



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 25  
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August 2017

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

AUGUST SPEAKER

## From Homeless Heroin Addict to Critically Acclaimed Author Joe Clifford's Amazing Story

by Jamal Khan

We have an incredible speaker lined up for our upcoming meeting on Monday, August 14 at 6pm at Harry's Hofbrau.

Joe Clifford was born in Berlin, CT, before discovering Jack Kerouac and Syd Barrett (literally) and setting out for San Francisco to be a rock and roll star. "The artist has a restless spirit, a wanderlust and need to explore," he notes.



Joe Clifford

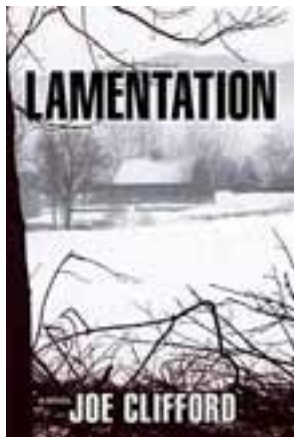
It didn't work out.

After ten years of heroin addiction and homelessness, Clifford decided to turn his life around. In 2008, he earned his MFA from Florida International University, before returning to the Bay Area, where he currently lives with his wife and two sons. His bestselling Jay Porter Thriller Series (Oceanview Publishing) has received rave reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among many others.

He is now the acquisitions editor for Gutter Books and producer of Lip Service West, a "gritty, real,

raw" reading series in Oakland, CA.

It was not an easy road. Don't miss his highly anticipated talk at our next meeting, which will center on his journey to becoming a writer while overcoming personal tragedies along the way. Hear him describe a decade of drug addiction that included arrests, overdoses, and near-death experiences. Feel inspired as he charts his ascendance from homelessness to the upper echelons of our craft.



"Through it all, I used writing as a beacon, and I finally found that home in the arts," Clifford says. His autobiographical novel, *Junkie Love*, chronicles his battle with drugs and was published by Battered Suitcase (2013).

Joe Clifford will share with us his work and its themes, the job of the professional novelist, and the goals of a writer and editor. He is thrilled to do so. "I pay these blessings forward while never forgetting the hard road it took to get here," he says.

See you at Harry's, 6 pm, August 14. —WT

RECAP

## SBW Annual Potluck BBQ

by Marjorie Johnson

South Bay Writers held their annual potluck barbeque at the home of Edie and Jim Matthews in Santa Clara. Their backyard is like a park, filled with flowers and a secret path loved by grandchildren. We filled three tables, with more people staying inside where it was cool. We didn't order the weather—the hottest day of summer 2017. But that didn't matter—not on a day of feasting and fun with friends.

Thank you, Edie and Jim. It was GREAT.



The Club provided the drinks—wine, beer, and softer stuff—and the chicken and ribs, which Jim barbecued to perfection.

Continued on Page 6

# Presidential Message

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



## The Brontë Sisters: Their books still are classics

I've never read the Brontë sisters. Like many, I've watched *Jane Eyre*, the 1943 film starring Orson Wells and Joan Fontaine, and snippets of *Wuthering Heights*, the 1939 film starring Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier. So I was intrigued when *Masterpiece Theater* recently aired a two-hour biography, *To Walk Invisible: The Brontë Sisters*.

Their father, Patrick Brontë, was an Anglican curator in Haworth, an isolated village in Northern England. His position provided access to education and books for his children, less available to other females in the early 1800s.

As adults, the three spinster sisters, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne, spent their evenings gathered at the dining room table writing. (Ah, to not be distracted by TV or the Internet.) They wrote poetry and created novels all unbeknownst to their father and especially their wayward brother, Branwell. His dissolute behavior embarrassed the family and strained their finances.

Consequently, the sisters first published their books under pseudonyms using men's names, only maintaining their personal initials. They hoped to avoid any criticism as daughters of a clergyman and bias against female authors; initially, even their publisher was unaware of their gender.

Intrigued and inspired by the PBS's presentation, I decided to finally read the two most prominent books, *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*.

I searched my library at home, and sure enough, found worn paperback copies of both novels. I also checked out the audio books available at the Santa Clara City Library.

Using both mediums gives me a chance to listen to the story while I walk or wash dishes, and also read in bed, and review eloquently written passages.

I began with *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, the middle sister. Despite the introduction of Mr. Lockwood, a superfluous narrator, who learns the story from Nelly Dean, the housekeeper, I was quickly engaged in the Earnshaw's family drama and their adopted waif Heathcliff. He is doted on by Mr. Earnshaw, loved by his daughter Catherine, and despised by Hindley, Earnshaw's natural son. The story's themes are conspicuous and include jealousy, pride, social status, and revenge. This gothic novel makes *Housewives of Beverly Hills* seem mild, but at the same time it is like a Shakespearean drama and lyrically written.

Next I began *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë, the eldest sister. (The movie only covers a smidgeon of the book.) Once again, the story is skillfully crafted with every element introduced fitting snugly into the plot like a piece of puzzle.

Coincidentally, the two books start in the protagonists' childhood. In fact, *Jane Eyre's* early chapters reminded me of *Harry Potter* because both children are orphans and live with abusive relatives.

Anne Brontë's novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, does not enjoy the fame of those written by her older siblings. However, it's highly rated on Amazon. I've located an audio book at the Cupertino Library, and put it on hold, and look forward to completing the trifecta. Why not check out the Brontë sisters and determine for yourself why their works are still considered classics? —WT

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

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
www.southbaywriters.com

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TalkShop (closed)—Carole Taub  
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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 at a meeting or sign up online at southbaywriters.com or send a check to CWC-South Bay Writers, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

## WritersTalk

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

email: [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

### Managing Editor

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Karen Sundback

### 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)

### Reprints

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.

### Announcements

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.

### Advertisements

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

**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to [membership@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membership@southbaywriters.com)

**Circulation:** 200

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Managing Editor



## Opportunity Knocks: Newsletter Editor

When I took over *WritersTalk* in July 2011, I looked forward to putting together the paper but worried how I could write 500 words on topics useful and/or of interest to writers—every month. My related experience was helping to edit an academic mathematics journal for 40 years. Oh, wait: way back in high school, I was editor of the school newspaper and co-editor of the yearbook—hardly credentials for editor of the newsletter for a branch of the prestigious California Writers Club. What could a mathematician say to those mysterious and wonderful people who write books and poems and plays, and articles for *The Mercury News*?

Now, I want to give someone else the opportunity of learning to edit a newsletter. Such experience looks great on one's resumé, and the fringe benefits are colossal: meet and network with writers at all levels and with other editors; find out who's who and what's happening in the writing and publishing world throughout the State.

No, I'm not moving away or dying. I only want to retire as the editor because my life has changed in a joyous way; I need more time for family, travel, and fun.

I have enjoyed learning how to edit others' creative work and how to operate *InDesign*, an Adobe program like *Photoshop* on steroids. Actually, I am not an expert on *InDesign*; I mostly copy the newsletter as formatted by Dick Amyx, who gave me a three-hour crash course and showed me the get-out-of-jail-free Command Z, which returns the manuscript to its state preceding my goof.

South Bay Writers has published *WritersTalk* so long that this is Volume 25. Dave La Roche, editor January 2005 – September 2007, began storing back issues of *WritersTalk* on [www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com), and with Richard Amyx instituted the cumulative index. SBW is the only branch of the California Writers Club that has such comprehensive information on its website: every issue of *WritersTalk*, January 2005 to date. Dick Amyx was managing editor October 2007 – October 2010; Bill Belew took it on November 2010 – July 2011. I have been managing editor for six years now.

I do not edit *WritersTalk* in a vacuum. Many people have helped me. SBW volunteers on the editorial staff proofread, review submissions, discuss fine points of editing, and suggest and write content. Some of them write columns, recap speakers' presentations, organize the *WT* Challenge Contest, and photograph SBW events. All of them cheer me on.

I will teach someone what I know and work with that person, but the December 2017 issue of *WritersTalk* will be my last. If you have an interest in becoming managing editor or a contributing editor for *WritersTalk*, please apply by email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com), and we will start a conversation. — WT

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# View from the Board

by Karen Sundback, SBW Secretary

The July 11 South Bay Writers Board meeting was held at President Edie Matthews' home. The Board heard reports from officers and committee chairmen; it was a time to reorganize and get acquainted with new officers.

Significant topics in July's Board meeting:

- **Newsletter:** Marjorie Johnson announced that she will step down as Managing Editor of *WritersTalk* at the turn of the year. Specifically, December will be her last issue, and we will need to find a replacement for January and on. If you have an interest in this position, send an email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) to start a conversation with Marjorie and President Edie Matthews.
- **TalkBooks:** Talkbooks is on hold and Bill Baldwin will delete the event from our Meetup account.

The next meeting of the SBW Board will be Tuesday, August 8 at 7 pm at the home of Edie Matthews. — WT

## New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our three newest members.

**Tim Reid** joined us online, and his primary area of interest is in writing novels.

**Angela Tiene** also joined us online, and she is currently working on a novel. On her membership questionnaire, she says her writing interest is fueled by a "lifelong desire and a compulsion to get ideas out of my head and onto a page." She wrote "I'm a mom of four girls, 13 to 22. I'm enrolled in an online Writing Certificate program through Stanford Continuing Studies, working on my first novel, which is currently taking up all the rest of my time. Years ago, I worked as an editor, and published several nonfiction articles and essays. I've never published any fiction. I'm revising a short story now that I hope to send out by the end of the summer."

**Kelsey Wu** is a student who is interested in writing nonfiction articles. Kelsey says: "Born in Hong Kong and raised in Shanghai, I moved to California in 2011. I'm currently a rising junior at the Harker School in San Jose. Apart from reading and writing, I love singing and making music with others, particularly jazz and contemporary. I'm also active in student government and community service involving young adults with autism. Over the course of my life, I have lived in three different countries and traveled to various places. Observing vast differences in culture, social structure, and lifestyles has provided inspiration for my writing." Kelsey's email address is [19kelseyw@students.harker.org](mailto:19kelseyw@students.harker.org).

**To Our New Members:** We wish you a warm welcome and hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment. **To all of our South Bay Writers:** Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership for 2017-2018. To those of you who have not yet had a chance to do so, we hope you will renew your membership soon. We appreciate and need your continuing presence and support. Thank you, again, for helping to keep our Club flourishing. — WT



## August Accolades

Staff

**Chess Desalls's** time travel series, *The Call to Search Everywhere*, received a gold award for Best YA Series in the 2017 Literary Classics book awards contest. The first book in the series, *Travel Glasses*, also won gold in high school fantasy and high school mystery/thriller.

**Maddy McEwen-Asker's** short story, "Jealous of the Daylight," is published in *Moon Magazine*, August/September 2017.

**Sally Milnor** has received the 2017 Jack London Award. Story on page 6.

**Dave LaRoche** has been Editor in Chief of the *California Writers Club Literary Review* for six years. He instituted the publication and has guided it to its present form — a prestigious slick-paged journal that does the whole state proud.

The 2017 CWC *Literary Review* includes the following submissions from members of South Bay Writers:

**Mary Miller Chiao**, short story, "Rest in Peace, Roscoe"

**Tom Mach**, short story, "Keeping Warm on Christmas"

**Richard Burns**, poetry, "I Wished"

**Jackie Mutz**, poetry, "Kitchen Window"

**Leslie Hoffman**, poetry, "Valley of Fire"

**Carolyn Donnell**, poetry, "My Mother's Name"

Congratulations, one and all! — WT



Sally Milnor receives Jack London Award  
Photo from Marjorie's iPhone

# What Color is Your Parachute?

by Marjorie Johnson

Let's take a colorful flight in creativity. To the usual senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste, add a sense of color to make your words jump off the page. Some people—those with *synesthesia*—see letters or words in Technicolor, making a printed page “almost as colorful as scattered confetti,” as reported by Meredy Amyx; others see colors when they hear music or smell a spice.

We all can add zip to our writing by adding color to another sense. An ice blue odor cut through gray fog and warned my nose; green gentle music soothed my purple bruised soul; I swallowed medicine as bitter as orange-encrusted iron.

How about psychological effects? Carl Jung, psychiatrist and pioneer in art therapy, argued that one's color choices reflect deeper meaning about personality traits; for example, extroverts like red, while introverts prefer blue.

Certainly, colors also affect mood; you may visit a calming pale green hospital room or paint your baby's room a delicate pink or blue. In fact, the color pink produces a sedative-like effect and is commonly used in prisons to make prisoners less aggressive and anxious. Baby girls wear pink as a sign of femininity, but pink also works well as the color of the nursery for its calming effect. Of course, a macho man wouldn't be caught dead in that “girlie” color—unless he is your serial killer, Baby Face Malone, who wears a pink hoodie to rob a convenience store.

We all experience color differently. How do you know that someone else sees the same “red” as you do? Some people are colorblind while colors “speak” to others.

Consider these common color associations. Bright red is the color of battle and warns of danger, while scarlet shows the emotion of desire and coral is wild, fiery, and explosive. Yellow can show joy or intuition, but yellow is sharp and anxious and can appear startling. Green symbolizes adventure, fertility, and prosperity; perhaps the dollar is called the greenback for a reason. Blue, the color of depression and despair, also represents loyalty; sky blue is calm, true, and honest, while dark blue is soulful and compassionate and cyan makes the wearer feel and appear analytical. Purple, the color of royalty, meditation, and mystery, is grand and majestic, and thoughtful and reflective violet is a good color on your screen saver if you suffer from writer's block.

Now, nothing rhymes with orange, but what do you associate with it? Do you mix red and yellow, or make a new category? It seems that orange is simply known as a color for hazards, but amber, a more earthy tone of orange, is the color of very expensive perfumes.

As to your writing, what sort of character paints his bedroom black, and will a timid girl wear a large vermillion hat? Put on your imaging cap and try out some new associations. For example, force a change in personality or mood by making a character wear a color out of sync.

Colors can be a theme for a novel or a book. Carolyn Donnell, in *Deeper Colors*, writes about a Vermont artist who finds her doppelgänger in a 17th century artist through viewing the use of color in paintings in a museum in Paris. Clare Mullin organizes life through colors and writes about it.

Want to writwith color? Need a bit of “pen ochre” or verbal panache? What you need are colors from A to Z.

Here are some pigments and colors selected from *The Artist's Handbook of Materials and Techniques* by Ralph Mayer, as listed on pages 30 to 117 and as written on tubes of paint.

Colors A to M: Alizarin crimson, Arsenic orange; Bismuth white, Burnt sienna; Carmine red, Cerulean blue; Dingler's green, Dragon's blood; Emerald green, English vermilion; Flake white, French ultramarine; Geranium lake, Golden ochre; Harrison red, Hungarian green; Indian yellow, Iodine scarlet; Jaune d'antimoine (Naples yellow); King's blue, Krems white; Lapis lazuli, Lemon yellow; and Manganese green, Madder lake, Massicot yellow.

As you can see, many of those paints bear either the name of the person who first used the color or the source of the pigment. Many are poisonous, possibly adding zest to your fiction. Some have amazing histories, such as “mummy,” a pigment from bone ash and asphaltum—made by grinding up Egyptian mummies.

More pigments, N to Z: Nacarat carmine, Naples yellow; Ochre yellow, Olive green, Orange vermilion; Payne's gray, Pine soot black, Plumbago graphite, Prussian blue; Quinacridone red (Acra red); Risalgallo red-orange (arsenic disulphide), Red ochre (native clay containing iron oxide, used since prehistoric times); Saturnine red (Red lead, used by Greeks and Romans), Smaragd green (viridian), Strontium yellow; Thalo blue, Turpeth yellow (a mercury sulphate), Tyrian purple (Roman imperial color); Ultramarine blue, Uranium yellow; Vermilion red (mercuric sulphide), Viridian green (hydrated chromium hydroxide); Weld yellow, Winsor blue (thalo); Xanthous yellow; Yellow ochre; and Zinc white, Zinnober (vermilion).

How about a mystery, Z for Zinnober?

You now are positioned to be a formidable opponent in *Trivial Pursuit* or *Scrabble*. If crossword puzzles are your game, the *New American Crossword Puzzle Dictionary*, edited by Albert and Loy Morehead, lists more than 360 color names, sorted alphabetically and by number of letters. Some colors on their lists have interesting names: puce, bice, bole, acier, baphe, ching, mummy, smalt, pongee, anemone, ardoise, firefly, tilleul, fuchsine, mauvette, and terrapin. However, the spellings are not guaranteed; Spell Checker colored most of them red.

If you mix color with your other senses, you can make your “purple” prose pop off the page. And, of course, poets use color in their writings; according to James Henry Leigh Hunt, “Colors are the smiles of nature.”

Don't forget to pop off your prose, poetry, or practical ponderings to *WritersTalk*. —WT



# 2017 Jack London Award

## Sally A. Milnor

by Marjorie Johnson

The Jack London Award is given every other year to outstanding members of the branches of the California Writers Club, the oldest and largest professional writing club on the West Coast. The club recognizes the value of dedicated, outstanding, and in many cases sustained, service as a mission to support members pursuing their writing, publishing, and marketing goals. This year's awards were made on Sunday, July 23, as part of a CWC Central Board meeting at Holiday Inn & Suites Airport Hotel, 77 Hegenberger Road, Oakland.

Sally A. Milnor is the 2017 Jack London Awardee from South Bay Writers. Sally, a retired lawyer who writes poetry, has been an Active Member of CWC for twelve years. She joined the SBW membership committee in 2005, greeting people at the door and taking money at the registration table.

Sally has been SBW Membership Chair since 2011. She is such a friendly face, welcoming new members, that they comment upon her hospitality. Her service leads to the feeling of goodwill and willingness in new members to volunteer. She writes a column introducing new members and serves on the *WritersTalk* editorial board. She's one of those quiet people who just makes a club better.

Former Jack London Awardees from South Bay Writers include Colin Seymour 2015; Marjorie Bicknell Johnson 2013; Dick Amyx 2011, Dave LaRoche 2009, Vicki Burlew 2007, Carolyn Downey 2005; Beth Proudfoot 2004; Carol Wood 2003; Bill Baldwin 2002; Edie Matthews 2001; Susan Mueller 2000; Beverly Morgan 1999; Tina Glasner 1998; Susan Edwards 1997; Pat St. Lawrence 1995; Karen E. Hinger 1993; Tom Mach 1991; and Madge Saksena 1989. They all are given well-deserved places of honor on the SBW webpage. — WT



Sally Milnor holds her award plaque after the Jack London Awards Ceremony, July 23, 2017. Marjorie Johnson (above), Bill Baldwin, and Kymberlie Ingalls also attended the event.

Photo by Kymberlie Ingalls

Giant bumblebee  
hovers in dead branches maze  
It finds no nectar

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## SBW Annual BBQ

Continued from Page 1

The potluck included potato salad, pasta salad, stuffed squash, other vegetable salads, fresh fruit, and desserts: pies, cookies, brownies, and the best doggone chocolate cake — so good that the many chocophiles asked Penny Cole to send the recipe. But then, we are writers, and isn't chocolate the fourth food group?

Here's Penny's fabulous gooey chocolate cake, the recipe adapted from *Healthy(er) Choices Manifesto*, ©2013 Anita Strawn de Ojeda.

### Vegan Chocolate Cinnamon Cake:

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour two 9-inch cake pans. Mix together in a medium-sized mixing bowl: 1 1/2 cups brown sugar, 1 3/4 cups whole wheat flour, 3/4 cup of dark cocoa powder, 1 Tbs. baking soda, 1 Tbs. baking powder, 1 Tbs. cinnamon, 1 tsp. salt, and 1/4 cup milled or ground flaxseed. Add and beat on medium high for two minutes: 1/4 cup vegetable oil, 3/4 cup unsweetened applesauce, 3/4 cup water, and 2 tsp. vanilla extract. Then stir in 1 cup boiling water (the batter will be runny).

Pour into two 9-inch greased and floured cake pans and bake at 350° for 50 to 55 minutes. The edges should have pulled away from the pan and a toothpick should come out relatively clean. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes before removing cakes from pans. Allow cakes to cool completely before frosting with chocolate cinnamon frosting.

**Chocolate Cinnamon Frosting:** Ingredients: 1/2 cup (melted) coconut butter, 2/3 cup (dark) cocoa powder, 3 cups powdered sugar, 2 tsp. cinnamon, 1/3 cup water, and 1 tsp. vanilla extract. Directions: Stir the cocoa powder into the melted coconut butter. Add remaining ingredients and beat on low speed until well mixed, adding more water if necessary. Garnish with coconut flakes. — WT

## Lamentation

*Lamentation* (cover shown on Page 1) by Joe Clifford, SBW August speaker, has 168 reviews on Amazon. We should ask him how he gets reviews.

As editor, I read *Lamentation* for pleasure and to see what Joe Clifford has to offer SBW. I can tell you that I would give his novel 5 stars, and I recommend the book to all. — WT



# South Bay Writers Club BBQ July 2017



Collage and Photos by Carolyn Donnell

# The Lucky Dollar

by Karen Sundback

The distant blare cut into Stevie's conversion. "Gotta go, Frank. See you tonight."

As Stevie joined the other passengers inching towards the yellow line in front of the train door, his heart stopped. What was he doing here? His mind was blank. Stevie spent the morning, as he spent most of his life, with his phone glued to his ear or set on speakerphone. Thanks to his journal, he had an accurate record of every phone conversation, but he was at a loss to recall what happened outside of those phone calls. How did he get here? Train? What was he doing here?

Phone-glued-to-ear amnesia. Second time this week. Stevie blew out his cheeks and turned his phone off, cutting his life-line to gigs and good news. And bad news. Like the fact that the rest of the band wouldn't be at practice tonight. It will be just Frank and him. He held the band together with hope and a prayer. Only the prayer wasn't working these days.

He chose a seat by the window. The sun hit the glass and reflected his image. His hair was short. Of course! He came to San Jose because his stylist worked here on Tuesdays, Stevie's day off. He scanned his faded reflection in the train window to study his newly shorn head. His stylist said that his Bon Jovi do brought his chiseled face to the front. But as the train moved, he couldn't see his reflection properly, so he looked beyond his reflection, and saw a day clean and fresh after last night's storm. Right now, he needed a distraction from his problems, so he looked closer at the vision outside.



Ghost of the Palo Alto train station

At the Palo Alto stop, outside the window, winged termites emerged from the damp earth to fill the air like silver pixies, flying into every eye and nose and ear, trying to slow down every person to enjoy the wondrous day. The entire valley was crowned with a brilliant array of tree canopies. And the hills held strong with their new grass fortifications. It was poetic.

Band practice wasn't until this evening. What was he doing here, cooped up on the train, stewing in his own problems,

while life was busting outdoors? Outside the Menlo Park stop, muted trumpets played "Careless Whisper." He hopped off to listen.

Beyond the train station, next to Kepler's Bookstore, a group of three ragtag teens sat on their backpacks, blowing away on their horns. Their hair was spiked and their clothes were torn. Were they poor or did they spend good money to get the hobo look? It didn't matter — their smooth harmony was as clear and comforting as Kentucky bourbon. After the band finished busking a mean rendition of "Tijuana Taxi," he dropped a fiver into their instrument case and asked the lead trumpeter, "Can you play Led Zeppelin's 'Cashmere'?"

"Cashmere" was his climax song, the last one he sang, leaving his fans reeling at the end of every show.

A tall beauty stepped forward between the musicians. Starting slow and sultry, her voice continued with purity and force, setting into motion teens dancing on the rain-scoured sidewalks, mothers with children giggling together, retired folks and passing businessmen throwing coins and dollars into the band's music case.

Finally, the boys took off the mutes and packed away their horns. After the crowd wandered off, Stevie's curiosity kept him behind to talk with the group. The lead player held out his hand to him and said, "Hi, I'm Jacko Jones. And this is Mike and Terry and my sister Joie. Say, aren't you..." He tilted his head as he asked, "aren't you Stevie Jackson?"

Jacko was a kid about eighteen with clear brown eyes and a smile that exuded goodwill; he looked too hopeful to have much street smarts. As Stevie flashed him his most superficial onstage grin, Jacko responded, "I *thought* you were Stevie Jackson! Hey, man, I saw your group at Shoreline Amphitheatre! Wow, I couldn't believe what you guys can do with just your voices. All that power with no instruments. It was the most awesome thing I'd ever seen!"

It was tough for Stevie to keep his excited ego in bounds as Jacko and the other two trumpeters stared at him in awe. He could listen to Jacko all day, but instead he said, "You guys got talent! You've got a great sound! But what about your music? You've got some songs there I've never heard before."

Jacko smiled. "Yeah, I write music."

Stevie's grin froze on his face. His band needed a good songwriter. They had the sound, the excitement, and the versatility to make it big locally, but they didn't have the freshness of their own trademark songs to break out of the Bay Area envelope. They needed a good songsmith for that; he needed to talk with this kid. Jacko could break open the candy jar of opportunity for them.

Stevie wondered how to engage Jacko, so he joked, "How 'bout that? I write music too." To prove it, he danced the bossa nova as he serenaded Joie:

*Tall and tan, oh man, so lovely  
The girl from Menlo Parka goes singing and  
When they hear it, each one who hears it cries  
'Ooooh, my!'*

Stevie finished with a deep bow.

*Continued on Page 12*



## Staying Fit at 86

by Betty Auchard

One year ago, I rejoined the gym. Now I set the alarm clock to get up early and knock back toast and coffee before throwing on my workout clothes. I try to arrive earlier than Addison, my personal trainer, so she'll notice that I warm up on my own time prior to our thirty-minute session. Once I've started my workout, I kind of enjoy it. However, I've recently discovered that walking on the treadmill makes my nose run. That didn't happen when I worked out several years ago. I wonder if it's an age thing.

This morning I sniffed while wondering where she might be hiding. Addy sometimes does that to observe my form from a distance. She says I don't walk correctly. The right foot moves okay, with a rocking heel-to-toe motion, but the left one goes *plop*. I've walked that way ever since taking my first steps, and it's not easy to change the way my feet work.

Today Addison materialized out of nowhere, landing on the empty treadmill to my left, and said, "I've been watching you. You're still plopping."

"I knew you'd say that."

"And why are you taking such short steps?"

"I'm afraid I'll fall."

"Turn the speed down and take long strides with a heel-toe movement. And stop hanging onto the rails."

I followed her instructions, and she asked, "Doesn't that feel more comfortable?" I nodded. "Betty, at this *high* speed of two miles an hour, you could stumble and fly right off onto the ... *Ahh!*"

Addy and her voice disappeared behind me. I turned my head and yelled, "What just happened?"

She popped back onto the treadmill and said, "I accidentally leaned on the GO button." She laughed, and I joined in.

Addy immediately resumed her coaching duties, giving me the now-familiar reminders: *Take long strides, heel toe, watch the left foot, let go of the rails, tighten your abs, stand straight, two minutes to go.*

As she tossed out instructions, a young staff woman with a modern haircut rushed by, ragged ends stabbing the air.



"He's hoping the man bun will help him get an agent."

Hair-girl said "Hi" to my trainer, who replied, "I like your new cut." The girl thanked her and kept moving.

I said, "Addison, do you really like that messy style?"

"Yeah, it's a new look called *rumped* that I think is kinda cute."

All of a sudden, I felt old-fashioned and out of date. My nose started running again, so I sniffed as quietly as possible.

She led me away from that machine, and we passed a group of gray-haired seniors on bicycles to reach another workout area. The next routine involved holding a heavy ball with handles, leaning against the wall, and sliding down into a sitting position. A few repetitions made my thighs burn. She instructed me to relax for about eighteen seconds and repeat the sequence till they burned again. I had to repeat the process too many times.

The owner of the health club passed in front of us and noticed my strained efforts. He said, "Hi, Betty. Glad to see you back. Is Addy taking care of you?"

I managed to squeak out, "Yeah, too much so."

He beamed and said, "Good. That's her job. Hang in there," and kept moving.

By the time sweat covered my forehead, I needed a break. I sniffled several times and started a conversation with her so I could rest longer. I said, "Eighteen years ago I became a member here to get healthy, and it worked. I got in very good shape, and my blood pressure and cholesterol numbers dropped. I took my toned body to all the gym's social events, hoping that a nice single man might ask me out."

"Did that work for you?"

"Not really, but it was fun while it lasted."

She giggled, and I asked what was funny. She leaned toward me and said, "Psst ... look behind you."

"Why?"

"An older man on the rowing machine can't take his eyes off you."

*Continued on Page 10*

## Keeping Fit at 86

Continued from Page 9

"Oh, no."

"Oh, yes. I know him. He's a good friend."

"Tell him I'm a lesbian."

We both burst into laughter, which made me snort, so she handed me a Kleenex before saying, "He's a very nice man, so why would you not be interested in meeting him?"

"Addy, my flirting days are over, and I'm happy being on my own. I dropped my membership here for many years to sit at the computer and write stories. I was addicted to it, which caused me to gain weight. It wasn't a healthy lifestyle. Now I'm back to improve my physical condition again, but it's only for me this time. So please don't introduce us."

She couldn't stop grinning, so I changed the subject. "Now about your boss ... When I first met him twenty years ago, I disliked him.

"A lot of people did."

"I'm not surprised. He was grumpy and rude back then. One day I entered the building and walked straight into the gym. He shouted, 'Wait just a minute there. You do *not* waltz past the front desk without checking in first!'"

I said, "But the people at the desk all know who I am."

"He yelled, 'You have to *check in!*' I should have said, 'Do I have to check out, too?' and then left the building. But his scolding embarrassed me so much that I said nothing. The only time I saw him smiling was when new clients visited to see if they wanted to join. Or if the visitor was an attractive young woman. That's when he smiled big, with his teeth showing."

Addison said, "I remember those days."

"He's changed a lot. Now he smiles at all of us and acts friendly. Do you think he's found God?"

"Could be. But I'd bet people complained about him, and he changed to protect the business."

I glanced at the clock and realized our time was over, so I said, "I'll see you next week."

"Yep. Practice your walk and tighten your abs."

"I'll try. And I'll remember to bring a hanky. This nose-running is something new, and I have no idea where I'd stash a handkerchief."

"Stick it in your pocket."

"None of my workout clothes have pockets."

"Tuck it into the elastic of your underwear."

"I tried that once and my hanky fell into the toilet and got flushed."

We both laughed again, which reminded me how fond I was of Addy, and I hugged her goodbye.

On the way home, I realized that I'll turn ninety in 2020, and my driver's license will expire. I considered whether I should try to pass the driving tests or stop driving. Many questions crowded my mind: *At eighty-six, am I too old to get back in shape? Do I look as old as I feel? Will I always need a hanky when exercising?*

I want to stay healthy so I'll feel better and be able to finish writing all the stories in my head, but am I wasting money on a personal trainer?

While driving home, I reflected on how things change, such as the owner of the exercise studio. If he could do it, so can I. At home, I swapped my sweaty clothes for a housecoat and had a snack. Then I sewed a pocket on my tights to hold a hanky and ordered a package of thirty-five so I won't run out. Maybe I won't need them, but it never hurts to be prepared. — WT



## Things I Need to Get From the Store

The bananas,  
green melon,  
white cream in the round glass jar.  
Sliced peaches, for the baby --  
and a carton of eggs

No cracks. Smooth shells, speckled, maybe robin's egg blue.  
Absurd, I know: these do not exist  
but this is thinking outside of the box,  
the carton, the body, the brain's hull --  
whatever.

One escapes however it can.

Figs,  
cheese,  
paper filters.  
The coffee in the yellow Cuban can.

My mother would scowl at the machines  
that ground the beans right there in the store.  
She said: what a mess. Why not take it home  
and grind it yourself? Is that not  
the economical thing to do?

Wipes,  
trash bags,  
white soap, for the rest of us  
because the body is not cheap.  
It is not a whole-bean hull,  
fair-trade or ethically-sourced --  
an economy with its principles clearly stamped on the tin.

Absurd, I know: to think that these bodies turn hard.  
The fruit over-ripens. The soft parts rot.  
They escape through the cracks and sog the carton.

My mother said: grind it yourself. Make your messes at home,  
not in the middle of the aisle.

— J. K. McDole

# Poetry Page

## On Being Ambitious

One with a strong desire to earn, is ambitious  
 One who stands by ready to go is adventurous  
 Thinking pictorially an ambition is aspiring  
 Thinking pictorially an ambition is hustling  
 Want to be ambitious, and then be motivated  
 If you want to be ambitious, then be animated  
 In order to be ambitious you can be adventurous  
 If you want to be ambitious, then be vigorous  
 Ambitious is expressed also as opportunistic  
 So motivation is expressed also as energetic  
 Industrious is ambitious and can cause eagerness  
 Assertiveness means ambition and is keenness  
 Assertiveness means ambition and is initiative  
 Assertiveness means ambition and is aggressive

– Clarence L. Hammonds, Jr.  
 Poem number 3,082

## Immortality

### We Dream We Hope We Want

We dream of bigger things, of higher things  
 We hope to do these things and more  
 We want to leave something behind  
 A remembrance – evidence of our lives  
 showing our impact on this Earth  
 something more than fleeting thoughts  
 The sun rises and sets.  
 Time in bits and pieces –  
 seconds,  
 minutes,  
 hours,  
 days,  
 weeks,  
 months,  
 years,  
 decades.  
 Time moves on. We move on  
 Children are born and the old pass  
 We leave behind  
 letters, books,  
 paintings, buildings,  
 gardens, sayings  
 We leave our  
 beloved families  
 dear friends  
 cherished pets  
 We leave  
 Moments, memories, feats  
 Missed chances, defeats  
 What have we forgotten?  
 Is there enough time?  
 Leave the door open for me.

– Penelope Anne Cole



## Marching Grocery Carts



### Marching Grocery Carts

Standing side by side  
 all in a row  
 Looking like they are  
 ready to go  
 One foot in front of  
 the other  
 Knees bent balancing  
 It seems as if they are  
 wearing skirts above their knees  
 that seem to sway like knife pleats  
 all moving the same way  
 They all look alike but that's the way  
 soldiers marching always do  
 Legs with fluid movement  
 standing tall  
 There's nothing else around  
 only the carts on the concrete ground  
 with its cracks and grooves  
 I ponder: what would happen if I made one move?  
 I chose not to for it would  
 ruin their precision  
 I had to forgo my decision  
 It would not be long  
 before they would disappear and  
 some of them will rear back to a stop  
 inside the market and  
 obeying the customers steering  
 the marching grocery carts give in to the job  
 they are meant to do  
 When done at the counter the cart will wait  
 to be led back to its own, particular space  
 its place  
 in that marching grocery cart line  
 Finally late at night, again  
 they stand in that unique formation  
 Side by side all in a row  
 looking like they are ready to go

– Karen Hartley

## More Contests and Markets

Fiction continues from Page 13.

### Pacifica Literary Review 2017 Fiction Contest

The winner will be awarded \$300, publication in the print issue, and a free year's subscription. Fee: \$15 per entry. Ends on December 1, 2017. For directions see <https://pacificalliteraryreview.submittable.com/submit>

### Let There Be Light

Short story contest at *The Writer Magazine* web site. Write a 2,000-word fictional story using any nuance, definition, or understanding of the word "light." Grand prize: \$1,000 and publication in the magazine. Second place \$500, third \$250; publication on the website. Deadline: August 21. See fees and details at <https://writermag.submittable.com/submit/87902/let-there-be-light>

See more links to poetry and other contests at:

**Authors Publish:** <http://www.authorspublish.com/30-writing-competitions-and-submission-calls-for-poets/>

**The Writer Magazine:** <https://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/>

**Poets & Writers:** <https://www.pw.org/grants>

**Winning Writers:** <https://winningwriters.com/>

**Writer's Digest:** <http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions>

These should keep you busy for a while. Let us know if you score by dropping a line to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com). — 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](https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/0768P/apps/COMBO_CW2?ikey=C**W41)

## The Lucky Dollar

*Continued from Page 8*

Jacko and his band were caught in an uproar of clapping and laughing with glee at his corruption of "The Girl from Ipanema." Continuing with this joviality, Stevie said, "Well, don't let me stop you from splitting the day's haul."

Amid gentle banter, they split the spoils, closing with an agreement to meet at Stevie's house next weekend. Picking up the final bill from the case, the local star held up the crisp green-back and asked his new companions, "Do you know what this is?"

Jacko piped up, "Yeah, man, it's my dough."

Stevie looked at him and smiled. "It's the lucky dollar, my friend. The last one you make is lucky. Always hold onto this one."

As he handed it to Jacko, a gust of wind grabbed the buck from his hand and carried it towards the train station.

Their small group followed: laughing, running, tripping, stumbling. But the note cartwheeled away: across the train tracks, across the waiting platform, homing into a distant chain link fence. Nothing could stop them, nothing until the crossing arms came down *clang! clang! clang!* with lights *flashing! flashing! flashing!* right into their path. But the bill still waved at them, goading them on.

The southbound Caltrain came toward them, horn screaming and brakes shrieking. And quickly the train shuddered to a stop.

Before they could stop him, Jacko ducked under the wooden arms; he reached the northbound tracks; he was gone. A speeding northbound express tore down those same tracks. Stevie stood with the kids, dumb and disbelieving.

Joie whispered, "Where's Jacko?"

On the southbound train, the doors jerked

## 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](http://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

open and the platform came alive with people milling throughout the station. At the front of the train, the driver was craning his neck to see something in the northbound tracks. He exited the locomotive, walked in front of the wheezing engine, and peered down the tracks to a place hidden from their sight.

Along with the three others, Stevie watched. He knew he should have done something. Something to help these kids. But instead he stared at the chain link fence where the bill fluttering gaily in the wind. His mother used to believe in ghosts, a shadowy world that existed all around him. She'd say that the dollar fluttered because Jacko's ghost was tugging on it. Stevie wondered if Jacko's ghost could give *him* the ability to write songs and would stay with him forever.

But in answer, the bill stopped waving. And Stevie knew. Jacko and his talent were lost to him. — WT

# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

## Especially for Poets This Month

**The Literary Nest:** *The Literary Nest* is a locally produced online literary magazine. They now have a weekly contest, poetry or flash. Check the weekly prompt and submit one poem or one piece of flash fiction in the body of an email to [theliterarynest@gmail.com](mailto:theliterarynest@gmail.com). Check this as well as literary and visual art submission guidelines at <https://theliterarynest.com/submissions/>

**The Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize:** Another local group with a poetry prize: sponsored by Poetry Center San Jose and Red Wheelbarrow. Three prizes: \$1,000, \$500, \$250. Five finalists published in *2017 Red Wheelbarrow*. Deadline 15 August 2017. Details at <https://redwheelbarrow.submittable.com/submit>

**Jane Underwood Poetry Prize** was established to celebrate and memorialize Jane Underwood, founder and long-time director of The Writing Salon in the San Francisco Bay Area, who passed away in February 2016. Open to all California poets, the prize is awarded for a single poem. Winner gets \$250 and publication at The Writing Salon's website, as well as an invitation to a featured reading at The Writing Salon. The submission deadline is November 1, 2017. See <https://www.writingsalons.com/awards-resources/jane-underwood-poetry-prize/>

**2017 Brett Elizabeth Jenkins Poetry Prize:** Submit up to three poems/pieces (five pages maximum) per entry. The winner will receive \$500 and the runner-up will receive \$250. Fee: \$12 for each entry. Contest closes August 21. See <http://www.tinderboxpoetry.com/contest-2017>

**QuillsEdge Press:** For women over fifty; unpublished work only. Poetry translated into English is accepted if the original poet is over 50. Members of underrepresented communities, including women of color, LBGTQ women, and differently-abled women are especially encouraged to submit work.

Reading fee: \$10 for poets whose income is at least \$25,000 and \$3 for poets with income less than \$25,000 (to cover Submittable charges). The reading period is through September 22. Anticipated publication date is December 2017. See guidelines at <https://quillsedgepress.org/submit/fifty-over-fifty-anthology/>

**The Academy of American Poets: 2018 Walt Whitman Award:** For emerging poets: a first-book prize for poetry. Prize is \$5,000 and a six-week all-expenses-paid residency at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbria, Italy. Winner will also be featured in *American Poets* magazine and on Poets.org. Submissions Sept. 1 through Nov. 1, 2017. <https://www.poets.org/academy-american-poets/stanza/academy-american-poets-announces-judge-2018-walt-whitman-award>

### St. Lawrence Book Award:

For an unpublished first collection of poems or short stories: open to any writer who has not yet published a full-length collection of short stories or poems. Winner receives \$1,000 cash and ten copies of the book and publication. Entry period ends August 31. <http://www.blacklawrence.com/submissions-and-contests/the-st-lawrence-book-award/>

## But we haven't forgotten fiction.

**One Story** is seeking previously unpublished literary fiction between 3,000 and 8,000 words. They pay \$500 and 25 contributors copies for First Serial North American rights; all rights revert to the author following publication. Next submission period: Sept. 1 - Nov. 14. <https://www.one-story.com/index.php?page=submit>

This list continues on page 12. That's to keep your little gray cells active.



## 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



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.calwriters.org) for details



## Wanted: Info on Conferences

Send information on conferences and other events of interest to writers to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto: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](http://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](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 Round Table Pizza, 37408 Fremont Blvd., 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:** 11:00 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, 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](http://trivalleywriters.org)

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## 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](http://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](http://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
		1	2	3	4 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	5
6	7 2P Valley Writers	8 7:00P SBW Board, Edie Matthews' home Santa Clara	9	10	11	12
13 10A Our Voices	14 2P Valley Writers 6P SBW DINNER HARRY'S HOFBRAU	15 <b>D e a d l i n e</b> <b>WritersTalk</b>	16 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Ma- teo	17	18 7:30P Open mic SJ Rosegarden Library, 1580 Naglee Avenue	19
20	21 2P Valley Writers	22	23	24	25	26
27 10A Our Voices	28 2P Valley Writers	29	30	31		

#### Future Flashes

#### Future Events:

SBW Board, Tuesday, September 5  
SBW Dinner Meeting, Monday, Sept. 11, Harry's

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

## Ongoing Events

### Critique Groups

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

**Valley Writers:** Meets at Valley Village Retirement Community, 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 on Tuesday, 7 pm, 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.pcsj.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  
August Regular Meeting  
6 pm, Monday, August 14, 2017  
Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose**

## From Heroin Addict to Acclaimed Author

**Joe Clifford  
August 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.