



# WRITERSTALK

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March 2017

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

MARCH SPEAKER CLAUDIA CERULLI

## Connecting Language Through Stories

by Kelly Gomez

Claudia Cerulli, March speaker for South Bay Writers, is a trilingual storyteller who loves to travel, read, write, and paint. She is the author of several bilingual books for children in Italian and English. Each page has the text in Italian along with its English translation; this format helps Italian language students of all ages to learn new words and practice reading skills.



Claudia Cerulli  
— Photo from IAHF 2015

For example, Cerulli's book *Ottavia e i Gatti di Roma* (*Octavia and the Cats of Rome*) features the adventurous story of two cats who call the ancient monuments of Rome their home and makes an entertaining introduction to travel, history, archaeology, and geography.

Cerulli will discuss how to publish in two or three languages; benefits to publishing bilingual stories and novels; and how to find your niche and avoid losing creative control. She speaks Spanish and Italian, and publishes books for authors in foreign languages at Long Bridge Publishing.

Ms. Cerulli's primary area of expertise is in children's books, where she links the culture of new communities with language in educational adventure stories. As President of the Long Bridge Publishing Company, [www.longbridgepublishing.com](http://www.longbridgepublishing.com), she is the primary leader for selecting manuscripts for publication.

Come join us at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose on Monday, March 13, 6 – 9 pm, to hear more about the ins and outs of publishing in a foreign language. Cerulli will cover the benefits of translating your novels, as well as how to find your niche in the publication process. —WT

## March TalkBooks Features Judith Shernock

On March 30, SBW TalkBooks will interview author Judith Shernock and discuss her book, *Sammi the Seahorse*. On February 23, we interviewed Kathleen Gonzalez, who wrote *A Beautiful Woman in Venice*; on January 26, Kymberlie Ingalls, *Bridges*.

SBW TalkBooks, a discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members, meets in the Sycamore Room, Santa Clara Library, 2635 Homestead Road, at 7 pm on the last Thursday of the month. Interested persons are invited to attend and to enter into the discussion. —WT

RECAP FEBRUARY SPEAKER  
TANYA EGAN GIBSON

## Editing in a Self-publishing World

By Karen Sundback

Self-publishing has become a high-flying industry, seemingly here to stay. If you are lucky enough to be flush with money, a professional editor can bring your book to a point of competing with the best on Amazon or Goodreads. But if yours is a shoestring budget, there is still hope. Most experts suggest editing your own work before you decide if hiring an editor is right for you. After the first draft, cull to bring a strong story to the surface. Then polish, again and again. When you're done with your self-editing, you're ready for a second set of eyes.

During our February meeting, Tanya Egan Gibson, an accomplished writer and editor, spoke on the craft of writing. Gibson has had articles, essays, and stories appear in such publications as *Writer's Digest*, *Parents*, *The Writer*, *Cicada*, *Carve*, and *Milk & Ink: a Mosaic of Motherhood*.



Tanya Egan Gibson

Gibson spoke from the viewpoint of a freelancer, so although she did mention, in passing, critique groups, such as those listed on **page 15 of this issue**, this talk focused on paid editors.

The two types of freelance editors are developmental and copy (or line) editors.

*Continued on Page 6*

# President's Two Cents

Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
President, South Bay Writers



## The Gallimaufry

"Some people feel the rain, others just get wet." — Emily March, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Eternity Springs Series*

I treasure misty March days filled with the relaxing sound of raindrops hitting the skylight. I wake up late and plan on a day of reading all those downloads from my mailbox, stored in a large woven basket behind the couch. There are California Writers Club (CWC) and Branch newsletters with their gallimaufry of local workshops, conferences, and unique programs for writers of all ages and levels. My overfilled baskets are short lived, bursting under the weight of monthly accumulations. For me, it's a treasure trove: my favorite journals from Mystery Writers of America, Sisters In Crime, Poets & Writers, Stanford's Continuing Studies, Cinequest Film and Virtual Reality Festival, and more. I read through each copy with delight to find a new author or book, classes or anything I can use to improve an aspect of my writing. Just looking at a pile of unread books or my Kindle charging next to a teapot and Ghirardelli chocolates makes me feel hopeful.

In all my travels, never have so many choices been available to writers as in San Jose. Writers' retreats abound for a focused experience. All these might be due not only to the Silicon Valley culture but also to the structure of California Writers Club's Branch membership system.

The CWC umbrella provides a marvelous connection to writers' fellowship and activities. CWC branches give discounts for conferences and workshops to members of other branches, and dual memberships are available for those writers wanting connection to more than one local branch. My most informative experiences have come from talking to other members of South Bay Writers who have done what I aspire to do. What I have gained through SBW has been priceless.

Most readers already know that the CWC covers all of California and has 2000 members and 21 branches divided into two groups, Northern California (NoCal) and Southern California (SoCal). In NorCal there are 14 branches, and each one offers workshops, conferences, and special events.

My own list of interests includes Mount Diablo's and Berkeley's contests for talented writers in 5th to 8th grades; Central Coast's short story contest for high school juniors and seniors; Napa Valley Writers' screenwriting and storytelling workshops; Redwood Writers' Fan Fiction, Steampunk, Playwriting, and Memoir Contests; and Sacramento's Shut up and Write Sessions. I have been inspired by the support so many CWC branches give to beginning writers from grade school to senior citizens, through monthly speakers, contests, and scholarships.

Tri-Valley used a grant from the Alameda County Arts Commission to fund keynote speaker Anne Perry, *New York Times* bestselling author and one of the 20th Century's Top 100 Masters of Crime, at their April 2017 conference. This year, the San Francisco Writers Conference featured "Writing the Resistance: Authors as Activists and Agents of Change" as part of their public offering.

On our SBW website southbaywriters.com, our newsletter archives are available to the public. This website will be redesigned and updated, but the archives will remain for review. Anyone can also research the newsletters of the other CWC branches. The best place to look is calwriters.org (select BRANCHES). Here you will find live links to NorCal and SoCal branches.

A rainy day is too precious to waste getting wet ... but it is a good time to check out what our branches have to offer. Rainy day web surfing gives a new meaning to the phrase, "Surf's up!" — WT

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
www.southbaywriters.com

### SBW Officers

President—Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
pres@southbaywriters.com  
Vice President—Kelly Gomez  
vp@southbaywriters.com  
Secretary—Trenton Myers  
secretary@southbaywriters.com  
Treasurer—Bill Baldwin  
treasurer@southbaywriters.com  
Member-at-Large1—vacant  
member-at-large1@southbaywriters.com  
Member-at-Large2—Carolyn Donnell  
member-at-large2@southbaywriters.com

### SBW Representatives

Central Board—Bill Baldwin  
treasurer@southbaywriters.com  
NorCal—Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
pres@southbaywriters.com

### SBW Committee Chairs

Bylaws/Policy&Procedures—Dave LaRoche  
policies@southbaywriters.com  
Hospitality—Carole Taub and Alfred Jan  
hospitality@southbaywriters.com  
Membership—Sally Milnor  
membership@southbaywriters.com  
MRMS Admin—Dick Amyx  
mrms@southbaywriters.com  
Newsletter—Marjorie Johnson  
newsletter@southbaywriters.com  
Programs, Workshops—Kelly Gomez  
vp@southbaywriters.com  
Publicity and Public Relations—vacant position  
pr@southbaywriters.com  
TalkBooks—Harli Rabow  
tb1@southbaywriters.com  
Web Master—Dick Amyx (Interim)  
webmaster@southbaywriters.com

### SBW Events

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin  
WABaldwin@aol.com  
TalkShop (closed)—Carole Taub  
hospitality@southbaywriters.com

### SBW Mission

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

### Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$42.50 for membership effective through June 30, 2017; this includes a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. Contact Membership Chair or sign up online at southbaywriters.com.

## WritersTalk

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

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

### Managing Editor

Marjorie Johnson

### Contributing Editors

Chess Desalls

Carolyn Donnell

Sally Milnor

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. Managing Editor reserves the right to selection.

**Suggested word limits** (less is more):

**Member Achievement / News** (200 words)

**News Items** (400 words)

**Letters to the Editor** (300 words)

### Creative Works

Short Fiction/Memoir (1800 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay (900 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

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

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Positive Thinking Positively Banishes Writer's Block

Is positive thinking important to writers?

The Mayo Clinic seems to think so. Their researchers explored the effects of positive thinking and optimism on health and listed many health benefits, such as increased life span, lower rates of depression, and better psychological and physical well-being. A positive-thinking writer can put aside worries, get to his writing, and banish writer's block.

Positive thinking, acknowledged by mainstream psychology as "positive psychology," emphasizes personal growth and happiness. Positive thinking attracts positive outcomes. A positive person believes that he or she can overcome any obstacle and difficulty. This is important to our writers club because positive and negative thinking are contagious. We affect and are affected by the people we meet on a subconscious level through words, thoughts and feelings, and body language.

Since we cannot break old habits overnight — we like to scold ourselves — the Mayo Clinic suggests we replace negative self-talk with positive thinking. For example, "I've never done it and I'll mess up" changes to "It's an opportunity to learn something new." The negative "It's too radical a change" becomes "Let's take a chance." The self-scolding "I'll never get any better at this" yields to "I'll give it another try."

We, as writers studying the power of positive thinking, can break the worry habit, achieve a relaxed life, and overcome writer's block.

The Mayo Clinic also has studied the effects of meditation. They conclude that even a little bit of mediation, from five to fifteen minutes a day, can put your brain into the state most associated with clear, creative thinking. Sitting quietly without any intention or pressure allows access to the subconscious mind, the wellspring of creative ideas.

*Writer's Digest* March/April 2017 devotes seven pages to beating writer's block and breaking other creative blocks. Well worth a read. *WritersTalk* invites you to write and submit an essay about ways to defeat creative blocks. Or write your story: how did you overcome writer's block and how did that feel?



You might start your unblocking by writing a silly limerick and winning \$50; see page 10. When you are unblocked, write a short poem for April *WritersTalk*; that poem will be automatically entered in the WT Challenge Contest (see page 12).

Celebrate national poetry month by submitting a poem to *WritersTalk*, deadline March 15. — WT

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# View From the Board

by Trenton Myers, SBW Secretary

The February Board Meeting was held on February 7 at Tony and Alba's Pizza in San Jose and was attended by President Pam Oliver Lyons, VP Kelly Gomez, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Secretary Trenton Myers, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, Membership Chair Sally Milnor, Policy Chair Dave LaRoche, Hospitality Co-Chair Carole Taub, Hospitality Co-Chair Alfred Jan, Member-at-Large Carolyn Donnell, and guests Kymberlie Ingalls, Sherri Johnson, and Janet Patey.

**B&N Eastridge Book Fair:** Pam introduced the SBW mystery author line up for the March 12 book fair: Alfred Jan, Dr. Jack Fitzenz, Lloyd Free, Ram Muthiah, and Robert Davis. The club is still accepting applicants for the June 24th book fair for the SciFi/Fantasy genre.

**Club Promotions:** Pamela introduced a promotional budget of \$1000 for club swag, brochures, tablecloths, signage, and business cards. The promotional motion was approved on a split vote of 6 to 4. The newly approved SBW logo will be applied on these promotional goods.

**Webmaster Chosen:** Pamela presented a brief paragraph about the purpose and need for a website redesign and new web master: much information is dated and the site is not aesthetically pleasing. The board reviewed comparative quotes/proposals from both Mark Cyrus at Brave Whale and John Byrne Barry. The Board denoted that there will be at least two club members taught by the webmaster to be savvy with the site in order to upload content frequently. John Byrne Barry was approved for webmaster with a vote of 5 to 2 (3 abstentions).

**SBW Bylaw Changes:** Dave presented changes to the current bylaws that address the removal of persons from board/officer roles in certain circumstances. Pamela noted that other boards have had to set similar bylaw parameters for resignations and terminations. Discussion of these changes and thresholds will continue during the March Board meeting with a vote in April; the entire club will be notified and will vote on ratification.

**MRMS:** Pamela spoke about the NorCal Board's concern with MRMS in regards to privacy. Since SBW is part of the state-recognized California Writers Club, there are inherent privacies that must be adhered to. Therefore, the NorCal Board decided that the default setting will be privacy from now on, and chairs must contact their presidents to access any member information as needed.

**March Speaker:** Kelly announced that the March speaker will be Claudia Cerulli, owner of Long Bridge Publishing, with a focus on children's bilingual language books. Kelly will administer a survey to membership via email to find out what programming to provide for speakers and workshops.

**Limerick Writing Contest:** Marjorie asked for a \$50 prize for the Limerick Writing Contest, and the Board approved her motion unanimously. Marjorie stated the winner will be awarded the prize in April. (Details on page 10.)

**Next Board Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7th, 6:30 – 8:00pm at Mariani's, Santa Clara. **However, this meeting will be a closed session. – WT**

*Grant Writing Workshop April 1: See page 12.*

*Open Mic location change: See page 10*

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## Ray Malus Remembered

by Marjorie Johnson

Bob Isbill, CWC High Desert Branch, sent me this short email note: "I am sad to tell you that Ray Malus, a devoted member and friend of the California Writers Club, and creator of our Membership Records Management System (MRMS), passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2017."

I am saddened indeed. Ray Malus was my "email buddy" for more than ten years.

In Ray's home branch CWC San Fernando Valley, he designed their website, served as Web master, and edited their newsletter, *The Valley Scribe*. He was the author of at least three books and had ten plays produced.

But, what he has done for all of us in California Writers Club overshadows all that and lives on. He provided CWC with an invaluable tool for tracking the club's membership in a way that has saved each branch numerous hours of drudgery and painstaking work. It's called Member Record Management System, or MRMS, and he did this with an investment of time and talent to the tune of hundreds of hours.

As SBW membership chair for several years, I remember the tedious and time-consuming work each branch membership chair and each treasurer had to do with dreaded regularity.

Now it's done, thanks to Ray, with a click of the mouse. Data entry has been enormously simplified, and accuracy vastly improved. Moreover, MRMS facilitates communication between branch members and their peers in other branches through its on-line member directory and email lists. In addition, its USPS mailing list supports other major CWC projects such as the *Literary Review* and *CWC Bulletin*.

I miss you, Ray. – WT

*Note: SBW sent a donatiin in the memory of Ray Malus.*

## NaNoEdMo in March

by Bill Baldwin

For those of you who participated in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) last November – or just happen to have a draft novel lying around ... March is National Novel Editing Month (NaNoEdMo). So get those draft novels out and get back to work.

To me, it actually sounds *harder* than NaNoWriMo; it depends whether you prefer measuring *words* or *time*. Here's the concept: In November, for NaNoWriMo, you wrote 50,000 words in 30 days. In March, for NaNoEdMo, you spend 50 *hours* editing (in 31 days).

Ready? On your mark? It may not be so bad. Technically, it isn't one-and-two-thirds hours every day – *You have one extra day!* More info can found at [nanoedmo.com](http://nanoedmo.com). – WT

# Barnes & Noble Book Fair Sunday, March 12, 2017

\*\*\* Mark your calendar \*\*\*

by Marjorie Johnson

South Bay Writers will participate in a Mystery/Thriller Authors' Meet and Greet Fundraiser on Sunday, March 12, 11:30 am – 5:00 pm, at Barnes & Noble Eastridge. The following authors will be selling their books:

- Alfred Jan: *The Book of Spicy Mystery*, Vols. 1 and 2; *The Killing Time and Other Stories*; *Footprints on a Brain: The Inspector Allhoff Stories*; *The Surgeon of Souls and Other Tales of Horror*.
- Dr. Jack Fitzenz: *Spies with Benefits*; *Undaunted Lovers*, *A Tale of Forbidden Love*.
- Lloyd Free: *Confessions of a Day Trader*.
- Ram Muthiah: *Tell My Dad*.
- Robert Davis: *When The Enemy is You*; *The Ticker*; *Will To Kill*.

Why is this called a fundraiser?

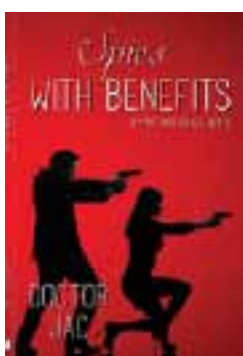
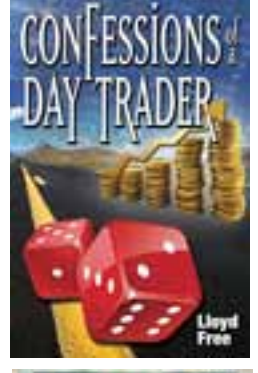
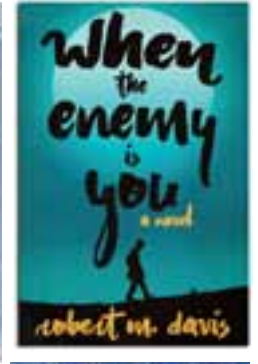
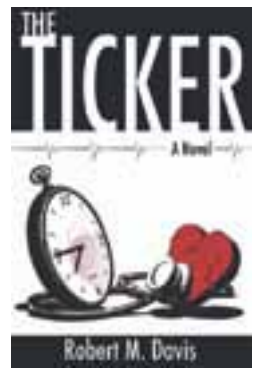
For the period March 12 – 18, Barnes & Noble will give South Bay Writers a percentage of book sales made online or in any B&N store – that is, those sales in which the buyer indicates our **Book Fair number 12101663** at point of sale.

Supporting SBW costs you nothing; it's a deal between B&N Eastridge and SBW. Unfortunately, this event happens the day **before our March general meeting**. So write our B&N Book Fair number in ink on the inside of your wrist – same way as students used to write crib notes before they had cell phones and other electronic devices – or make a copy of page 14, this issue of WT.

Come on over to Barnes & Noble Eastridge on Sunday, March 12 to support our authors.

The next SBW Barnes & Noble Book Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 24, 11:30 am – 5:00 pm. The genre will be SciFi/Fantasy.

Email [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) to get more information and be considered for participation. Currently, there are three openings. – WT



## Member News

Staff

**Chai Hi-Dong's** self-published memoir *Shattered by the Wars* was published by Christian Faith Publishing last December with the new title *Sustained by Love thru the Wars*. It is available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon, where you can view the new cover.

**Marjorie Johnson's** novel, *Lost Jade of the Maya*, will be featured May 31 – June 2 at BookExpo in New York City.

**Dave M. Strom** wrote: "On Feb. 4, I was on [jmspodcast.com](http://jmspodcast.com), where I read two stories and talked about my super-heroine Holly, my experiences doing open mics, and written vs. audio stories. This was my first time interviewed on a podcast."

**Bonnie Vaughan** reported that she won an Excellence Award at the 2016 Society for Technical Communication International Summit Competition for a book she co-authored with a developer, *The Enterprise Deployment Guide for Oracle Fusion Middleware*.

To report your news and achievements, please send an email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com). – WT

## Recap: Editing in a Self-Publishing World

*Continued from Page 1*

The developmental editors ensure a book moves forward, offering suggestions about the core intentions and goals, the premise, the story, character development, dialogue, descriptions, pacing—the craft and art of writing.

Copy editing is usually the last step before a manuscript is set into type. The copy editor is the final line of defense against bad writing. Besides correcting grammar and punctuation, copy editors check the writing's rhythm and flow. They also verify that sentences and paragraphs end with powerful words to make a point.

Gibson ended her talk with final words of advice about getting an editor.

To find a freelance editor, she recommended that you:

- Ask your agent, if you have one.
- Check at conferences.
- Consult professional groups for editors.

Before employing an editor, you should get an estimate. Our speaker insists on looking over the entire manuscript in order to give a rough cost,

Lastly, she recommended hiring an editor who specializes in your genre. Gibson's passion is adults and young adults. She explained why she doesn't edit horror: "Life is too short for zombies."

You can read about Tanya Egan Gibson at [www.howtobuyaloveofreading.com/](http://www.howtobuyaloveofreading.com/) or at [tanyaegangibson.com/](http://tanyaegangibson.com/) —WT



**Tanya Egan Gibson**

—Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Tanya Egan Gibson can be reached at her Upwork website: <https://www.upwork.com/o/profiles/>

## TalkBooks Interviews Kymberlie Ingalls:

*Bridges: A Lifetime in Essays*

by I. L. Silva

In January, South Bay Writers TalkBooks featured writer, blogger, and editor Kymberlie Ingalls, who recently published *Bridges: a lifetime in essays*. Although only forty-three at the time of the writing, she describes her book as representing a lifetime.

In a compendium of short essays, blogs, and emails, Ingalls takes the reader through a lifetime by sharing her experiences from when she lost her mother at a young age, through the ups and downs of maturation, and ending with the introspection that comes with reflecting on the past. Told in short writings grouped in four parts, she reveals in these vignette-like writings, parts of her private life, online relationships, and the difficult journey to love.

At times the work reveals interesting reflections for contemplation: "If someone leaves me feeling lonely, I'll tell them so." "[I will] tell someone not just that I love them, but why." "Sometimes we have to let go to save ourselves."

Besides the reflections, the use of music also binds the writing together. Each entry ends with some lyrics from a song.

The lyrics add a deeper understanding to each piece, revealing in a clever way what the short writing was focused on. Ingalls shared that music has been an important influence in her writing.

And for those of us unfamiliar with online relationships, another aspect of the book is a closer view of the way people connect in the online world. Perhaps in some regards, it gives a more grounded view of the sharing and caring that develops when people can be honest without fear of reprisal.

Ingalls shared that she began to write at the early age of seven and once saved her English grade in high school by writing a sonnet. She follows no particular writing schedule, writing sometimes at night, and says, "Writing is just something that I do." She is also the author of *My blog book Volume 1*, has taught adult education, and does freelance editing in addition to her writing. She is happily married and lives with her husband and two cats in northern California. —WT



**Kymberlie Ingalls**

Kymberlie Ingalls is a blogger and author, native to and still living in the San Francisco Bay Area. The creator of the successful *Writer of the Storm* and *Neuroticity = A Societal Madness* sites, she began blogging in the late 90s, before it became the phenomenon that is prevalent today.

Her work focuses on personal topics such as love, relationships, grief, and memory loss.

Ms Ingalls has a colorful history in stage, comedy, auto racing, radio broadcasting, and teaching. All of this feeds her broad scope of writing in memoir, prose, fiction, and opinion essays. She has received praise from critics, colleagues, and writers for her heartfelt honesty and emotional depths.

Ms Ingalls spoke to South Bay Writers in January, 2016. —WT





## ***South Bay Writers Feb. 2017***



**Collage and Photos by Carolyn Donnell**

# Eaten Alive

by Judith Shernock

Cher was dead, her bones bleaching in the sun, picked clean of all flesh. Who could replace her? Katy, Henny and Roo were inconsolable. Then the gorgeous Nell arrived and they hated her from the first. Now Nell lives among them, a beautiful pariah clucking her loneliness.

As you may have guessed, this is a tale of chickens, not humans. Yet every word is true. Here are the facts behind the tragic events.

We received four chickens when the great giveaway of 2,000 chickens ensued in Northern California in 2015. Two were snow-white tall Leghorns; two were small and speckled. They immediately formed a “pecking order,” Cher on top, followed by Chickeroo, then Katy Perry (later rechristened Ronaldo), and last but not least, Henny-Penny.

Then tragedy struck in the form of a hungry raccoon that somehow got into their part of the yard, climbing over the fence, doing his worst, and safely escaping with a full stomach.

In the South Bay, there are hundreds of households that get fresh eggs from



Cochinella, a Cochin chicken

their backyard chickens. Among these folk are some wealthier families who prefer exotic breeds. For the uninformed, there are 158 different types of chickens, and there is a yearly Breeders Championship in Ohio where each breed gets its own medal and the best in show gets \$100,000.

One of these exotics was donated to us, from a home on top of a mountain with a view of the sea, to replace our sadly mourned Cher. Not an ordinary chicken, but a blue and grey Cochin with feathers soft as a lamb’s wool, who follows you around like a dog and will have a conversation with you if you hold her in your arms long enough. Sadly, she speaks only “cluckese,” but still, a miracle.

Cochinella is from the Cochin breed, originally brought from China as a present to Queen Victoria who loved her chicken so much that she carried her everywhere. Many Englishmen followed suit and imports of this breed flourished in England. Within a few years, they made their way to the United States.

In our tiny flock, Cochinella is the odd chicken out and the others refuse to interact with her. Nevertheless, each day she lays a brown egg with a deep yellow yolk. At six months, she lost her own flock and was thrust into a world of strangers. She prefers the company of humans to that of her coop mates.

If your days are a bit boring, consider adopting some chickens. Every day you’ll have a soap opera in your backyard plus an endless supply of eggs. If you’re considering this proposal, please watch the movie *Chicken People* and learn how to devote your life to these feathered companions. If you think this may be a fascinating pastime, but don’t have a yard, don’t worry. You can order chicken diapers; they come in two different colors and three sizes.

The exciting world of chickens is just a cluck away. — WT

## PERSONAL ESSAY

# Small and Mighty

by Carole Taub

The day was glorious. It was early morning, fresh, and I had an hour to waste. As it happened I ended up on a remote trail. My hands were stuffed into my pockets, a purple woolen scarf wrapped around my neck, and I was surrounded by nature—a dense forest of gigantic old pine trees in every direction. I stopped to admire one of them, stooped down on my haunches for a moment, simply relishing their scent.

My eyes were closed. I heard a nearby flock of Canada geese, but only for a moment. And then after opening my eyes, staring at the trunk, running my hand up and down the bark, I noticed there were printed words on one side. Difficult to decipher: I moved closer, and slowly saw what it said. *What small*

*thing would you do to change the world?* This was good, I thought. And then wondered what *small thing* would I do? I continued walking in and around the maze of trees. No thoughts of where I was going. It didn’t matter. Kicking up the dirt, I grabbed a handful of leaves and tossed them into the delicious air. I watched as they floated, finally landing with a hush.

Careful of my allotted hour, I began etching out a route, ending up outside of nature on the streets of a nearby town. Passing by a local restaurant, the scent of cigars was pervasive. Hmm, I thought: what if people stopped smoking? That would certainly have an impact. But that idea wasn’t small enough.

My free time was pressing, as it was closing in on forty-five minutes. Walking further along, I noticed a car at a stop sign with a bumper sticker that read *coexist*. Terrific idea, but too big once again.

What if, I pondered, everyone hopped on a bike. No more cars. Cleaner air. That would be a huge accomplishment—but not nearly tiny enough.

The storefronts that I passed were interesting, some more so than others. An antique store specialized in toys; the second-hand clothing store offered good variety; there was an ice cream shop, a burger joint, a local pub, and a Starbucks. All were lit up with neon signs and used rotating fans. Inside there were more lights. Other than the hamburger joint and Starbucks, most of the stores were still closed. But the lights, fans, and neon still glared, so many lights that, at night, they could be seen from space. And then, like a jackhammer, the *idea* bonked me. I knew exactly what I would do. It wouldn’t be too big, and it would impact the world. If only everyone would become part of my crusade.

*Continued on Page 10*



# Aunt Chris and the Peanut Butter Thing: Part 2

by Richard Allan Burns

Continued from February *WritersTalk*.

Someone had broken the no-peanut-butter-tasting rule, someone who vastly underestimated how it would affect Aunt Chris.

She shoved the jar around to the other two. "C'mon, which one of y'all did it? You kids are just thieving liars."

My heart was doing summersaults in my chest.

Her eyes gleamed with rage, her cheeks burned. "I'm going to make y'all sorry. I have a mind to thrash all three of you so you cain't sit down for a week."

Bill said, "Please, I didn't do it." He said he had homework to get to and needed to work on his Boy Scout merit badge.

"Y'all is bad as Bobby," she shouted. "You're the oldest and y'all still don't make your bed right. Y'all think I talk just to hear my head rattle."

I turned away so my brother wouldn't see the tears starting to well up in my eyes. It was just too much.

Her head snapped in my direction. "That's it, Dicky, start crying. That will sure do it."

Two big steps and she was at the silverware drawer. It flew open. She pulled out a tablespoon, and it slammed shut, reverberated through the kitchen and down the hallway. Bill's eyes rolled up; who could believe all this fuss over a jar of peanut butter?

Aunt Chris grabbed Bill by the scruff of the neck, drew him up close in front of her, still holding the tablespoon. "Here, Bill, you son-of-a-bitch. Do you like peanut butter? Is that it? Aunt Chris doesn't give y'all enough in your sandwiches. Is that it? Here, take a little bit."

It was a big spoon, and she made sure it was full. "Swallow it down, Billy-boy, more is coming." She filled the spoon full again and shoved it into his mouth, the excess dribbling down his chin. "Eat it, you bastard, and swallow. You love it so much."

## Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



Bill was making little grunting sounds, trying to get it down while pleading with her, but Aunt Chris was in no mood. She pushed the tablespoon into the peanut butter again and scooped up more of it, this time, jerking Bob toward her. "Chew it up. That's it," she yelled, forcing it into his mouth. "Here's one for you, Dick. Your brothers eat too slow."

Again and again, she filled the spoon and we opened wide. It was a mess.

She still was ranting. "And you're all too chicken to be honest."

She held the next spoonful at the ready. We were all chewing. The spoon tasted metallic and not right to be paired with peanut butter, but, in fact, the peanut butter tasted pretty good. It really stuck to the inside of our mouths, though.

Another spoonful came at me. I choked and coughed it all over the front of her apron. Bob and I were crying. The whole scene was beyond belief, and I needed milk. She kept a steady stream of accusations going. We chewed and swallowed as fast as the spoonfuls came.

"All three of you is spoiled liars. Let's see how Uncle Fred feels about that when he gets home, and he gets the belt out." She gave Bob another spoonful to swallow, followed by two more in quick succession to Bill and me.

"Mmf," was all we could say. It was awful.

She gave Bill another spoonful, but she was tiring. Bob's mouth was still full, I was chewing like crazy.

"Milk. I need milk," Bill pleaded.

Maybe she took pity. She put the big, sticky tablespoon on the counter, and poured us each a glass of milk from the fridge.

Being away from the battle for a second gave her time to think a little about what was happening. Outside the kitchen window, the sun came out from behind a cloud, brightening the whole room. It seemed to change things. A kind of wry smile spread across her face. I could see that a part of her wanted to keep lecturing and punishing us, but part of her must have been wondering how the heck such a little mark on the top of the new peanut butter had come to this.

"Anyway, y'all won't want to see even a little bit of peanut butter as long as y'all live," she said, and laughed although trying not to.

I tried to thank her for the milk, but she probably thought I was complaining. The jar was empty, though, and she was done.

*Continued on Page 10*

# Ye Olde Limerick Contest

by Marjorie Johnson

Here is a contest guaranteed to banish writer's block and to improve everyone's mood.

A **limerick** is a humorous poem consisting of five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines have seven to ten syllables while rhyming and having the same verbal rhythm. The third and fourth lines have five to seven syllables, rhyme with each other, and have the same rhythm.

Here are two old chestnuts from the public domain:

There was an Old Man of Nantucket  
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.  
His daughter, called Nan,  
Ran away with a man,  
And as for the bucket, Nantucket.  
— Anonymous

A bather whose clothing was strewed  
By winds that left her quite nude  
Saw a man come along  
And unless we are wrong  
You expected this line to be lewd.  
— Anonymous

I couldn't resist a mathematical limerick:

$(12 + 144 + 20 + 3\sqrt{4})/7 + (5 \times 11) = 9^2 + 0$ ,  
A dozen, a gross, and a score  
Plus three times the square root of four  
Divided by seven  
Plus five times eleven  
Is nine squared and not a bit more  
— Leigh Mercer (1873 – 1977)

George Bernard Shaw held that the true limerick as a folk form is always obscene and described a clean limerick as “a periodic fad and object of magazine contests, rarely rising above mediocrity.” However, I know that you can write a great clean limerick, especially since you might win \$50 and rise to fame at our April meeting.

Submit a (clean) limerick by March 15 for the April 2017 issue of *WritersTalk*. The best limericks will appear here. The top one will win \$50, to be awarded at our April meeting. — WT

## Third Friday Open Mics on the Move

by Bill Baldwin

Thanks to all of you who attend our more-or-less-biweekly open mics! That tradition goes back fifteen years.

Our First Friday event, as always, takes place in the café of the Barnes and Noble at Almaden Plaza in South San Jose. But, the *Third Friday* event has embarked on a little adventure. It *generally* still takes place at the Willow Glen Library in San Jose. *But not always.*

The Friends of Willow Glen Library now use the Community Room on third Fridays in January, April, July, and October — so we have to move those open mics to the *Rose Garden Library* (at the corner of Naglee and Dana, catty-corner from the San Jose Rose Garden). **And this March Open Mic will also be at the Rose Garden Library.** — WT

## Aunt Chris and the Peanut Butter Thing

Continued from Page 9

She grabbed a washrag and wiped at Bill's shirt, then tried to clean mine. It felt good that she was calming down, that somebody cared a little bit.

“Y'all will learn that y'all cain't mess with Aunt Chris.”

I don't remember all she said, all her colorful language. It wasn't very kind, though, and I vowed to myself Dad was going to hear about this.

I suppose we honored the authority of our guardians, even those who went crazy. Maybe, it was just so sudden, we could gather no good plan for fighting back. I suppose running away would have meant something even worse when Uncle Fred got a hold of us, and besides, where would we sleep?

She looked into the jar. Almost every molecule of peanut butter was gone. She put the jar in the sink with the spoon and sent us to our room.

As we retreated, she said, “Y'all's sweet little daddy can have you back. He can discipline y'all however he wants, even though, sorry to say, that man is all bark and no bite. When Uncle Fred comes home, one of y'all better confess to your tricks. Think about it, or he'll sure wail the daylights out of all three of you.”

That weekend, when my Dad picked us up for our two week-end days with him in Burbank, we had just finished playing baseball out back, and were excited to go home and see our friends near his house.

I never heard anything more of the peanut butter thing from anyone.

I don't think Aunt Chris ever told our dad. I forgot about it. There were other bumps along the way. We were just living life, having fun when we could, taking it as it came, like everyone else.

The next week Aunt Chris cooked some of our favorites, like open-faced grilled cheese sandwiches and homemade split pea soup. Pizza was a new invention to us, and she made it special, homemade. She spent days baking up her prize-winning pies, chocolate cookies, and the best cream puffs on planet Earth. — WT

## Small and Mighty

Continued from Page 8

Of course, the idea has been suggested. Why doesn't anyone do anything about it? I would step up to the plate and shout about it. Has anyone taken it seriously enough to follow through? The answer sadly is no. Well, I will. I have the key.

Everyone, repeat after me: I will turn off the lights. — WT





**Red Sails**  
Painting by Karen Hartley

### Red Sails

I decided to try painting  
A daunting task!  
I didn't want to ask for  
any advice  
I simply wanted to allow  
what the flow of  
my hand would  
show  
The blank canvas stared  
back at me  
almost in defiance  
that I could create  
an acceptable piece  
So I took a breath  
grabbed a pencil first  
then felt a burst of energy  
when my hand  
took to the canvas  
Without any idea of what  
to paint I scribbled the  
lead across the white  
surface  
I felt an urgency to  
keep on keeping on

Next I took the paints  
Swished, swashed, flung  
the brush across the  
canvas

Suddenly shapes took form  
I grew warm with excitement  
when I saw what was happening  
Waves and swirls  
and a touch of green  
Like a hill of color  
or the blur of a dream  
Water colors and oils  
the pencil scrolls  
and small white peaks throughout  
to add a sense of peace

I saw I had created both  
calm and turbulence  
Colors bled one into  
the other  
And soon it was done  
Red Sails were floating  
on a sea of green  
I was pleased with the  
final scene  
Now framed and hanging  
in my home  
I will always remember  
the feeling of being  
alone with the canvas  
then ...  
the painting took shape  
and I took a breath  
I had done it!  
I created another piece  
I was ready to try  
again  
but now it would be  
easier  
— Karen Hartley

## Poetry Page



### March Mellow

Soft as a kitten, quiet as a mouse:  
Inspiration creeps up  
Perhaps while you sup,  
Oops! Arm flashes, whole table souse!  
Apologize please.  
We'll forgive.  
We've all been there,  
Forgot to take care,  
Those ideas  
It's how we live!  
— Pat Bustamante



### Poetry Submissions Note

Poets, please do not use a page break.  
Let the poem flow onto the second  
page naturally. The lines following  
a page break sometimes fly away to  
Never-Never-Land and cannot find  
their way back to this page.

### Questions

When did lightness turn into darkness?  
When did delight turn into despair?  
When did expectation die?  
When did the light become extinguished?  
Where are the angels who should fly above us?  
Where was our god when we needed him?  
Where is justice to be found?  
Where was the life that was promised?  
Why was I alone when I was young?  
Why did my first love leave me?  
Why did my friends get old and die?  
Why do one's ashes weigh less than a cup of  
tears?

— Cal Stevens

## April is National Poetry Month

Celebrate poetry month by sending a poem to *WritersTalk*.

**To format any submission** for *WritersTalk*, open Word or Text and just start typing, using the program's default settings. At the end of each paragraph, hit the ENTER/RETURN key. The cursor will automatically move to start the next line of text, thus starting the next paragraph. Do not make any page breaks or format using columns. When you've finished, correct your typing errors and save the document. Attach it to an email and send it to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).

**What about formatting poetry?** Just type it left justified (lined up against the left margin), single-spaced. Use ENTER/RETURN after each line and hit ENTER/RETURN an extra time after each stanza. Be sure to give your poem's title and to write your byline. Please, do not make your poem "look nice" by typing a string of spaces or by hitting the TAB key. If you want the poem to be centered, the WT Editor can center the whole thing.

If you have a short poem, you can type it directly into your email. — WT



# SBW Writers Re-Challenged

by Dave LaRoche

The *WritersTalk* Challenge has faltered and died during the last several periods of its eleven-year life. But, Managing Editor Marjorie Johnson and I, not wanting to recite a benediction, have rather decided a reawakening better suits the intent and earlier success. Here is our reasoning: We are writers, yes? Writers need readers or what's the point? Readers read *WritersTalk*, and *WritersTalk* is pushed to all club members, most of them writers. Seems the cycle is complete, and now I'll explain the program and a bit of increased encouragement.

An annual span will replace the two semi-annuals of earlier record. Work published in the preceding 12 months will be recognized in the succeeding October. For 2017, work published in January through September will be recognized in October, 2017. Four genres are included in the program: fiction, memoir, poetry and essay. Limerick and haiku will not be eligible for the Challenge.

First prize for each category: a certificate of recognition, fifty dollars cash and a free entry for the winning piece (and that author's one other) into the next *CWC Literary Review*. Second prize: twenty in cash, a similar recognition cert and entry into the *Literary Review*. Of course there'll be colleagues' applause and pictures taken, and winners will become infinitely famous on a Facebook page.

Work in these genres published in *WritersTalk* is automatically entered. A team of editor-judges, proficient in the genre published, will choose winners via blind selection. No SBW member is excluded, and judges will not judge a genre in which their work currently appears.

Remember, all SBW members are invited to submit to *WritersTalk* always. However, work including gratuitous sex or vulgarity, religious proselytizing, or political rant of a party-biased nature will not be published. The editor maintains related discretion. Have a peek at the *WritersTalk* masthead on page 3.

Is this an opportunity for you? Does fifty in cash sound appealing? Do you want your story in print? Become a legend among your cohorts; and if you smoke, you get from me a hand-rolled Dominican cigar.

Well okay then, wake up your computer or sharpen your pencil and get creative. Make it snappy and sharp, colorful, interesting — insanely different. Bowl us over here at *WritersTalk*. Let us see what you write and let the entire club read your published work. — WT

## Grant Writing Workshop

ArLyne Diamond, Ph.D., President of Diamond Associates and a Leadership Consultant, will present a Grant Writing Workshop for SBW members from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm on Saturday, April 1, 2017 in the Sycamore Room of the Santa Clara Library, located at 2635 Homestead Rd, Santa Clara.

Cost is \$25, made payable to South Bay Writers. Fee includes instruction, handouts, coffee and light refreshments. Advance sign-up is necessary.

For more details contact ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net. Or call 408-554-0110. — WT

# Tweets and Tips

by Michael Lunsford

Want an online break from your writing that still feels productive? Check out these suggestions.

**1. Twitter WIP Tweets:** If you're on Twitter, tweet excerpts from your completed work or Work in Process any day of the week using these hashtags: #MuseMon; #2bitTues; #1LineWed; #Thurs or #ThruLineThurs or #3WordThurs; #FP or #FictFri or #SciFiFri; #SlapDashSat; #SunWIP.

Most have an optional weekly theme, typically announced the night before. For example, to find the theme for #MuseMon, do a Twitter search for “#MuseMon Theme” Sunday night. Some, like #SlapDashSat, are open-ended with no weekly theme.

It's fun to see how many “likes” you can get and it helps to build your Twitter Followers list. This is also a great morale booster, as it reminds you how many gems you've written, but forgotten.

**2. Follow South Bay Writers on Twitter:** The club's username is @SouthBayWriters.

**3. Twitter Pitch Contests:** Tweet 140-character pitches to be viewed by agents and editors. If an agent or editor “likes” your pitch, that's an invitation to submit to them directly — one way to get past the slush pile. **Upcoming deadlines:**

3/23: #Pitmad: *Open to all genres.* Pitch your manuscript via Twitter using the #Pitmad hashtag between 8am & 8pm EDT. Pitch only 3 times per project.

4/5: #AdPit: Pitch your Adult and New Adult completed novel or non-fiction book.

4/5: #KidPit: Pitch your Board Books, Picture Books, Picture Books, Easy Reader/Chapter Books, Middle Grade and/or Young Adult completed novel. — WT



## Classes for Artists, Poets, and Writers

Taught by SBW Member, Victoria M. Johnson

**Social Media for Artists and Poets**, March 7, 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Social media has become a crucial element for authors and poets in promotion and branding, finding opportunities, and fund-raising. This class will showcase Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, and more. FMI or to register, visit [https://apm.activecommunities.com/capitolarecreation/Activity\\_Search/new-social-media-for-artists-and-poets-3-7/5898](https://apm.activecommunities.com/capitolarecreation/Activity_Search/new-social-media-for-artists-and-poets-3-7/5898)

**Flash Fiction Writing Bootcamp**, 3/15 – 4/5, Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7 pm. Learn how to create very short stories, also known as short shorts or flash or sudden fiction. Discover tried-and-true techniques, look at great examples, and free your creativity to write your own flash pieces. For beginning writers or pros. FMI, visit [https://apm.activecommunities.com/capitolarecreation/Activity\\_Search/new-flash-fiction-writing-bootcamp/5900](https://apm.activecommunities.com/capitolarecreation/Activity_Search/new-flash-fiction-writing-bootcamp/5900)

Both classes will meet at Capitola Community Center, 4400 Jade Street, Capitola. — WT

# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

I know, the San Mateo County Fair isn't until June 10 – 18, 2017. But this is the biggest and best contest of 2017, and you have to think about it NOW.

**Deadline Literary Arts submissions,  
April 3, 2017.**

## San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Contests

Are you ready? Our sister branch, SF/Peninsula, has been running the Literary Arts stage at the San Mateo County Fair since 2009. Lots of categories and lots of prizes and the \$10 entry fee will get you a ticket to the fair and free parking. Divisions include Essay, Memoir, Best Blog, Recorded Podcast and Audiobook, Poetry, CWC Writer of the Year, Short Story, and Recorded Lyric Songwriting. The Short Story division is further divided into 5 genres and subdivided by age (regular and senior: over 55).

There are 10 short story categories altogether. First place in each category will receive \$100, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. Best of show in Essay, Memoir, Poetry, and Short Story will also win \$150 and a \$150 gift certificate from University Art. And the Literary Exhibitor of the Year Award offers a plaque and \$150 to the winning writer. Many categories are also eligible to participate in lotteries for critique by writing and editing consultants.

Download the 2017 Literary Arts Contest Book from [https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2017/literary\\_17.pdf](https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2017/literary_17.pdf).

Note new rule #10 requiring work to be saved as a PDF to upload. Winners will be asked for Word copies later for the anthology. Only winning entries will be published in the print anthology. You can see all of last year's entries online at <https://sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts#awards>

Two **Writer's Digest** contests are underway, the big annual competition and also the self-published book awards.

**Self-published Book Awards:** Deadline, April 3, 2017.

**Annual Writing Competition:** Writer's Digest's oldest and most popular competition. Deadline May 5, 2017. Categories include Inspirational Writing, Memoirs/Personal Essay, Magazine Feature Article, Genre Short Story (Mystery, Romance, etc.), Mainstream/Literary Short Story, Rhyming Poetry, Non-rhyming Poetry, Script (Stage Play or Television/Movie Script), and Children's/Young Adult Fiction. See <http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions>

**Poets & Writers** continues to be a great resource for contests, many with \$0 entry fees, as well as grants, and awards. Info on journals and magazines, small presses, and even MFA programs. <http://www.pw.org/toolsforwriters>.

**Publishers Weekly (PW)** announced that *LitMag*, a new literary magazine, is now accepting submissions. \$250 for poetry and online work, \$1,000 for fiction in the print edition. No previously published work. Submit at <http://litmag.com/submit/>

**Screenwriters** can check out <https://scriptpipeline.com/product-category/contests>

**\*\*\* There's a biggie listed here, but you have only until March 8th to apply! \*\*\***

**National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships.** Grants of \$25,000 in alternating years to poets and prose writers. This year is prose. Fiction and creative nonfiction writers must have published at least five short stories, essays, or novels or memoir excerpts in two or more literary journals, anthologies, or publications that regularly publish this kind of thing between January 1, 2010, and March 8, 2017. Visit the website for complete guidelines. <http://www.arts.gov>

The *Writer Magazine* lists many contests. You can sign up for their newsletter or download their free guide to 2017 writing contests at <http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/>

**The Write Life** advertises 29 Free Writing Contests: Legitimate Competitions With Cash Prizes. Check them out at <https://thewritelife.com/27-free-writing-contests/>

**Winning Writers** offers the Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest, \$4,000 in prizes. Submit published or unpublished work until April 30, 2017. <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-john-h-reid-fiction-essay-contest>

**Freedom With Writing** lists many markets, submissions, and other opportunities. Sign up for their newsletter at <http://www.freedomwithwriting.com> or if you are on Facebook, LIKE them at Freedom With Writing.

Don't forget **Funds For Writers** at <http://fundsforwriters.com/markets/> where they keep lists of contest, markets, submissions, grants and other resources.

Good luck, and please let us know about your contest experiences, good or bad. — WT

## Writer Beware and Scam-busting

Even though we try to take care, *WritersTalk* cannot guarantee that every website you visit will be a good experience. Here are two websites that give "Writer Beware" warnings and feature scam-busting.

<http://www.sfw.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

<https://winningwriters.com/resources/category/scam-busting>

Always check the website before submitting to contests. If you find any scams or sites that solicit you for funds, please let us know so that we may warn others. On the other hand, if you score, please brag a little and let us know about your success. — 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

#### B&N Book Fair March 12 - 18




**Barnes & Noble  
Bookfair**  
supporting  
**South Bay Writers Club/CA  
Writers Club**

Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Barnes & Noble  
2200 Eastridge Loop Space #1420  
San Jose CA 95122  
Bookfair ID Number: 12101663

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.\*

\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at Café owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) for more details and to shop online.



## 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 DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 120, Fremont. [cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

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

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

**Mount Diablo:** 11:00 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/>

**Tri-Valley:** 2:00 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org)

## Conferences

### Tri-Valley Writers Conference

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton

**Keynote speaker:** Anne Perry, one of the 20th Century's Top 100 Masters of Crime Focus on craft, marketing, and self-publishing. Network with authors, marketers, and innovators who share a passion for writing. Speaker line-up includes authors, marketing experts, an editor and an agent, and innovators in e-publishing.

Two conference scholarships are available. Conference contest: \$150 for best prose and \$150 for best poetry; submittal online. Submissions deadline February 12, 2017; must attend to enter. Registration fees: Early Bird \$115 for CWC members, \$140 non-members, \$80 students by Feb. 12; fees Feb. 13 - Apr. 10: \$165, \$190, and \$80.

Complete information at [www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/conference2017](http://www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/conference2017)

If all else fails, contact [newsletter@trivalleywriters.org](mailto:newsletter@trivalleywriters.org) This is a conference well worth attending. -WT

### Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop

July 10 - 14, 2017  
Oceanside, Oregon  
[www.occbww.com](http://www.occbww.com)

Our class is right beside the ocean overlooking giant rocks where sea lions lounge and snort. Eagles circle overhead. Last summer from the patio we watched a pod of whales spout. The town is exquisite and low key and inexpensive. It's the real old Oregon before all the souvenir shops moved in.

The full-time instructors are five accomplished authors of children's books, two editors from major houses, and a children's book agent. All are immersed in writing, covering all genres. The course is available for graduate level credit. -WT



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 2017</b>			1	2	3 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	4
5	6 2P Valley Writers	7 6:30P SBW Board, Mariani's, Santa Clara <b>CLOSED SESSION</b>	8	9	10	11
12 10A Our Voices	13 2P Valley Writers <b>6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau</b>	14 <b>Deadline WritersTalk is tomorrow.</b>	15 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo	16	17 7:30P Open mic SJ Rosegarden Library, 1580 Naglee Ave- <b>NOTE CHANGE</b>	18
19	20 2P Valley Writers	21	22	23	24	25
26 10A Our Voices	27 2P Valley Writers	28	29	30 7 P TalkBooks, Santa Clara City Library, Homestead Road, Sycamore Room	31	
<b>Future Flashes</b>						

#### Future Events:

SBW Board meets Tuesday, April 4: Mariani's  
SBW Dinner Meeting, Monday, April 10, Harry's

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

WT does not take advertising. See page 14.

## Ongoing Events

### Critique Groups

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

**Valley Writers:** Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center, 390 N. Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, Mondays 2 PM. Marjorie Johnson, marjoriej358@comcast.net

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

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

### SBW Board Meetings

Board meets in the week preceding the dinner meeting. Contact Pam Oliver-Lyons at pres@southbaywriters.com.

Details March 7, 2017: 6:30 PM dinner; Board meeting 7-9 PM, Mariani's Restaurant, 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara.

### 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 resumed in January. 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 and/or see page 14.

### Poetry Readings

**Poets@Play:** Meets at Markham House History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, Second Sundays most months, 1-4 PM. [poetrycentersanjose.org](http://poetrycentersanjose.org)

**Poetry Center San Jose:** Meets at Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, Third Thursdays, 7 PM. [poetrycentersanjose.org](http://poetrycentersanjose.org) 408-808-3045

**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.



**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

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**South Bay Writers  
March Regular Meeting**

**6 pm, Monday, March 13**

**Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose**

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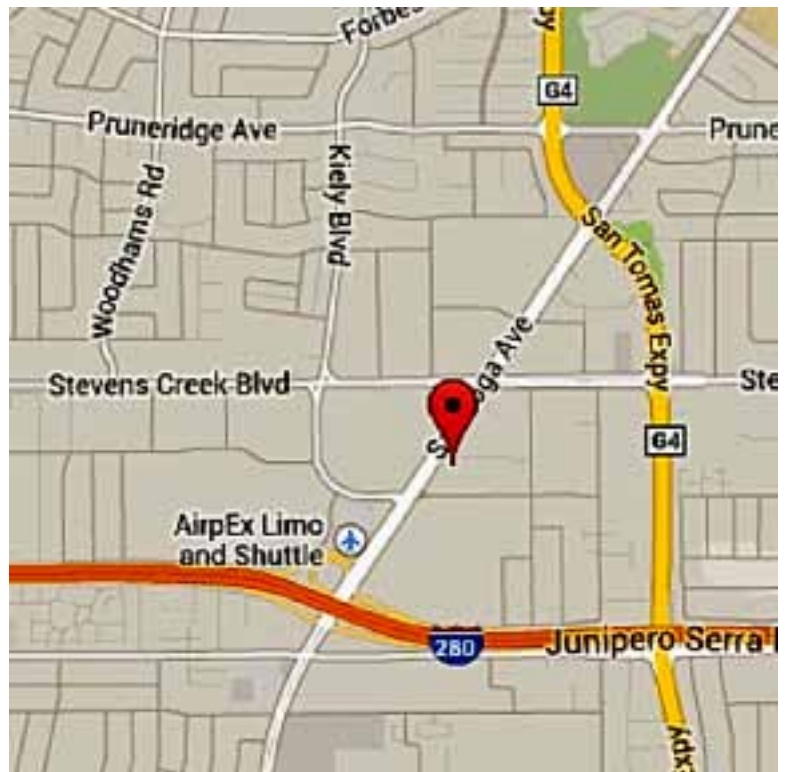
**Connecting  
Language Through  
Stories**

**Claudia Cerulli**

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*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.