lines of verse were different, refreshing, something new.

The words he used were simple – his meaning always clear. With Silverstein, now poetry did not engender fear. I found it entertaining and motivating, too. It made me see that writing poems was something I could do.

When I became a teacher, I helped my students see that they could write good poetry as easily as me. At first they were resistant, not believing that they could, but soon their own success would prove their stuff was pretty good.

"It's sort of like a puzzle," one student pointed out. "You need to work with patience. That's what it's all about." By fitting certain words in place and taking lots of time, it's possible to write a poem with meter, form, and rhyme.

I'd like to thank Shel Silverstein for all the work he's done to help us see that writing poems truly can be fun. No longer dry and complicated, poems can help us see that humorous and simple is the way a poem should be.

– Kevin Carroll

Poetry Page

July-High

Julius Caesar was a leader,
So a July-name should to us show
Somebody important, fun to know!
Quickly jump up to greet him or greet her:
And always recall that name, not just so-and-so!

– Pat Bustamante

How I Paint and Sculpt

Marcel Duchamp
predicted that,
in his future,
artists would simply
point at something,
and call it a work.

With elegant rhythmic language,
I do just that.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

Zen Garden

One hundred different species of moss –
Japanese have names for each and every one of them.
So why did they bomb Pearl Harbor?

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

Sacrifice

Without passion
Without conviction
Without commitment
Without free press
Silence lends itself
To borrowed time
Madness exists in Uganda
A witch doctors hunting ground
Promises of wealth
Promises of success
Innocent children killed
Sacrificial lambs of greed

Mothers plea
Help
Stop
The sacrifice of many

– Karen Franzenburg

This little life

This larger life

This lowly life

This longer life

This lonesome life

This lonely life

This laughing life

This laughable life

This lazy life

This lowly life

This legal life

This libelous life

This loathsome life

This lawless life

This ludicrous life

This likeable life

This luscious life

This loving life

This laudable life

This literary life

Lordy, this life!

– Penelope Anne Cole

This Life - Errant Thoughts

Damsel Not in Distress

Continued from Page 9

only child on the island, was taught by the champions of each art. The girl's armor came from the Gods and was impenetrable. Her sword was sharp enough to slice electrons from an atom. Her golden lasso forced people to tell the truth and her shield could protect her from all danger.

The actress who plays Wonder Woman is quite impressive herself. Gal Gadot was the beauty queen of Israel at age 18. In her two-year army service, required of every young Israeli, she served as a tactical combat instructor. She is married and has two daughters. In Hebrew, Gal Gadot's name means "wave of the river banks."

William Marsten did a great deal of writing, much of which was published. Some of his most quoted lines appear below. After you read them, think about the words and see if you agree.

"Not even girls want to be girls so long as the feminist archetype lacks force. Not wanting to be girls, they don't want to be tender, submissive, and peace loving as good women are. The obvious remedy is to create a feminine character with all the strength of Superman and the allure of a good and beautiful woman."

Many of the ideas in the comic book were conceived by Elizabeth Marsten, who received little recognition during her lifetime. The couple lived with Olive Byrne—in a polyamorous threesome. Wonder Woman herself has subtle shades of a bi-sexual nature. Perhaps Elizabeth, the legal wife of William Marsten, had to develop superhuman powers herself to deal with her own unusual marital situation. —WT

Two Beta Readers Needed

Two requests from SBW members:

#1: Dear Marjorie,

Do you know of a Beta reader who could handle a layman's version on back problems and noninvasive therapies? My doctor, who is a true leader in his field, has drafted such a manuscript and now needs a Beta reader.

Thanks. Dr. Jac Fitzenz, jac@drjac.com

#2: Dear Marjorie,

I would be very grateful if you could kindly put me in touch with any writer who might be interested in Beta reading an ethnic novel, about 78000 words in length. I would be happy to read a comparable book (in length) in exchange. Thanks very much! Maryam Karson, maryamkarson@yahoo.com

Members News

Chess Desalls's time travel series, *The Call to Search Everywhere*, is a finalist in the 2017 Literary Classics book awards contest. **Penelope Cole** also is a finalist in the same contest for her picture book, *In and Out, All 'Round About – Opposite Friends*. Literary Classics focuses on children's and young adult literature. Final results to be announced July 1.

Maddy McEwen-Asker's humor piece has been published in *Praxis* online: <http://praxismagazine.com/?p=1219>

SBW members who scored at the San Mateo County Fair were reported in June 2017 *WritersTalk*. Also, see Page 8.

A Potpourri of Opportunities

Continued from Page 13

Southwestern American Literature

- This biannual scholarly journal that includes literary criticism, fiction, poetry, and book reviews concerning the Greater Southwest. Ends on August 1, 2017. Categories include Fiction, Poetry, Non-Fiction and Photography/Art. <https://southwesternamericanliterature.submit-table.com/submit>

Freedom With Writing

- A website (on Facebook as well) that tracks and publishes lists of contests and submission possibilities. An example: Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books, publishes books for children and accepts unsolicited novels, non-fiction, and picture books. See <http://www.authorspublish.com/clarion-books-now-accepting-book-submissions/>

Authors Publish

- Another site and Facebook group that lists publishers of books, magazines, and journals. Follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/authorspublish/>

If you find interesting writing opportunities, be sure to share them with an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. If you score, be sure to send us a note for Members News. —WT

Writer's Digest Discount

by Donna McCrohan Rosenthal

The CWC has arranged a new discount for members with *Writer's Digest*. Current online cost is \$21.96 for print or digital; they offer the same options to CWC members for \$14.95 for either one. Expiration on this agreement is 12/31/17. The link is https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/0768P/apps/COMBO_CW2?ikey=C**W41 —WT

Membership Renewals 2017- 18

by Sally Milnor

As you probably know, as a Branch of the California Writers Club, we are on a fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2017. This means that regardless of when you joined the South Bay Writers Club, whether or not it was January through May of this year, you must renew for 2017- 2018 so that your membership will not lapse. (Lapsed members will be deleted from our membership roster by CWC, and if they wish to resume their membership, they will have to rejoin our Club.)

You may renew for 2017-2018 by paying \$45.00 online at southbaywriters.com, or by mailing a check to SBW-CWC, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

Thank you to our members who have already renewed. And to our members who have not yet renewed, please do so soon so that your membership will not lapse. To all of our members: we value and appreciate your continuing presence and support, and we are looking forward to another creative and productive year for our members and our club. —WT

Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell
Contributing Editor

A Potpourri of Opportunities

Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize

- De Anza College's literary magazine appears annually in both a National and a Student Edition. The National Edition, published each fall, is open to poets and writers from around the country and the world, and sponsors the annual Red Wheelbarrow Prize for poetry. Three prizes: \$1,000, \$500, \$250. Five finalists published in 2017. Deadline, August 15. See <https://redwheelbarrow.submittable.com/submit>

Poetry Center San Jose Caesura 2017

- Call for Poetry. Deadlines: July 15, 2017 for general public, July 31, 2017 for PCSJ members. See details at <http://pcsj.org/CaesuraCall2017.htm>

The Literary Nest is a local publication.

- They are now also publishing one poem and one flash fiction story once a week on their blog. See more at <https://theliterarynest.com/2017/05/23/weekly-poetry-and-flash-contest/>

SLO NightWriters

- 27th annual SLO NightWriters Golden Quill Writing Contest! Run by SLO NightWriters, Central Coast of California. Categories are Flash/Short Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Non-Fiction. Deadline is September 15. The theme of the contest this year is Liberation. Contest rules at web page <http://SLOWGoldenQuillWritingContest.com/>

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest

- Sponsored by Winning Writers. Submission period: April 15-September 30. Total prizes: \$4,000. Accepts published and **unpublished** work. Special award for verse that rhymes or has a traditional style. Rules and guidelines at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>

The Masters Review

- Summer Short Story Awards for New Writers. Winner receives \$3000, publication, and agency review. Second and third, \$200/\$100, publication, and agency review. Previously unpublished stories only — except self-published writers and writers with story collections and novels with a small circulation (less than 5000 copies) are welcome to submit. Deadline: July 31, 2017. See <https://mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/>

2017 Futurescapes Writing Contest

- Now open to submissions of sci-fi short stories. One \$2,000 grand prize and five runner-up prizes of \$500. Deadline: October 13, 2017. For more information, see <http://www.futurescapescontest.com/>

Rattle Poetry Prize

- The annual Rattle Poetry Prize offers \$10,000 for a single poem to be published in the winter issue. Ten finalists receive \$200 each and publication and are eligible for the \$2,000 Readers' Choice Award. Deadline July 15, 2017. See <http://www.rattle.com/prize/about/>



The WT Challenge

What is it? Once a year in October, awards will be given to contributors to *WritersTalk*. You need take no special steps to enter this competition; if your piece in one of the designated genres is published in *WritersTalk*, you are a contestant in the Challenge. (Eligibility limited to members of South Bay Writers.)

Genres:

Fiction: 500 – 1800 words

Memoir: 500 – 1800 words

Essay/Nonfiction: 500 – 1000

Poetry: 20 – 200 words

Judging Periods: Work published in *WritersTalk* in 12 months preceding the October SBW general meeting. (2017 only: work published Jan. – Sept. 2017.

Work published Oct. – Dec. 2017 goes into next judging period.)

Prizes: Two winners will be selected from each genre. First prizes, \$50 cash, 2 free entries into the next CWC *Literary Review*; second prizes, \$20 cash and one free entry into *Literary Review*.

Judging: Judging will be done by *WritersTalk* contributing editors and other club members. — WT



Continued on Page 12

News from California Writers Club

Ads in CWC Bulletin

by Bob Isbill (760) 221-6367

Want to increase your visibility? Sell your service? Promote your book? Increase speaker engagements? Pump up your web traffic? Or just send a greeting?

Each issue of *The CWC Bulletin*, published three times a year, reaches 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 21 CWC branches throughout the state and is published on www.calwriters.org

Now we are accepting writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices. See calwriters.org for details and how to format your ad. -WT

You may advertise in the CWC Literary Review or The CWC Bulletin

Go to www.calwriters.org for details



Send information on conferences and other events of interest to writers to newsletter@southbaywriters.com for consideration for inclusion on this page. -WT

Book Passage Workshops

Book Passage in Corte Madera has amazing one day workshops, writing classes, and conferences. See www.bookpassage.com

CWC Around the Bay

Published meeting locations and times for other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you want to attend one of their meetings, first check their websites for details.

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

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

Fremont Area: 2:00 fourth Saturdays at Round Table Pizza, 37408 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

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

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

Mount Diablo: 11:00 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com

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

North State: 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. northstatewriters.com

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, Sequoia Yacht Club, Redwood City: check website <http://cwc-peninsula.org/>

San Joaquin Valley Writers, 12:30 second Saturdays, University of Pacific community room

Tri-Valley: 2:00 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.org

Conferences

Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference

September 28 - 30, 2017

San Luis Obispo, California

Famous keynotes, workshops, panels, private critic sessions. Join us! Let us inspire you and make your writing lives extraordinary. Read more at www.centralcoast-writersconference.com Register now for the early bird discount.

Award winning keynotes:

- Academy Award winning writer, Tom Schulman of *Dead Poets Society*;
- Mary LoVerde, who has published four books in three languages and appeared four times on Oprah. www.maryloverde.com
- Author George Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. Named one of the "100 Most Influential People in The World" by *Time Magazine*.
- Jean Steel, *Happy People Win*, <https://happypeoplewin.com>

Go to <http://cuesta.edu/communityprograms/writers-conference/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2017						1
2	3 2p Valley Writers	4	5	6	7 7:30p Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	8 WT Editors Powwow: cancelled
9	10 2p Valley Writers	11 7:00p SBW Board, Edie Matthews' home Santa Clara	12	13	14	15 D e a d l i n e WritersTalk
16 10A Our Voices SBW BBQ 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Edie Matthews' home	17 2p Valley Writers	18	19 7:30p Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo	20	21 7:30p Open mic SJ Rosegarden Library, 1580 Naglee Avenue	22
23/30 23: CWC Central Board, Oakland 30: 10A Our Voices	24/31 2p Valley Writers	25	26	27	28	29

Future Flashes

Future Events:

SBW Board, Tuesday, August 8
SBW Dinner Meeting, Monday, August 14, Harry's

**SBW/CWC Events
appear on this calendar page.**

Ongoing Events

Critique Groups

Our Voices: Meets at Bel Bacio in San Jose and various places every other Sunday 10 AM. Genres: Fiction, memoir, nontechnical nonfiction. Contact: Dave LaRoche at dalaroche@comcast.net

Valley Writers: Meets at Church of the Valley, Winchester at Dolores, Santa Clara, Mondays 2 PM. Marjorie Johnson, marjoriej358@comcast.net

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

Do you belong to a critique group? Please send details to *WritersTalk*.

SBW Board Meetings

Board meets in the week preceding the dinner meeting. Contact Edie Matthews at pres@southbaywriters.com.

Open Mics

South Bay Writers Open Mic: Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. First Friday evenings, B&N Almaden. Third Friday evenings, Willow Glen Library or Rosegarden Library. See calendar for schedule. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email WABaldwin@aol.com

CWC SF Peninsula Open Mic: Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 PM at Reach and Teach, 144 West 25th Ave., San Mateo

Ongoing discussion groups

TalkShop: Group is full.

SBW TalkBooks: discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. TalkBooks is on sabbatical. Contact newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Facebook Group: Members of South Bay Writers can join our Facebook group—South Bay Writers Club.

**You may advertise in the
CWC Literary Review or
The CWC Bulletin**

Go to www.calwriters.org for details

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 Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, 7 PM Third Thursday, 408-808-3045 www.poetrycentersanjose.org

Well-Red Poetry Reading Series: Second Tuesdays, 7 – 9 pm, at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street. Featured reader followed by an open mic, if time allows. www.pcsj.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
Regular Meetings:
Second Mondays
Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose
Note: July has an irregular meeting**

**SBW Annual
Potluck and BBQ
Sunday, July 16, 3 p.m.
Edie Matthews' home
RSVP: (408) 985-0819
edie333@sbcglobal.net**

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.