



WRITERSTALK

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Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Discover the Bones, Build Your Arc

Speaker: Charlotte Cook

by Dave LaRoche

Carry your story through its arc – tension, conflict, resolution, and change. Whether a thriller, romance, or memoir, arc is crucial to story. Arc is also an element of essay as we take an acceptable premise through observation and argument to reach a logical conclusion. Whether it's fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, if there's story, it needs an arc.

A determined Tyrone furrowed his brow and peddled his bike down the hill – faster and faster. Not seeing the stone that caught his front wheel, he tumbled ass over teakettle into ol' lady Bloom's prickly hedge. He emerged bruised and bleeding. The fork on his bicycle was bent, but not so twisted he couldn't continue to ride. Tyrone remounted his bike and peddled it on down the hill – faster and faster.

I sort of like Tyrone and his interest in speed but this story is flat. It has no arc, is not a story at all. It takes me no new place; I'm left where I started.



Charlotte Cook

On November 13th at Harry's, we'll learn more about arc. Charlotte Cook will knock some sense into Tyrone and a story will appear. Charlotte is a master at story and knows how to connect the elements of craft into a beautiful colorful arc. So imbued, stories will mesmerize readers; and publishers will appear with checks in their hands.

Charlotte is a writer of fiction and nonfiction with scads of publishing credits. She is also a story editor, having run the acquisition gate for Komenar, a quality publishing house in Walnut Creek. Charlotte facilitates workshops, is a personal coach, and has traipsed over the country and across the pond providing her insight, spreading her knowledge, and improving the skills of her clients.

"My mantra is: Compelling Story, Engaging Characters, Evocative World. And just below the surface, giving foundation to any grand piece of writing is the arc of the story, the structure that allows you to run your story up one wall and across the ceiling if need be. The components of the arc are scenes that progress, epiphany (character-based), and climax (plot-driven). How technical is all this? Not very. It's all in understanding the craft of storytelling, especially on the page."

Charlotte holds an MFA (Creative Writing) from Saint Mary's College, CA, and a BA (English Lit) from UC Berkeley. She will be with us at Harry's on that second Wednesday in November – an enchanting finale to the arc of our "crafty" year.

—WT

Note: The October recap appears on Page 6.

DECEMBER WORKSHOP

Excellence Sells

by Dave LaRoche

If you haven't heard or read yet, we are producing a full-day workshop in December, the first in a while. Jordan Rosenfeld – prominent writing coach, editor, freelance journalist and novelist – will facilitate our discovery.

We will come to know how strong scenes successfully move plot. How character, plot, and dramatic tension functions within the framework of scenes that will provide substance and structure to overall story – and we will hear about the writing techniques, essential to employ.

You might say (and I am inclined) "We know about this and practice it." And that may be true but why aren't we selling. Where are the royalty checks and why are those readers dozing off before finishing our books?

I've talked with a lot of agents and publishers and they say, "Yes, marketing is important, but most books sell via word of mouth and for that they need to be better than good – they need to be excellent."

I do a bit of writing and more in the way of submissions. Few of them catch an editor's eye, most don't merit a reply. Are they good stories, enticing provocative articles – I think so. Are they "excellent?" I need to think. Nope, probably not. They are passable.

What is "excellence" in writing, where is it found and how is it achieved? Hear this: live your writing – study, listen, and learn – immerse in the craft. Don't let a single discovery pass by – then apply.

Continued on Page 4

See Workshop Announcement Page 7

President's Palaver

by Colin Seymour
President, South Bay Writers

Delivering a story tight, right and tonight

I've been adept at writing 999 words per hour, most of it good, for the past 40 years and getting paid for it. You'd think that would make me a big cheerleader for the NaNoWriMo speed-writing craze, but guess again.

NaNoWriMo, as most of you know, is a concerted mass effort by writers to come up with 50,000-word book drafts in a single 30-day month. I would have very little desire to do that even if there were ever a November in which it were possible.

This November will entail as many as a dozen evening copy editing shifts at the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Counting the commute, I'm usually gone from home for 12 hours every day.

In addition this November, I'll be gone from home about 112 hours reporting on a boxing match in Corpus Christi, Texas, where I spent nearly five of my formative years as an editor and also where I met my wife. I'll write two stories for *The Chronicle*, a 400-word preview on the Friday and a 400-word account of the fight.

I'll have to write the latter while the event is unfolding, which is called a "running story." I've endured those deadline conditions hundreds of times, but this will be only the third time I've covered boxing for a newspaper instead of merely my Examiner.com blog.

In June 2010, I realized the *Tulsa World* would need a reporter on the scene when Tulsa's local boxing star fought an important bout in Oakland. I was able to submit a rather well-written account, with quotes, less than 10 minutes after the fight ended, just in time for a Central Daylight Time deadline.

In 2011, I covered a Bay Area boxer in New York for the *Mercury News*. The bout didn't even start until 11:40 p.m. (EDT), but I came through. The situation will be similar in Corpus Christi, where the fight should get underway around 9 p.m. (CST) and the story will be due by about 10:15.

As I said, I've written many non-boxing stories under these conditions, which were worse in the days when you wrote them on a portable typewriter and dictated by phone to an editor back at the paper.

Sports beat writers, who cover many night games, deal with unreal deadlines perpetually. They have to be adept at gathering information quickly and often stealthily but also presenting it appealingly enough to outshine their competitors. It seldom feels satisfying.

Mercury News theater critic Karen D'Souza calls reviews that have to be written within 12 hours of seeing the show "overnighters," and she tries to minimize how often she has to deliver those. Having subbed for Karen many times, I can tell you that I invariably do much better after sleeping on it until the next afternoon.

NaNoWriMo strikes me as one big overnighter. I produce my books in weekly 1,500-word bursts of two to three hours, after many hours of planning and ruminating. I'm a fast writer, but NaNoWriMo would consternate me, maybe even constipate me. —WT

What's your novel about?

You need a 250-word description for your query letters, your interviews with agents, your back cover, your blurb on Amazon. Send that 250-word piece to us here at *WritersTalk* for publication in "Members' Works in Progress."



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

www.southbaywriters.com

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



Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Editor

WritersTalk

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

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Submissions

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

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Suggested word limits are not absolute; query the editor. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Anything Goes—Almost (300 words)

News Items (400 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Creative Works

Short Fiction (1500 words)
Memoir (1200 words)
Poetry (300 words)
Essay (900 words)

Accolades

accolades@southbaywriters.com

Announcements and Advertisements

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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Our Minds Run in Reverse

Once a week, we pop a DVD from The Great Courses into the VCR and view it on our large screen TV with varying numbers of friends and members of South Bay Writers. Among courses of interest to writers, we have watched *Writing Creative Nonfiction; Analysis and Critique: How to Engage and Write about Anything*; and *The Art of Storytelling: From Parents to Professionals*. If you want more information about any of this, send me an email.

The most recent course we completed was Richard Restak's *Optimizing Brain Fitness*. We learned how our brains are changed by new activities and how using the Internet restructures our brains. I reported on "Your Internet Brain" in September's editorial. Of course, we were most interested in how to apply all this to writing.

In addition, we recently discovered that our brains replay events in reverse. When faced with a new learning task, our minds operate much like a video run backward. (This study, detailed in the February 12, 2006 online issue of the journal *Nature*, is used in artificial intelligence research to help computers make decisions.) In particular, when learning, we remember the last thing we heard, first.

So, if our minds run in reverse, how do we apply this principle to writing? If we are inclined to remember the last word we read best, that explains the Strunk and White *Elements of Style* principle, "Place the emphatic words of a sentence at the end." Comedians put the punch line at the end. Orators know to end their speeches with power words. Poets never waste the last line; "Poetry Archives" (online) gives 150 pages of last lines. When arguing, we try to get the "last word."

But beware. When you use this approach relentlessly, especially when you front-load your sentences with phrases that delay gratification, your readers, who, if you're lucky, want to find out what you're getting at, will begin to focus not on what you're saying but on your syntax.

The other prominent position in the sentence, of course, is the beginning. Any element in the sentence other than the subject becomes emphatic when placed first. The first sentence is where Internet search engines "look" for key words, and the first paragraph is where editors and agents look for manuscripts with promise. In fact, some agents say they can tell if a book is worthwhile by reading only the first sentence.

As to the middle—we tend to read over it, especially when skimming. But writers need the middle to put meat on the bones and to save first and last for emphasis. And now hear the last word: submit that edited and polished piece to *WritersTalk*. *Note: Andrea Galvacs makes a rebuttal on page 4.*

—WT

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Excellence Sells

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With each new experience, each touching of knowledge, each workshop, discussion, and book that we read – reinforce the base and apply. We need do it again and again.

An opportunity is coming December 8 at the Three Flames banquet room in San Jose. Sign up on our webpage or send in the application included in this issue of *WritersTalk*. Discover your “excellence” with a group of your peers – enjoy and learn. And, lest we forget our frequently noisier appetite, good eats will be served – any of three entrees at your place at the table. See you at 9:30 am that Sunday.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2013, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

- **Strong scene construction**
- **Essential fiction-writing techniques**

About Jordan E. Rosenfeld:

- Earned her MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars.
- Is the author of the novel *Forged in Grace*, and writing books, *Make A Scene: Crafting a Powerful Story One Scene at a Time* (Writer's Digest Books) and co-wrote: *Write Free! Attracting the Creative Life* with Rebecca Lawton (BeijaFlor Books).

Rosenfeld's essays and articles have appeared in publications such as *AlterNet.org*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The St. Petersburg Times*, *The Writer* and *Writer's Digest* magazine. Her book commentaries have appeared on KQED radio's *The California Report*. —WT

In my (not so) Humble Opinion

by Andrea Galvacs

Editors of *WritersTalk* can read the newsletter before it goes to the printers; that's why I am lucky enough to have Marjorie Johnson's editorial and my comments to it in the same issue.

Our Managing Editor writes that studies indicate that we replay events in reverse and remember last things first. I have not read these studies and I don't doubt that their authors believe what they published, but, by no means claiming to be an expert, I am inclined to discredit these two points.

I don't understand how you can replay events starting at the end, going backwards to the beginning. Say, you want to tell your little grandchild the story of "Little Red Riding Hood." Do you start with the woodcutter getting everybody out of the wolf's stomach???

As for remembering last things first ... let's take a phone number: (408) 555-1234. Nowadays you don't have to remember it; your smartphone will do it for you. But ten years ago, according to this study, you would have pressed (432) 155-5804 and ... reached a wrong number.

I am a retired court interpreter. Many people confuse an interpreter with a reporter. To make it clear, the former says in one language what he just heard in another; the latter records everything he hears in the language he understands.

When I was still working, from Spanish into English and vice versa, I had to interpret sentences such as: "The suspect was medium-built, average height, dark-haired and running very fast." At that time, interpreters were told that some of us gave the suspect's description and action in the other language in the same order as the speaker, contradicting the theory Marjorie mentioned; others, rendered it from "running very fast" to "medium-built," supporting it.

I belonged to the group that "went backward," but many of my colleagues "went forward." Either way was acceptable, as long as it was accurate.

So, who is right? In the grand scheme of things it doesn't really matter; personally, I consider myself lucky if I can remember events at all. And if I tell my grandchildren the "Little Red Riding Hood" story, I will begin with her going through the forest with a basket of food.

—WT

View from the Board

by M. Johnson for S. Halloran

Five of us – President Colin Seymour, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, Member-at-Large Nader Khaghani, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, and Membership Chair Sally Milnor met in Santa Clara on October 1.

The appointment of Sherrie Johnson as Member-at-Large 2 was ratified by the Board. President Colin Seymour and Treasurer Bill Baldwin signed the agreement with Blake Webster for his services in maintaining the SBW website.

The Board discussed Planning Committee and Publicity reports. Many good ideas have been presented – stay tuned.

Upcoming meeting programs:

December – Gisela Zebroski will host the branch at her home on December 11 to celebrate the holidays. Wine will be present, a gift exchange is traditional, and no one leaves without a smile on his face.

January – Ransom Stephens will take us from craft (all the basics) into publishing, what we must have on the page to have our work published, the varying requirements for different paths, and which path will bring us success.

—WT



Accolades:

Valerie Lee holds her book, *A Long Way to Death Row: From many years of interviews with Charles Chi-Tat Ng* – twenty years in the making.

—Photo by Dick Amyx

Accolades

by Andrea Galvacs



Andrea Galvacs

Claudia Arndt placed as a semi-finalist in the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition in the Novel-In-Progress category.

Betty Auchard spoke about her memoir, *The Home for the Homeless*, at the Milpitas Public Library on October 24.

Rita Beach had a 30 minute radio interview by *Grant County News*, Williamstown, Kentucky, on her memoir, *Four Beats to Every Measure*.

The Old Man and the Sea, aka **Marcela Dickerson**, won first place in South Bay Writers' Literary Costume Contest.

Peter Duysings's second novel *Turbulent Waters* has been published.

Victoria M. Johnson spoke about *The Doctor's Dilemma* and *All I Need to Know in Life I Learned from Romance Novels* at the four-day grand opening of the Village House of Books, Los Gatos's new indie bookstore, on October 24.

Valerie Lee and **Gisela Zebroski** threw a book party celebration on October 6 at Ming's Chinese Restaurant to announce and sell *A Long Way to Death Row: From many years of interviews with Charles Chi-Tat Ng*.

Christine Z. Mason's debut adult novel, *Boundaries: A Love Story*, has just been published and is now available on Amazon and barnesandnoble.com.

David Strom's short story, "Handicapped Bodies, Super Hearts!" appears on scriptingchange.blogspot.com and in an ebook on sale on November 4. Details are on his website, davemstrom.weebly.com

Steve Wetlesen received a commission to write Tanka, a form of Haiku, for Christmas cards. —WT



Winners, SBW Literary Costume Contest: Marcela Dickerson, Edie Matthews, Tom Marlow, Gisela Zebroski, and Donna Fujimoto.

—Photo by Dick Amyx

New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

It is a pleasure to introduce South Bay Writers' five newest members.



Ellen Anders joined our Club at the September meeting. She writes nonfiction books and articles which have appeared in academic publications.

Sally Milnor

Audrea Elliott found us online and is interested in writing novels.

Ryan McDonald also found us online; he writes novels.

Jennifer L. Meyers learned about SBW at the WNBA-SF Pitch-O-Rama in April 2013. She is interested in writing memoir and children's stories. Jennifer has created her own blog/website, www.sundancekidonline.com, and she is in a Pubslush campaign at http://never-giveupbuddhismfamilyschizophrenia.pubslush.com to raise money to self-publish her memoir.

Steve Sporleder joined us online; his website is www.stevesporleder.com. Steve spent thirty-two years in the fire service and has been retired for thirteen years. He likes to write multi-generational stories set in Santa Clara County – particularly in Los Gatos and primarily in the '40s and '50s. His characters try to redeem themselves by doing the right thing but sometimes fail along the way. Among Steve's published works are: *A Fouled Nest* and *Gallivanting in the Gem City, Stories of Los Gatos*, both in 2009; *From Sleepy Lagoon to the Corner of the Cats* (2011); *Hobo Ashes* (2013); and "Conversations with Clete" and "Carrying Kerry," both short stories (October 2013). Steve joined our Club to gain knowledge about writing and to network with other writers.

To our new members: We wish a warm welcome to each and every one of you, and may your membership bring you inspiration and enjoyment.

We hope to see you at our next meeting! —WT



October Recap

Crafting Voice and Theme

by Andrea Galvacs

The guest of honor and speaker at our last SBW meeting was our own club member Victoria M. Johnson, who presented the evening's program. She is a published author of romance novels, poetry, and a collection of short stories, as well as two non-fiction works. Also, she is a writer and director of short films and served as assistant director in the feature film industry. Is there room in her closet for all these hats when she is not wearing them?

Victoria's lecture's main points were voice and theme. "Editors and agents often say that they can't define what a fresh voice is, but they recognize it when they see it. That's because a writer's voice is the writer himself, with all his successes and failures, experiences, outlook." Being passionate about what we write is important; it suggests who we are and the themes we can explore.



Victoria M. Johnson
—Photo by Dick Amyx

Victoria asked us to write down "things about ourselves", e.g. patriotic, loyal, optimistic. Also, "what is important to us", i.e. our beliefs, values, world-views and what makes us unique. When asked to share what we had written, some members volunteered to do so. Smiling approvingly, Victoria explained that the words we used "are key to making our voice unique" because voice is "who you are as an individual, it's what makes you unique and real on the page. Write from the heart to tap into your voice." Writing about something we do not feel strongly about is possible, but we risk making the story superficial.

Next, she told us that theme is what the story is about: a recurring idea, its message and opinion, what the reader understands while reading between the lines. All these convey the author's voice in a novel. As an example, she brought up the story of "The Three Little Pigs" and asked us:

"What if it would have been written by a different author? If you would write the story, what would you be thinking about for its meaning, the title, the narrative, the ending, with an overall theme throughout?" Answers given were: planning, friendship, circle of life. Victoria said that a novel can have many themes weaving through the story.

All of us have a voice already. It may not show in the first draft. When our voice doesn't match the theme we may get writers' block. The mention of this enemy caused an alert member to tell us all: "Writers' block is when the voices in your head stop talking to you." But voice is the most important asset; when paired with a theme that makes us passionate, makes sense to us, and matters to us, we can start our writing project.

Another exercise we did was to think of three favorite movies and name their themes or messages. Still another, to think of three favorite authors and name each one's "personal writer's voice." The audience's responses were varied, confirming what she said at the beginning: the theme is what the story is about and what the reader understands reading between the lines.

She ended her lecture inviting us to her workshop to take place January 25, 2014 entitled: "How to Write your Novel in Two Weeks."

This month's recap will end differently from others' because we had a special event: our yearly Halloween Costume Contest. All the participants were very ingenious and resourceful and the overall winner was Marcela Dickerson. Congratulations to all! —WT



Veteran's Day

by Annette Bourguet-Cone

To me, times of celebration honoring those of the armed forces is just not enough. I'm not here to remind you not to forget those men and women who have fallen, because we do forget once the parades, the BBQs, and the fun are over. The fallen are forgotten, until the next holiday. But you see, it's not only those that have lost their lives fighting for us that I'm concerned about; for the fallen are the lucky ones now. What bothers me is our treatment of those soldiers who have finished serving and survived. These vets are now suffering – since they have lived through hell and are left in mental turmoil. More importantly, we have to remember that these soldiers have faced death. They fought for their country, fought for all of us. It is because of them that I write.

Why is it, once the soldier comes home for good, Uncle Sam, along with many of us, looks away? These former soldiers have done their job. If you think about it, these soldiers had one of the most important jobs to perform. For all of us, they risked their lives *knowing* they may never come back home. Now some of these former soldiers are unable to deal with life and society because they are suffering. When these men and women signed up for the armed forces, they were mentally and physically competent. But when these brave soldiers come home, their mental and physical competency is not what it was when they signed up. Shouldn't the government be held responsible?

We all have a responsibility to do something – anything – to aid our tormented brothers and sisters. They deserve to be thanked for the rest of their lives. —WT

Do Your Scenes Support Your Plot?

**Drive Your Story?
Convey Your Ideas?
Satisfy Your Creativity?**

If your answer to any of these is no—
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SCENES DO IT WITH PLOTS

With Jordan E. Rosenfeld

Sunday, December 8, 2013
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Three Flames Restaurant
1547 Meridian (near Hamilton), San Jose

Sign up TODAY—This one will sell out



Early bird pricing ends Nov. 13

Registration:

- **Early Bird (through 11/13): \$49, CWC Member; \$57, Nonmember**
- **Sleepy Bird (11/14 – 12/7): \$59, CWC Member; \$67, Nonmember**
- **Any Bird: Student (18–25 with ID): \$29**
- **Includes continental breakfast and plate-served lunch**
- **At the door: \$67 if seats available**

Register online at www.southbaywriters.com or send a check to
CWC South Bay Writers, P. O. Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055

Jordan E. Rosenfeld, MFA

* * * * *

South Bay Writers Winter Workshop: Register Now

Mail this application to: SBW Workshops, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055

Check payable to South Bay Writers.

Name _____

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Amount Paid _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Email _____

Register by check by U. S. First Class Mail or at the November 13 SBW dinner meeting.
To pay by credit card, register online at www.southbaywriters.com

How I Became a Detective

by Patricia Gregory

Hello, my name is Annie MacGregor, and I am a private detective. I carry two knives, but no gun, and have solved mysteries from one end of the state to the other. Even as a young child growing up in the Midwest, I was solving crimes—like the time in first grade when I caught my best friend stealing a roll of Walnettos from Lupe's Drug Store.

We had gone to the store together, as we usually did on a Saturday, just to browse the comics and maybe share a chocolate phosphate, and peek at the cute soda jerk behind the counter. Well, we no sooner got there when she said she needed to find something for her mother and stalked off, plain as day, leaving me standing there all by myself. So I followed her, only she didn't know it, and I watched from behind the next aisle; and before I knew it, she had taken a roll of Walnettos (my favorite candy!) and stuck it into her pinafore pocket. I stood there gaping for a few moments, then sprang into action. Running around the end of the aisle, I grabbed her by the arm and told her she needed to put the candy back or pay for it. We raised such a ruckus that the store clerk looked up from behind her cash register and started walking our way. Quickly, I reached into my friend's pocket, took out the Walnettos and deposited them on the nearest shelf, then I proceeded to drag her away from that area of the store. You know, she never even thanked me, but just grumbled the rest of the time how I was an interfering brat who should mind her own business.

Years later, when I went shopping with her, she was always taking something like a sweater or scarf. She just put it on and wore it out of the store. The day she asked me to wear a sweater out for her was the last time I went with her, after telling her in no uncertain terms I would not do that. We stayed friends throughout our lives but only engaged in activities that did not involve entering stores. I never learned if she outgrew her penchant for shoplifting.

Perhaps that early experience sparked some interest in me that just wouldn't go away because even before becoming an official detective, I was solving problems. Math was my favorite subject in school, and my longest paying job was writing software programs to solve problems. So it only seemed natural that my latest years have been devoted to figuring out "who done it," and actually getting paid to do so.

My earliest case was one I stumbled onto while sitting next to my son's hospital bed waiting for some test results to determine why his knee was causing him so much pain. We had been there for several hours already. He had had an EKG, blood drawn twice because they lost the results the first time, and had several things attached to his body from machines on the wall. The nurse said they had to call in someone to take the ultrasound because it was Sunday, and no one worked in that department on Sundays. At least we weren't still out in the waiting room with so many sick people coming and going, but in a ward with six beds. So to pass the time, we watched the people. The nursing staff changed shifts while we were there, and that was pretty interesting as they verbally communicated to the incoming person all the details about each patient sequestered in that ward. Then someone announced "CODE 3" over the PA, and the entire staff disappeared around the corner as fast as could be. Had you blinked, you'd have seen them there one minute and gone the next. My son thought that was very cool.

At one point, two police officers arrived with a man clad in an orange jumpsuit, with handcuffs and chains all over him. I'm pretty sure I was gawking as the fellow turned to look directly at me with piercing blue eyes that sent a shiver down my spine. They put him in the bed across the room from my son and handcuffed him to the bedrail. The officers stood back a bit but never left the room.

Being in one corner of the room, we were right next to the nurses' station and got to overhear everything. I learned that they had ordered in pizza in the staff room because it was Super Bowl Sunday, and reports came in from time to time about

Continued on Page 10

In Defense of the Semicolon

By Sally A Milnor

Many writers try to avoid the semicolon; they find it pretentious and old-fashioned. In *A Man Without a Country*, Kurt Vonnegut said that the first rule in creative writing is, "Do not use semicolons." He believed they represent absolutely nothing and "all they do is show you've been to college."

These detractors do the semicolon an injustice. It is an important tool in varying sentence structure; avoiding short, choppy or disjointed sentences; showing relationships between ideas; and in acting as a super-comma in a complicated list whose elements have internal commas. Proper use of the semicolon simplifies, clarifies, and improves one's writing; therefore, its critics have missed the mark! —WT

The Secret Life of Punctuation

by Marjorie Johnson

Punctuation is not the most scintillating topic. A comma is a comma, a period is a period, and a semicolon is an argument waiting to happen. However, *The Chicago Manual of Style* expounds on such matters for more than 800 pages.

Punctuation was not always like this. While the period can claim an unbroken lineage stretching back to ancient Greece, for centuries punctuation was up to the reader, not the writer. The average ancient Greek or Roman struggled through texts devoid of commas, periods, and even word spaces.

Punctuation developed along with the advent of the printing press. The quotation mark appeared early on, but countless other symbols didn't survive. The road from the scrolls of Alexandria to today's books is littered with fallen marks of punctuation.

To learn more, read Keith Houston's new book, *Shady Characters: The Secret Life of Punctuation, Symbols, and Other Typographical Marks*. —WT

Too many words . . .

469,856 words—Nigel Tomm's one-sentence novel, *The Blah Story*, which does not have a proper subject-verb interaction. And this was published?

Where Have All the Heroes Gone?

by Judith Shernock

Superman's Lament:

What problems the 21st century has presented me! Where do I change my clothes? No more phone booths. Actually, a number of years back, the homeless stole my clothes as fast as I could shed them. Once I find a place to change, where do I stick my cell phone? No pockets. Who designed this uniform anyway?

Then there is my girlfriend, Lois. She got too old for me. I never aged and she did. What a bummer—like sleeping with your grandma.

Now my job is in jeopardy. They're laying off reporters and closing down newspapers. I still have to eat and pay my rent. I'm sure every day will bring a pink slip. Then I'll have to apply for unemployment insurance. My planet, Krypton, never issued birth certificates. Should I steal one? What an embarrassment. Me, Clark Kent, collecting unemployment.

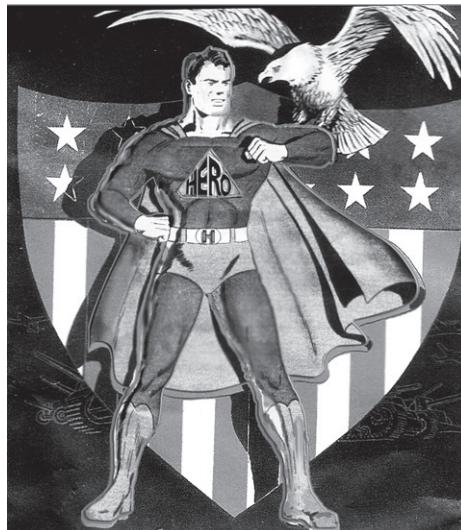
I could join the police, but do they take guys with glasses? Maybe I should do laser surgery. Laser surgery? It might affect my X-ray vision. Crazy as it sounds, ordinary police work never appealed to me. Most policemen spend too much time with drunk drivers and speeding freaks. That reminds me of what they used to say about me: "Faster than a speeding bullet."

Well, I'm still faster than those interlopers, Batman, Spiderman and that freak, Wolverine. They all try to copy my act by using masks or hiding behind facial hair. None of them are pure, open and free like me. I can't believe how popular their movies are. No one makes movies about Superman anymore. I'm old hat. So yesterday. Even my "Up, up and away" signature sounds like a downer. (No pun intended).

What embarrassment—Superman left behind. If I suffered from depression, now would be a good time to have an attack.

Comments by Spiderman:

The old guy is complaining again. Babbling about telephone booths. Dude, get with it. This is the 21st century. Learn some new skills. Go for retraining. Take



a web design course like I did. My web sites make the most profitable movies. Not quite Harry Potter but still my name is known. Money is not a problem anymore. Remember, you're never too old to learn to spin a new web.

Comments by Batman:

Superman, you're turning into an outmoded super-hero. Try to live in the present like me. Utilize new ideas. For instance, when Robin turned twenty-one, we took advantage of the new laws and got married. Sorry you weren't invited to the wedding—it was a very small affair.

My income is extremely steady since so many firms are trying to build a sexy, gasless car like my Batmobile. When I sell the plans, I always leave out a wire or an important toggle switch to confuse their engineers. Will they ever catch on that it's all magic?

Superman, if you haven't heard about the new antidepressant pills, visit a doctor or your shrink. Personally, I find Trazadone most effective when Robin makes eyes at our guests. I use Buspar when the criminals make eyes at him—and well, for more insights, Super Dude, text me at 1-B-A-T-M-A-N or email me at batrob.com.

Comments from Wolverine:

Are you a mutant, too? Where are you really from, man? These days it's the in thing to be a Mutant (Capital M). Do you know how to transform? If you want to learn, connect to my hotline, ESP.com. The first lesson is free.

Superman's Responses:

Spiderman: I don't spin webs or yarns.

Batman: Congrats on the Nuptials. Anti-depressants make my flying erratic.

Wolverine: I googled you and found out that you're known as an "anti-hero" who appeared after the Vietnam War. Your slogan, "I'm the best there is at what I do, but what I do isn't very nice," isn't for me.

I googled myself, too. I'm called "The Big Blue Boy Scout" and an "American of Mythic Proportions." For an alien born on the planet Krypton, that was enough to lift MY spirits. I'm back in business! —WT

Body language tells all

by WT Staff

Can we trust the speaker? Here are some telltale signs and body language giveaways:

- An itchy nose could be a sign that someone isn't telling the truth. If someone is scratching his nose, there could be an issue beyond allergies.
- Keeping one's hands in one's pockets is a sign of insecurity.
- Crossed arms don't necessarily mean a person is angry or protective; he could just be cold.
- Touching the neck could be a sign that someone feels threatened or insecure.
- Finger pointing is a sign of aggression and can make the audience mistrust the speaker.
- Frequent blinking by a speaker might indicate that he is uncomfortable with the words he is saying.

Here are some "beats" for the "shifty" character in your novel—and some things to watch for when a politician speaks on TV. —WT



How I Became a detective

Continued from Page 8

who was winning the game. I listened to the report on the prisoner and learned that he had been found in a grassy area near a deserted section of town lying next to an unconscious homeless man. His car was nearby and the search revealed a load of drugs, so they suspected he was a user and were testing him.

The homeless man had been brought in earlier to our ward and was referred to as John Doe. A variety of tests were set up for him, as had been done for my son. Somehow their records got mixed up and people kept coming to our cubbyhole asking if my son was John Doe. It took a while to figure out what was going on as I caught snatches of conversations among the nursing staff. After realizing they had mixed up the homeless John Doe with my son, I tracked down the nurse who was working with us and explained that my son was not the homeless person and should not have those tests run. She did some checking, found the problem, and spent the next half hour on the phone trying to explain to some people in other parts of the hospital that they had the records mixed up. My son, Ryan, was supposed to have an ultrasound performed on his knee, while John Doe had to have his stomach pumped and be tested for various toxins. Fortunately, it was straightened out and the proper testing was done, at least on my son.

An elderly man was admitted to our ward, placed in a bed on the other side of the room, and left to wait his turn for tests. He did not want to stay in his bed and kept trying to get up. The nurses told him several times that he must stay in the bed and could not walk around, especially as he was wearing only one of those scant hospital gowns that open in the back. Finally a police officer told him if he did not stay in the bed they would handcuff him to it. That worked for a while, but he eventually tried to wander around again. This time most of the nursing staff and the officers focused on him, trying to return him to his bed, and while their backs were turned, the prisoner made his escape. The bed rail had a crack in it and he was able to slide the handcuffs down to the crack and force them through, without raising much of a fuss. Then he

took the plastic bag in which I stored my son's clothes with him. It had been sitting on the floor next to the center stand; and, as he ran out the door, he just reached down and grabbed it, giving me another chilling stare as I sat in stunned silence next to my son's bed. The room erupted in chaos with police officers talking into their intercoms, nurses quieting down the obnoxious man, alarms sounding, and people running up and down the halls.

Once I recovered from my shock and realized he had made off with Ryan's clothes, I tried to get the attention of a police officer to report the theft. This was no easy task, as he was occupied with trying to re-apprehend the escapee. Finally, I resorted to getting the attention of our nurse and explained the situation to her, while she, in turn, explained it to the police. Eventually someone came around to take my statement, asking questions about the bag and its contents. I was able to give a detailed description of the clothing, as I had just bought him the shirt, and having done his laundry recently, knew the sweatpants he had on. There was also a pair of very new Nike shoes in the bag. Fortunately, I had not put his wallet or keys in that bag, so all the man got were the clothes. That's probably all he wanted anyway.

Having provided him with a means of changing out of the bright orange suit into "normal" clothes, I felt a responsibility to help get him back into custody. This also left my son with nothing to wear when we left the hospital, so we borrowed some scrubs from the staff. By now night had fallen, so as we walked to our car in the crowded parking lot of this very large hospital, I was on the lookout for Ryan's clothing. The shirt was very distinctive and I was sure I could spot it from a distance.

Little did I know that the current wearer of that shirt would also be on the lookout—for me! —WT

The Three Little Pigs

House of straw falls down,
likewise sticks in winter winds.
Only bricks survive.

—Stephen C. Wetlesen

Cranky Autumn

Crisp apples falling
with worm holes
and squirrel bites
Colorful leaves
littering sidewalks
swept up by gas blowers

Burning candles and crackling fires
the fire code says no
fires spread to forests

Fluffy sweaters
if they don't get
eaten by moths

Cozy socks
but only if you can find
both of them

Loving Autumn?
It is beautiful
to look at

— Carolyn Donnell

Diamonds are forever

Did you know . . . There's a company that will turn your loved one's cremains into a diamond. You can keep him with you forever!

Kangaroo

by Andrea Galvacs

When the first British men arrived in Australia they noticed an animal they had never seen before. Since they didn't know the natives' language, they pointed to it and did their best to ask what it was. The response they heard was "kan-ga-roo," so that is how they named the animal. Later, when the British learned the natives' language, they discovered that what they had heard meant, "I don't understand what you are saying," or something to that effect. However, "kangaroo" stuck. —WT



November Terse On Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante

No Way, November?

How did this year fly past?
Some time machine set too fast?
Weren't we just singing "Auld Lang Syne,"
Lolling around, new goals, feeling fine:
Putting things off, like
"Tomorrow I'll finish my work at last."

— Pat Bustamante

I am a procrastinator. Somehow that sounds almost as bad as a fornicator. I just put things far off in my mind with the belief there is always time. That is a bad thought for a dedicated writer, and I have mentally apologized to many in the business of publishing. I hope those reading this column will submit to *WritersTalk* their homemade cures for procrastination. If possible, in a poem?

This year seems to have simply taken wings; it's nearly gone. I have looked at current bestseller lists and find I am still NOT on any of them! But, you do have to submit to get published.

One reason I really love contests of any kind is that you have an immovable deadline. I like that *Writers Digest* and others give us contests; I need that spur.

Arms of the Angel

"In the arms of the Angel"

a line from a song
The hum of the music
rises to my tongue
whenever I see
gray-haired
bent ladies, wobbly
walkers crossing
at lights

insufficient time to catch the train
closed doors don't wait, schedules to keep.

Guy in the wheelchair. Unwashed, feeble, maneuvering down
Main Street. To where?

Veteran of wars
sent to kill
returned home
to die unintended.

Mothers with children
no home to keep.

Bankers' golden balloon.
Others, no place to sleep.

Where are the families,
sons, daughters or friends?
Church and charity they say
but too often they really pray,

"Thank you God, I'm not like them."

Where is the angel for all of these?
Are angels that selective and few?

In the arms of the Angel.

Do you have one?
Lucky you.
— Carolyn Donnell

Another way to stimulate the work-mode is to consider current events that will be topical, for a while, such as Syria. I just had occasion to sign into a security-obsessed electronics firm as a visitor—and swore under oath, I was NOT born in Syria, or Korea, or a bunch of other places. In fact, I am seventh generation of a family born in California—when it was part of Mexico. Would I feel insulted if I had been born in Syria or Korea? I believe so. And now we have a bestseller by Bill O'Reilly that pins back the ears of a major religion; this will be talked about for a while.

Ah, if I had only published *my* version! Two of my cousins laid claim to psychic powers; and, flattering me, I believe, told me I probably inherited those special powers. A distant relative attended séances conducted by President Lincoln's wife at the White House and put that into an interesting book. Mary Todd Lincoln talked to the dead—I wish I could do that.

I should dig up all the topics currently in the news and write, write, write! Then there is, coming this month, the comet Ison. If I can overcome procrastination, I will address these events, polish the writing, and submit somewhere. I hope you do the same with something that rings bells! — WT

Daily Author Interview —Maddie McEwen-Asker



"I read the book's dedication. Who is A Gizzard?"

Members' works in progress

What's your book-to-be about?

Shedding Cats

by Luanne Oleas

Nothing changes your priorities like an angry co-worker with an AK-47. That's what Sheila Owens learns in the *Shedding Cats*. Imagine *Catch-22* meets the *Pirates of Silicon Valley*, rewritten by Erma Bombeck. The first draft of this book was a quarter-finalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award contest.

There's a fine line between a well-ordered life and a rut. Sheila has crossed that line. She works a high-tech job every day, feeds her ten cats, and on Tuesday evenings, between 9 and 11 pm, she fools around with the Director of Engineering. She keeps the job because she needs the health insurance. To escape, she writes short stories that transport her to the land of chocolate or the Aurora Borealis over Belfast. But her stories change and start to foreshadow incidents in her life.

When one story predicts she will be chased by a murderer, Sheila decides to break her routine. She wants more out of life. She decides to sell her cats on eBay. Weirdos begin to answer her posting, each wanting a feline that fits a specific neurosis. Then, layoffs begin at the office. That pushes one co-worker with a bad temper and a big gun too far. He manages to corner Sheila in his attempt to flee. If she escapes, she vows to make bigger changes in her life. —WT

The Lost Mayan Jade

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

In the novel, *The Lost Mayan Jade*, Chanla "Pesh" Pex must find the source of her jade jaguar, her talisman from the day she became a shaman. She travels to Guatemala—and brings five-year-old Yash with her—to be part of an archaeological team searching for jade. For four hundred years, no one knew where the Maya found jade, the stone of kings. Even today, no one is talking.

Pesh uses her secret powers as a shaman and her contacts with Maya elders to search for ancient sites. While she can find where the Maya hid their treasures from the *Conquistadores*, she cannot locate where they mined for jade. However, her husband Kedar is searching scientifically for raw jade by helicopter.

Pesh learns that looking for jade in Guatemala is dangerous—but finding it is worse. To the locals, possessing jade is like owning King Solomon's mines—you're rich and a target for crime gangs who kidnap and rob at gunpoint. —WT

A CHILDREN'S TALE

Mama Rabbit's Worry

by Annette Bourguet-Cone

"I gotta get home, I gotta get home," Mama Rabbit kept mumbling, caught in a web of shoppers focused on completing their tasks before the storm hit. Her children at home needed to be fed and bathed. Mama took pride in how she cared for her loved ones, and with that pride came an overflowing of love for them all. Her beautiful children were her life.

Going to the market for dinner took unexpected twists; and now, clutching the grocery bag close to her chest, she was moving faster than she wanted, just to get home. But being caught in a thunderstorm was not what was making her worry. It's when the thunderstorm adds lighting to the mixture, a deadly combination.

"Almost there, almost there." As Mama Rabbit approached the longest block before her house, she saw her eldest child holding the solid rubber umbrella he made for her in case of thunder and lightning. As Mama came up to him, she pulled him into a bear hug and whispered, "Thank you, my precious."

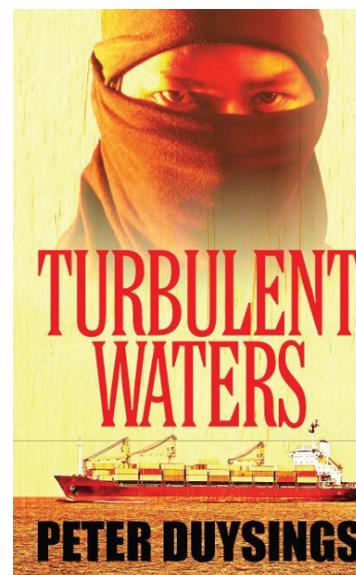
You've not seen anyone stand prouder than her eldest, opening the umbrella as the rain started to pour down. —WT

Turbulent Waters

by Peter Duysings

My second novel, *Turbulent Waters*, is based upon true events of a Special Operations Force targeting modern day pirates in the Horn of Africa region. Bullets do not discriminate—they're equal-opportunity killers.

Read more about this action/adventure book on Amazon.com or Outskirtspress.com —WT



A Book in Progress

They Know: A Novel

by Ann Nommen S.

aka Pat Bustamante

Thanks to cooperation with Ed E. Snowed-In, I am searching for a publisher for *They Know*. This began a year ago when Natural Secrets Anonymous (NSA) hired the startup where I work for some intricate hardware designs. Pretty boring to sit with your laptop for months scanning seven billion people on a large planet who might say one of several magic words. (In your spare time, you can secretly check on your significant others!) My program speeds it up like ExAfinity does for you. Nat and John call me every Friday (I have a different name there). Ed E got my address, Silicon Valley Public Access, and got in touch, using Navajo for code, because I am known as a top-notch writer, and he can't come back to do this. I guarantee an interesting story—what you don't know about NASA, for instance! —WT

Contests and Markets

More Writing Contests

Poets & Writers lists more writing contests than any other source, and all of the contests listed in their database at pw.org/grants have been carefully reviewed and benefit writers.

While you're perusing the listings, please take a look at the entry for *Tusculum Review's* annual literary prizes, which offer \$1,000 and publication to winners in poetry and fiction.

An extensive list of contests appears on preditorsandeditors.com and on writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions. —WT

To win, you first must enter.

Short-short contest

Writer's Digest is looking for short stories! Short, short stories, that is. Make it fewer than 1,500 words and enter the 14th Annual Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition for a chance to win:

- \$3,000 in cash
- Story published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's July/August issue
- A paid trip to the *Writer's Digest* Conference in New York City
- A copy of the 14th Annual *Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition Collection*
- A copy of the 2014 *Novel & Short Story Writer's Market*
- A copy of the 2014 *Guide to Literary Agents*

Early-Bird Entry deadline is November 15 and fees are \$20 per manuscript. Go to writersdigest.com/competitions/short-short-story-competition for more details. —WT

Got the Purrfect Story?

Margie Yee Webb invites you to submit true, entertaining, funny, and silly cat stories for *Not Your Mother's Book . . . On Cats*; deadline: December 1. For submission guidelines and to submit stories, see <https://publishingsyndicate.com/>. For a flavor of this daring, different and hilarious NYMB anthology series, review the book samplers, including *NYMB . . . On Dogs* at www.publishingsyndicate.com

Bonzoi: New Web Platform

Sent by Sevag Kassabian

If you haven't heard of Bonzoi yet, then it's about time. Bonzoi, at www.bonzoi.com, is a web platform for multi-author collaboration and self-publishing like never before. It allows every registered user to create, collaborate, and publish digitally interactive publications as well as to upload and view digital artwork in the DigiGLU marketplace. Bonzoi is not only for writers but also for anyone who wants to be involved in publication from process to product. Plus it's free. —SevagKassabian@Bonzoi.com

NaNonFiWriMo

by Nina Amir

I wanted to let those CWC-SBW members who are nonfiction writers know that there is an alternative to NaNoWriMo (National Fiction Writing Month). I run the Write Nonfiction in November challenge, aka National Nonfiction Writing Month (NaNonFiWriMo), a personal challenge to start and finish a work of nonfiction in 30 days. Learn more at <http://writenonfictionnow.com/about-write-nonfiction-in-november/wnfinnanonfiwrimo/> —WT

San Francisco Writers Conference

Website: <http://www.sfwriters.org>

Dates: Feb. 13-16, 2014

Fee: \$650 until January 1. Prices rise afterwards, until \$795 at the door

Participants have access to more than fifty "how to" sessions, panels, and workshops. An *Independent Editor consultation* and *Ask a Pro* are included in the registration fee. *Speed Dating for Agents* is \$50 to pitch to a room full of agents. And there are plenty of one-on-one opportunities to pitch to well-known publishing professionals during the weekend. The conference features large and small traditional publishing houses, but also gives attendees the latest e-publishing, social media, and self-publishing information.

SBW Members: This conference is the local "biggie." Don't miss it.

WRITERSTALK

Challenge

What is it?

Twice a year, in February and August, awards are 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.*

Genres

Fiction, 500 – 1500 words

Memoir, 500 – 1200 words

Essay/Nonfiction, 500 – 1200 words

Poetry

Judging Periods

January 16 through July 15

July 16 through January 15

Prizes

One winner will be selected from each of the eligible genres. Each winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$40.

Judging

Judging will be done by *WritersTalk* contributing editors and other Club members whom the contributing editors may ask to assist.

* Eligibility for the *WritersTalk* Challenge is limited to members of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club. —WT

Tell us!

Heard about a good contest or a good market? Send us a brief notice.

Keats Literary Competition

by Carolyn Donnell

An extended community arts outreach program of the National League of American Pen Women, the Keats Literary Competition consists of thirteen categories and is open to everyone, everywhere.

Deadline: Postmarked by November 30.

No electronic (e-mail), special delivery, certified, or registered entries. \$5 per entry payable to NLAPW. Send entries to: The Webhallow House 1544 Sweetwood Drive Broadmoor Village, CA 94015-2029

See complete description and guidelines at www.soulmakingcontest.us/home/html —WT

Directory of experts

Do you have specialized knowledge that might help a writer bring authentic detail to a scene? Send a message to newsletter@southbaywriters.com and we will add your listing to our directory of experts.

Astronomy, History of Astronomy

Bob Garfinkle ragarf@earthlink.net

Banking

Pam Oliver-Lyons polpap@prodigy.net

Counseling/John Steinbeck

Dr. Audry L. Lynch
glynch0001@comcast.net

Engineering: Mechanical, Aerospace

Jerry Mulenburg
geraldmulenburg@sbcglobal.net

Growing Great Characters from the Ground Up

Martha Engber martha@engber.com

Internal Medicine/Addiction

Disorder/Psychology

Dave Breithaupt dlbmlb@comcast.net

Marketing and Management

Suzy Paluzzi, MBA jomarch06@yahoo.com

Mathematics/Fibonacci Sequence

Marjorie Johnson marjohnson@mac.com

Teaching and the Arts

Betty Auchard Btauchard@aol.com

Telecommunications Technology

Allan Cobb allancobb@computer.org

Television Production

Woody Horn 408-266-7040

New Writers Group

by Kim Malanczuk

Are you a new writer? A procrastinator who needs a kick in the pants? The goal of the "New Writers Group" is to support and encourage you to follow your bliss and get down to the business of writing.

To hone our skills like the fine edge of a samurai sword, we will write a 650-word themed story each week and submit it to publicity@southbaywriters.com by noon Tuesday before Thursdays' meeting. We will constructively critique one another's work during the meeting, Thursdays at 6:15 p.m., at Starbucks, 1228 Camden Avenue, Campbell.

Got questions? Email Kim at publicity@southbaywriters.com We look forward to encouraging you to be a great writer!

-WT

CWC around the bay

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

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

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

Fremont: 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 204, Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

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

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

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

Napa: 6:30 second Wednesdays, Napa River Inn. napavalleywriters.net

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

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

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

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

Ongoing critique groups

Our Voices

Meets at Coco's on Hamilton in Campbell every other Sunday 11 am. Genres: Fiction, non-technical nonfiction, memoir. Contact: Dave LaRoche – dalaroche@comcast.net

Valley Writers

Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center, Winchester Blvd. in Santa Clara, Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Contact: Marjorie Johnson at marjoriej358@comcast.net

Emperor's Mystery Circle

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

Karen's Critique Group

Meets at The Hickr'y Pit, Campbell, 10 am to Noon, second and fourth Tuesdays. Fiction, non-fiction or memoir only. Two openings. Contact Karen, Sew1Machin@aol.com

Your Critique Group

For consideration, send information to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Ongoing writing groups

Writing Group: A Chapter at a Time

Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon, Barnes&Noble Almaden. Contact Nader Khaghani, workshops@southbaywriters.com

Writing Group: New Writers

Thursdays, 6:15 p.m., Starbucks, 1228 Camden Avenue, Campbell. Contact Kim Malanczuk, publicity@southbaywriters.com

Open position: Networking Chairman.

Want more?

Listings for contests, conferences and workshops commonly appear in *Writers Digest* and *The Writer*. Check their websites and also the websites of other CWC Branches listed above. Please send contest/conference/workshop information to newsletter@southbaywriters.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					7:30P Open mic B&N Almaden, San Jose	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11A Our Voices	9A Chap at a Time 1:30P Mystery Circle 2P Valley Writers	7:30P SBW Board meeting		6:15P New Writers		10:30A WT Editors POWWOW
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	9A Chap at a Time 2P Valley Writers	10A Karen's Critique	6:00P Dinner Meeting Harry's Hofbrau	6:15P New Writers	7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose	Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i> was Yesterday
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11A Our Voices	9A Chap at a Time 2P Valley Writers			6:15P New Writers		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	9A Chap at a Time 2P Valley Writers	10A Karen's Critique		Thanksgiving		

Future Flashes

December 3
SBW Board Meeting

December 11
Holiday Bash

Coming December 8
Jordan Rosenfeld
Workshop

South Bay Writers open mic

Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. See calendar for schedule.

Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email WABaldwin@aol.com

Your ad could go here

\$7 per column inch for SBW members
\$10 per inch for nonmembers

CWC bags: Only \$10 each



Offered during our monthly meetings.
Collect yours before supplies run out!

Where is it?

For locations of critique and writing groups, see Page 14.

New and oh, so cool

South Bay Writers mugs with CWC logo. See them at the next meeting



SBW mugs: Only \$10 each

South Bay Writers Anthology



\$10
At the meeting or on
amazon.com

Poetry readings

Poets@Play

Second Sundays: Check for times
Markham House History Park
1650 Senter Rd., San Jose

Poetry Center San Jose

Willow Glen Library
3rd Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose

Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dennis Noren at norcamp@sbcglobal.net or go to poetrycentersanjose.org/calendar



Stay informed

Read the Constant Contact notices in your email to receive meeting and event announcements. If you are not receiving those announcements, send your name and email address to webmaster@southbaywriters.com



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch
P.O. Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055

www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

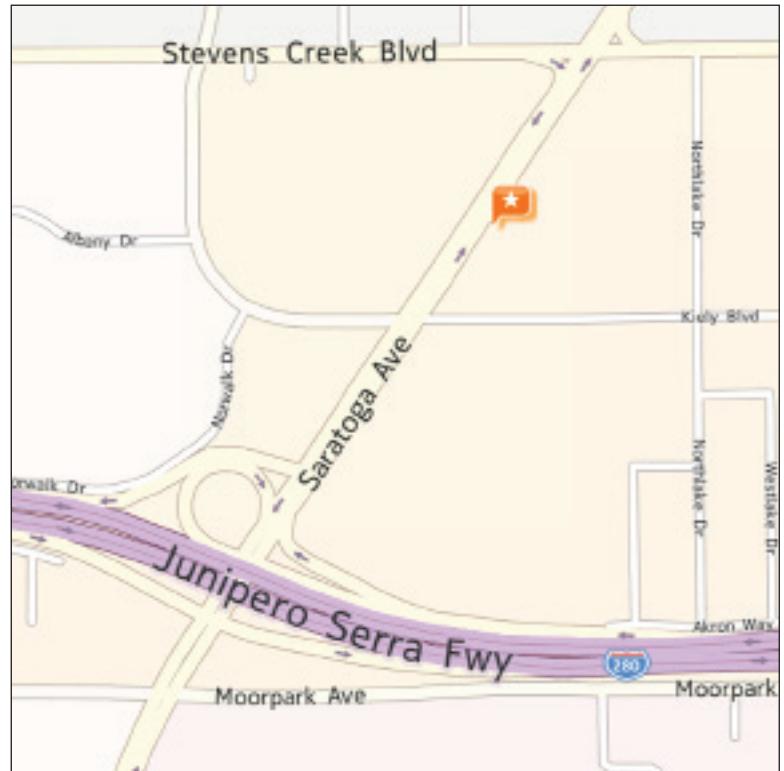
South Bay Writers
November Regular Monthly Meeting
6 p.m. Wednesday, November 13

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

Charlotte Cook
Discover the Bones
Build Your Arc

WritersTalk deadline is always
the 15th of the month.

Regular dinner meetings are
second Wednesdays 6 – 9 pm



Harry's Hofbrau

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