



# WRITERSTALK

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Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

MAY SPEAKER: CORRINE LITCHFIELD

REACTIONS: APRIL STRAIGHT SCOOP PANEL

## Master social media: Face off with Facebook

by Dave LaRoche

We know social media. Daily on Facebook we post pictures of our cats, the cats next door, and our favorite dessert recipe. I follow several “friends” I think worthy. Most are club members although not all here at South Bay. Save for half a dozen, none post original writing, and only a few link to the same.

One might conclude that my “friends” are not writers, have no writing to sell. But, I know that’s not true. Most, if asked, are sincerely interested in building a platform and peddling their literary achievements. Not so much for the money, but we all want readers.

Okay, so what’s the reason only those cats show up? The likely explanation, our lack of knowledge regarding the use of Facebook – perhaps our ignorance concerning all social media sites. They are complicated. Navigation and features change every day. But given there’s a growing army of code directed at that field, it might be reasonable to get acquainted, to discover and exploit the facility available in these myriad media. Wikipedia names 212 such sites.

Which are the best for our particular aims; the best way to approach; and how many sites do we need to employ? How often our posts; what content is best? Is it more important to reveal our writing or focus on ourselves? I have a host of questions for which I need answers. I want to promote my writing and social media is free.

Corrine Litchfield has been studying this for a while. As a social media consultant, she coaches authors and nonprofits on how to target and connect with their audience.

“My background in journalism and PR, coupled with my knowledge of social media, enables me to find and forge connections on behalf of my clients. As a writer, I craft copy that encourages readers to connect on a local or a global scale. Connecting the nouns (people, places and things) is at the heart of what I do.”



Corrine Litchfield

Her experience includes platform building and services to authors, nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups and small businesses, as well as to special events and fundraisers. Her forte includes setting up accounts; website creation; integrating websites and social media and coaching on content; identifying keywords, hashtags, and influencers; and building fans and followers.

Corrine Litchfield has agreed to set aside her May 11th to spend some time with us. She will throw a light on elusive solutions to problems we face using social media – not for recipes and cats, but for promoting and selling our writing. So, if you’re fed up with the mewing menagerie, and ten ways to sweeten baklava, join Corrine and me at Harry’s. Become enlightened and learn to put your media time to good use. – WT

**Corrine Litchfield faces off with Facebook  
Monday, May 11, 6 pm, at Harry’s Hofbrau.**

Writers’ facts emerge –  
The Emperor has no clothes  
Who makes a living?

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

## Burn it all

by Patrick McQueen

At the April dinner meeting of South Bay Writers at Harry’s Hofbrau, a panel of seven fellow professional authors and club members presented their experience regarding the true costs of publishing. For some, getting their words published was a significant financial loss. Others made some money, but most of them did not make nearly enough to fund their costs of living.

After the panel presentation ended, a friend of mine approached me and said, “Well, after that I feel like going home and burning it all.” My friend’s comment contrasted with my own reaction. I considered this panel one of the best dinner meetings we’ve had in the last year. I walked away from that conversation contemplating our contrasted responses.

As I reflected on my friend’s comment, I recalled an open mic I attended at Barnes & Noble a few months prior. I had nothing of my own to read that night, but I dearly love reading, so I went to the shelves and found a copy of Stephen King’s “Everything Is Eventual.” His introduction to this collection of short stories fascinated me. I am a Stephen King fan, so I thought this would be an enjoyable presentation.

In the introduction, King discussed the decline of many writing markets that have dried up over the years. He discussed difficulties on the road to success. When I finished reading that introduction, a fellow reader told me King’s words depressed him. Again, I found myself encouraged by the same words that discouraged a fellow writer.

*Continued on Page 6*

# President's Palaver

by Colin Seymour  
President, South Bay Writers

## Hiring editors is expensive because we're hard to find



A reporter and an editor were crawling through the desert, seemingly without hope of finding water and civilization. Suddenly an oasis appeared, and the two of them bounded toward the water. The writer arrived first and began lapping up water deliriously. When he paused and looked up, the editor was urinating into the water.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" cried the reporter.

"Don't worry," the editor replied. "I'm making it better."

A writer, not an editor, told me that joke, of course. The implication is that the editor is *not* making it better.

But a good editor does make it better. My aim as an editor is to turn the story into what the writer intended but perhaps did not deliver.

I have learned this is a valuable skill, indeed. That value is why *WritersTalk* managing editor Marjorie Johnson has been talking about trying to compile a listing of editors within the club. Our board of directors felt we shouldn't seem to be endorsing individual editors, but I'm all for it, self-serving though that may be.

There are two categories of editing, content editing and copyediting, and it is important to differentiate. (There is also proofreading, but proofreaders are not as hard to find as editors and I'm not especially good at it.)

If I'm merely copyediting, then I'm there to engage my superior grammar and syntax skills and publications experience, though judiciously. Again, it matters what the writer intended. I might rearrange a few sentences or paragraphs. I also might make dialogue and the set-ups for dialogue more smooth and professional. Copyediting involves proofreading, too. We're often asked to work fast, or not at all.

But I'm also keen on how writing is organized and constructed, although I'm not quite qualified to content-edit fiction. A content editor, also known as a developmental editor, is often a full-blown consultant who has reshaped a lot of books and can reshape yours.

Although I have published two full-length nonfiction books and written one full-length novel, my specialty is 800-word essays, because I've written and edited so many.

Two of my more effective edits along those lines in recent years involved the club. I turned one person's 500-word review upside down in 10 minutes and made it flow nicely. I rewrote another member's novel synopsis, which involved research and took two hours. So if a three-page synopsis took me two hours, how long would it take to edit someone's novel extensively? Quite a bit more than a day.

Here's where I lay down the hammer. An individual writer's pay expectations may vary greatly, but editing is not the same labor of love as writing. An editor should earn \$30 an hour or more. Editors are in demand, and that's what skilled workers earn these days.

As for a totally extensive developmental edit of your novel, how could it not be expensive?

It would be nice to find such an editor for my own novel among my fellow SBW members. I also want members to know what I can do for them. Marjorie didn't ultimately attract much interest of any kind in editor listings in *WritersTalk*. Too bad. Building a stockpile of editors would be a suitable step toward making the club better. — WT

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www.southbaywriters.com

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### Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Dual membership: \$25. Contact the Membership Chair, Sally Milnor, or sign up online at southbaywriters.com.



## 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. Shorter submissions are given preference. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Send graphics separately as jpg files.

**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)

**Member Achievement and News:** newsletter@southbaywriters.com

**Announcements and Advertisements**  
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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# Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Blurb your book

Book blurbs. Those short paragraphs on the back cover of your book might be the most important writing you ever do. You've pondered, massaged, and edited every line in your book. While it's out to Beta readers (see page 14), you must convince others to read it.

All good book blurbs share the same basic bits of information—the building blocks of your novel.

**Setting:** Where and when does your story unfold?

**Main character:** Who is the most important character in your story?

**Plot:** What is your story about?

**Conflict:** What does your character want, and what's stopping him?

Before you take up the pen, read at least a dozen back cover statements in your genre on Amazon.com or on the bookstore shelf where they'll display your book.

To write your blurb, start with your building blocks and add details to tell your story in a very short space. You can hint at a cliffhanger, but never let anyone know the ending. Give the reader an urgent need to read your book to find out what happens next.

For example, here's what I wrote for the back cover of *Bird Watcher: A Novel*.

When Jerry Christensen's Cessna 172 disappears from its tie-down at Palo Alto Airport, Air Traffic Control can't help and the FBI isn't interested, even though the thief might be a terrorist. Jerry, a schoolteacher, is unsuited to pursue criminals, but he knows that someone who likes to watch birds is stealing airplanes. There are thousands of Cessna 172s and hundreds of non-towered airports where a stolen airplane could hide, but taking *his* Cessna makes it personal. Jerry acts on hunches and makes outrageous plans, his imagination and his background as a pilot his only weapons against serial airplane thefts.

Next, the "elevator speech." Jerry Christensen's small airplane is stolen from Palo Alto Airport. He chases the thief across the western states—with no help from the FBI.

Last, you have an even shorter and more important piece of writing: your two-word title. That's where I messed up. The reader thinks, "Bird watching. Boring!"

When I was coerced into spending a day bird watching. I was B-O-R-E-D until I had a turn with the binoculars. I could read the tail numbers on the airplanes landing at a small unfenced airport—a thief could choose one to take home tonight! Why would he want it? Are they hard to steal? My flight instructor showed me how to hotwire a Cessna's engine: stealing an airplane is way easier than taking a car.

No, I didn't get rich, but my fellow women pilots loved the book. —WT

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## New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our two newest members.



**Hans A. Hansen** joined us at our April meeting at Harry's Hofbrau. Hans writes fiction and "whatever floats my boat at the time." His publications include *35F Space Odysseys* and *1 Crime Mister*.

**Liz Newman** writes poetry and novels. Her publications include *Eternity Skye* and *the New Orleans Way*; *The Last Day King*; *The Ashes of Windsor*; *The Movie Star's Wife*; *Vampire Eden*; and *The Best Kept Secret in Normandy*. Liz has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications and a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. Her hobbies are writing, reading, belly dancing, zumba, theater and performing arts, cooking and fine dining. Liz's website is [www.liznewman.net](http://www.liznewman.net).

**To our new members:** We wish you a warm welcome and hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment.

**And to all of our South Bay Writers:** We appreciate and need your continuing presence and support. Thank you, again, for helping to keep our Club flourishing. —WT

## Membership drive April through May

by Kimberly Malanczuk

Dust off your phone books and search your smart phone contacts. South Bay Writers will sponsor a membership drive April through May 2015. For every new member that you bring into our club, you will enjoy one free meeting on us!

Everyone benefits! New members receive wisdom and knowledge from our insightful monthly and workshop speakers. Moreover, South Bay Writers obtains a fresh, new perspective on how best to serve our professional organization of writers.

To take advantage of this special deal, be sure to first contact membership chair Sally Milnor at [membership@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membership@southbaywriters.com) —WT

## View from the Board

by S. Halloran

Five board members—President Colin Seymour, Vice President Dave LaRoche, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, Membership Chair Sally Milnor—as well as two Apprentice Leaders, Patrick McQueen and Jenni Everidge and guest Carolyn Donnell, met in Santa Clara Wednesday night, April 8, 2015.

- The coming election of officers in June means that the changes to the offices need to be addressed by changes in the club by-laws. Watch for a vote soon!
- A busy club means a busy webmaster. Our new one will come on board May 1. All items regarding our website will channel through Web Editor, Kimberly Malanczuk.

The Board passed routine motions to accept March minutes and April agenda; to accept officers' reports; and to accept committee reports.

**Moved:** (Baldwin/Milnor) to submit the proposed bylaw changes to the SBW membership: motion carried.

**Moved:** (LaRoche/Milnor) to accept the Webmaster's service agreement with John Byrne Barry: motion carried.

Notes for this meeting were recorded by Marjorie Johnson, who substituted as secretary while Sylvia enjoyed a trip to Disneyland with her daughter. One of the great things about serving on the board is knowing that you can depend on fellow board members to help out when needed. It's not too late to find a way to serve your club—contact a board member for more information on how to be nominated for office! —WT

## It's time



**Your membership in South Bay Writers expires on June 30, 2015.**

To renew for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, please write a check for \$45 to South Bay Writers and bring it to our meeting on May 11. Or pay online on our website [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com)—after May 5, to give our new webmaster a chance to catch his breath. —WT

## Notice from SBW Web Editor

South Bay Writers "Members Books" are now featured on our SBW GoodReads bookshelf. The Webmaster will be eliminating our current page and replacing it with a new page directing folks to GoodReads. It will dramatically decrease updating time, as well as better publicize our club and published authors.

See the SBW bookshelf page here:  
<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/160947-south-bay-writers>

**Be sure to check this out!**

**Punctuation saves lives**

Let's eat grandma!  
Let's eat, grandma!

# Matthews-Baldwin Award

by Sally Milnor

The Matthews-Baldwin Award was presented by our Club President, Colin Seymour, to David LaRoche at the South Bay Writers April 13 meeting. Named for two long-time driving forces of our Club, Edie Matthews and Bill Baldwin, this annual award is given to a South Bay Writer in recognition of exemplary service to the branch.

Dave LaRoche's dedication and service to our Club have certainly been exemplary. He served as *WritersTalk* Editor from 10/2006 through 6/2009; SBW President, 7/2009 through 6/2012; and he currently serves as our Vice President, an office he has held since 7/2012. Additionally, Dave founded the NorCal Group and was its chairman from 4/2009 through 3/2012; he was our NorCal Representative 4/2009 through 11/2014. He has also been our Central Board Representative since July 2009. Finally, Dave is the founding and current editor of *The California Writers Club Literary Review*. Dave established this excellent publication in June 2012, and three issues have been published, with a fourth now in progress. This *Review* is mailed to all members of California Writers Club, and submissions from any member are accepted in accordance with submission guidelines.

Congratulations, Dave, on this well-deserved award. The contributions you made and continue to make to our Club on the behalf of its members are beyond noteworthy! — WT



Dave LaRoche (left) received the 2015 Matthews-Baldwin Award, presented by SBW President Colin Seymour.

— Photo by Carolyn Donnell

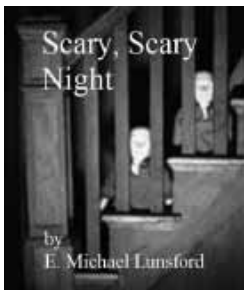
## PLAY ANNOUNCEMENT

### *Scary, Scary Night*

by E. Michael Lunsford

This has been a good year for children's book author and playwright, E. Michael Lunsford. In March, his Halloween comedy, *Scary, Scary Night*, was selected as a finalist by the Shawnee Original Playwright Series and received a staged reading with great audience reviews. The play was then chosen as a semi-finalist in the annual Playwrights First Contest in New York. Finally, a musical version of the comedy with 21 songs was selected as a semi-finalist in Caryl Crane Youth Theatre's 2015 Ronald M. Ruble New Play Festival.

*Scary, Scary Night* is a family-friendly comedy that takes place on Halloween night, complete with an amusingly ghoulish premise, two ghosts, a love interest, a mysterious body, snappy tunes, quirky and endearing characters, and above all, a lot of



laughs. It's murder most funny as 20-somethings Prudence and Derek start Halloween by arriving late at the costume store — mostly because Derek hates anything to do with bodies, coffins, ghosts and all things ghoulish. Turns out, the store manager has a dead body he needs to offload, and he decides to stash it in the local funeral home run by Derek's somewhat kooky parents, Jeremy and Formalda Hyde. It's a funfest of hilarity, laughter, a touch of romance, a little bit of crazy and some surprising twists in this fresh new comedy about Halloween at the town's spookiest (and haunted) funeral home.

More information is available at Michael's website: [lunsfordmichael.com](http://lunsfordmichael.com) — WT



## Member News

*WritersTalk* Staff

**We applaud and celebrate your writing successes.**

Please send news for this column to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).

**Marjorie Bicknell-Johnson's** article, "The Fibonacci Association: Historical Snapshots," appears in *Proceedings of the Sixteenth International Conference on the Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications*. The conference was held in July, 2014 at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York; the next conference is scheduled for 2016 in Caen, France.

**Victoria M. Johnson** is travelling to Germany to produce a documentary.

**Carole Taub** is in South Africa.

**Margie Yee Webb**, author of *Cat Mulan's Mindful Musings*, will be at the **California Bookstore Day** celebration on Saturday, May 2, 2015, at Face in a Book Bookstore & Gifts in El Dorado Hills. Face in a Book has scheduled various activities and author presentations throughout the day, and Margie will be featured at 2 p.m. on May 2. — WT





### Straight Scoop Panelists as they were seated at the table

L to R: Victoria M. Johnson, Hi-Dong Chai, Valerie Frankel, Marjorie Johnson, Helen Vanderberg, Bob Balmanno, Dave Breithaupt

## Publishing stories we can trust

by Karen Sundback

In 2014, the population of the USA was 318.9 million and yet by all estimates, less than 20,000 people make their living by writing books. Is writing an undiscovered career path? Sadly, according to our panel of experts, this is not the case.

Our April 13 meeting brought together a panel of published authors from the ranks of our own South Bay Writers Club to discuss the cost and revenue of publishing: Robert Balmanno, Dave Breithaupt, Hi-Dong Chai, Valerie Frankel, Marjorie Johnson, Victoria M. Johnson, and Helen Vanderberg.

Tragically, by all accounts, writing does not pay the bills. Hi-Dong Chai spent more than 30 years writing his book about his life in Korea, *Shattered by the Wars: But Sustained by Love*, and his book won the 2015 SPR contest in non-fiction. Also it came in as a finalist in 2015 Beverly Hills Book Awards, 2014 Eric Hoffer Awards, 2013 *Hippo Campus Magazine* and 2013 Autumn House Publishing writing contests. Nevertheless, Chai spent more on the book than he earned.

Dave Breithaupt, who wrote *R.I.C.E* and *Thee Needs Killing, Marly*, claims that it isn't the money that drives him but the bragging rights and the pride of accomplishment. "When my friends ask, what are you doing in your retirement?" and I tell them that I wrote a novel, they respond, "I wish I had the courage."

If bragging rights interest you, Valerie Frankel, who wrote 30 books, suggested free ways of promoting books. She uses social media extensively, such as Facebook and Goodreads. When *Game of Thrones* recently re-emerged, she got her name out there on the *Game of Thrones* clubs. To promote her six books, Victoria M. Johnson makes the speaker tours. Hi-Dong Chai promotes his books on the Christian circuit. Marjorie Johnson (*Jaguar Princess: The Last Maya Shaman* and *Bird Watcher: A Novel*) uses airplane pilot conferences to promote her books. Helen Vanderberg (*The Domino Deaths*) uses book clubs.

Victoria M. Johnson answered a question from the audience on how to book speaking engagements. She did this in two ways: working with the Los Gatos Recreation Department and with Bay Area writing organizations and conferences.

Librarian Robert Balmanno (*September Snow*) explained how to get libraries to buy your book. The first and most difficult path is to get it reviewed by the various library book reviews. The second and much easier path is to have a third party request the book. The last path is to donate as a local author.

All the panel members can be found on Amazon.com. —WT

## Burn it all

Continued from Page 1

These are only two data points, so I caution myself against jumping to any conclusions. However, these two data points allude to the same thing. Some writers are not empowered by news that publication of their work may not result in large audience or financial gain. Some, in response to tough news like this, choose to give up, throw in the towel, and, well, burn it all.

Thankfully, people who consider themselves very successful in a diversity of ways populate South Bay Writers. Valerie and Robert, who both sat on the aforementioned panel, are just two examples. Valerie Frankel blasted the room with bookmarks, gave great social-media marketing ideas, and boasted earning more than \$17,000 dollars publishing ten books in the past year. Robert Balmanno enthusiastically described his own success. He hadn't sold as many copies or made nearly as much money as Valerie. However, his partnerships and relationships with writers, editors and publishers, along with the positive feedback from his readers, were more valuable than money and a mass-market audience.

As I listened to the panel and spoke with people afterward, I did not get depressed. Nor did I want to go home and burn all my writing. I had no desire to quit. If anything, I was encouraged to write more! I was encouraged to pursue my goals and to devote myself even more enthusiastically to the craft I passionately love.

If I loved making money more than I loved writing, I would spend my time on something more lucrative. If I loved attention more than I loved writing, I would position myself in the public eye. But, I love writing. I love doing it, and I love talking about it.

I encourage you to keep your ideas flowing and your goals in sight ahead of you. Please don't ever be the depressing force that stops your own words. Please, friend, don't burn it all. —WT



Photo credit: Carolyn Donnell

# Royalty income: not without cost

by Chess Desalls

Our own SBW authors got real about money matters during the April 13 panel. The panelists embodied a diverse range of experience, approach and financial success; but their frank presentations rang common. All provided insight into the business of writing, with an emphasis on dollars spent versus dollars earned.

Victoria M. Johnson shared the pros and cons of being traditionally published versus self-published. Advances are a bonus in traditional publishing. Yet the royalties are smaller and must be earned against advances and returns against reserves. Johnson advised that sales plummet absent active marketing. She recommended setting up speaking engagements at conferences.

Hi-Dong Chai spent more than thirty years writing *Shattered by the Wars*. He also spent cash—on professional editing, formatting, an Inspired Voices publishing package, online marketing and book award entries. His royalty income has not yet caught up to his expenses, but he is content to have received positive reviews from readers.

Valerie Estelle Frankel has had significant financial success selling her thirty books. She works without an agent or publicist and suggests interviewing services prior to hiring. Frankel keeps costs low by designing her own book covers and promotional swag. She uses social media to target readers interested in the popular culture books and television shows she writes about. She recommended strategically using Twitter hashtags and listing books for Goodreads giveaways. “The entrants,” she said, “will add your book to their to-read list.”

Marjorie Johnson marketed *Bird Watcher* at a convention for the Ninety-Nines, an international group of female pilots. Her critique group helped with editing, and she kept advertising costs to a minimum. It was important for the final product to look good, so she focused her spending on book production and formatting.

Helen Vanderberg published *The Domino Deaths* without an agent, sought help from her critique group, and designed her own book cover. She promoted her work to book clubs, attended a Los Angeles marketing convention, and has been on television three times.

Robert Balmanno has written novels for thirty-eight years and has been through several literary agents. His sales income varied from year to year. “Publishing is all over the map,” he said. “The most important thing is having readers. When a stranger comes up to me and says they read the book and they liked it, that’s payoff!”

David Breithaupt, author of *RICE*, warned against scammers in the book industry. Several of his publishers went bankrupt after signing. He recommended interviewing the customers of service providers. As for payment, hearing a reader say, “I read your book and I liked it,” makes it all worthwhile.

For the most part, our panelists’ costs outweighed their income, but Balmanno and Breithaupt reminded us that payment as a writer isn’t always green.

Learn more about the speakers and their books at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com) and at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). — WT

*South Bay Writers*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Election 2015

Are you an idea woman or man? Do you enjoy innovating and creating programs? Do you value leading and serving? Then join *South Bay Writers*’ leadership team. Lead the club into the future, and obtain the experience, gratification, credentials, associations, visibility, and hobnobbing with professionals that will benefit your career—writing and otherwise.

Nominations remain open until voting takes place June 8. Nominate yourself or ask a friend to nominate you.

For more information, email: [vp@southbaywriters.com](mailto:vp@southbaywriters.com)  
Email your election statement: [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

### CRITICAL DATES

Declare Candidacy	<b>MAY 11</b> Monday
Submit Election Statement to <i>WritersTalk</i>	<b>MAY 13</b> Wednesday
Election 2015	<b>JUNE 8</b> Monday

### POSITIONS

President	Treasurer
Vice President (2)	Members-At-Large (2 +)
Secretary	



## Imago: The Final Stage

by Judith Shernock

Have you read *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka? The novella is considered one of the great works of twentieth century literature. Once read, never forgotten.

In *Metamorphosis*, Gregor Samsa hates his job and works only to support his sister and parents. One morning, he awakens transformed into a large insect, trapped on his back, unable to turn over. Eventually, he adjusts to this horror. His family, forced to fend for themselves, develops a great resentment towards Gregor who is now helpless. This turn of events leads to his death.

I recalled this story because of a strange happening on my porch where Pikachu the grasshopper lived. His name refers to one of the well known Pokemon people of the Japanese Manga comic book fame. The word "pika" is the sound of an electric spark and "chu" the voice emanating from a mouse. He is as well known around the world as Mickey Mouse.

Our Pikachu was named by my seven year old grandson, Ilan, who found the five legged grasshopper in our yard and put him in a jar that we filled with grass. Pikachu refused to eat. We researched the matter and found that of the 8,000 species of grasshoppers only one is *morphaus phagus* (eats only one specific plant). Pikachu must be fed the leaves he was found among. With the new diet of Calla Lilly leaves, he thrived.

Over the weekend we were very busy and our pet was neglected. By Monday, the grasshopper had grown so much that it was necessary to house him in a large aquarium tank while tripling the amount of leaves. His once tiny droppings had become the size of fingernails.

Ilan went home, so for the next week I attended to the insect on my own. Passing the cage, I felt there was someone staring at me. Were the creature's bug eyes throwing accusing looks my way? Was my imagination working overtime?

The next day, exiting the house, a rasping voice rang out:

"Where is the boy? He must be here when I morph. He found me. He is my master."

This sentence was followed by a racking cough. Terrified, I went inside and locked the door. The answer to all things is to be found on Google. The word "grasshopper" went into my search box.

This is what I found: "In 1971, in the Japanese comic book art form known as Manga, a new hero was created.

"That year the world is plagued by SHOCKER, a terrorist organization that plans to conquer the world by turning people into Cyborgs. Only one person escapes, *Kamen Raida* (Masked Rider), who becomes a grasshopper-like man and eventually, a folk hero. He is so well known in Japan that his statue stands outside Bankei Studios, the most famous of Japanese movie studios. Kamen Raida, in one of his many battles, saves another person who also turns into a grasshopper-man and the two become a heroic fighting duo."

Reading further I found that Shocker's ideology is derived from Nazism. The initials SHOCKER stand for Sacred Hegemony of

Cycle Kindred Evolution Realm. In Japan there are hundreds of episodes on television and in comic books about the daring duo of Kaymen Riders and their struggle against the evil terrorists. The exciting adventures have been translated into thirty languages.

Was my Pikachu morphing into a Cyborg, that bizarre combo of animal and machine? Was he a relative of Kaymen Raida? How had a five legged grasshopper learned to talk? Why did he need my grandson before he morphed?

I was more curious than scared and decided to watch him through my window. I called in sick to work and began my vigil.

As evening approached, there was a crashing sound and the aquarium shattered. A person with grasshopper wings slowly emerged, unfolding himself and stretching his limbs. He was clothed in a bright green body suit and ran out the gate to the street. The thing was limping because one leg was shorter than the other. His screech shattered the silence:

"Master, master where are you? Lead me to the truth, master!"

The last rays of the sun touched his frightened young face as he looked back at me.

That was my last glimpse of Pikachu. If it weren't for the broken glass on the porch it would have seemed like a nightmare. Somewhere in this world there is a strange creature I helped to create. This is both a frightening and an exciting thought.

When a being we nurtured morphs into another and then goes his way, we are left wondering what has become of him. Does he preen in the sun or hide in the shadows? Has he become a Kaymen Rider or a SHOCKER?

If Kafka were still alive, he might give me the answer. — WT

### Shelf Life

— Maddie McEwen-Asker



Dermot waited for his Nature Inspired Thought-Wave  
Initiation Tweaker to stimulate his writing.



## Five Frabbles\*

by Chess Desalls

\*A Frabble is a fable written in the style of a 100-word drabble.

### The Fawn and the Hawk

A pile of fallen apples lay in the woods, watched by Fawn who was being watched by Hawk.

Fawn paced closer and then started as Hawk landed on top of the pile.

Hawk opened his hooked bill into a garish smile. "Mine," he said.

"I'm hungry," said Fawn.

"As am I."

"Then we must share."

Hawk shook his head, showing off his sharp hooked bill.

"Why not?"

A long, thin tail poked up through the pile of apples.

"Because hawks don't eat apples and deer don't eat mice," said Hawk. He snatched the mouse with his bill and flew away.



### The Dragon and the Drone

Drone, a robotic hummingbird, gently flicked his wings across the snout of the sleeping Dragon.

Eyes of fire snapped open, then narrowed. Dragon growled. "Who are you? Why are you here?"

Drone lightly pecked Dragon between the eyes. "I'm Drone and I'm here to take pictures – to prove you are real."

Dragon lifted her head and smiled. "What if I choose not to be proven?"

"Too late. I took pictures of you sleeping."

"How did you take these pictures?"

"Like this," Drone said, flashing his eyes.

Dragon laughed, engulfing Drone in a ball of fire until Drone was no more.



### The Parrot and the Hen

Parrot landed near the chicken coop and found Hen in her pen. Tapping the mesh of the pen with his beak he said, "Poor domesticated fowl. It's unworthy of us Psittaciformes to surrender our freedom."

Hen looked up from her scratch and blinked. "Cluck."

## Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



*"Alas, poor Yorick: I knew him well."*

*"That's Fred."*

"Ah yes," said Parrot, studying Hen. "Speech must be the first to go. How humbling that must be."

"Cluck."

Parrot shook his head in disgust. "Are your thoughts as simple as your speech?"

"No," said Hen, rolling her eyes. "I'm saying you're a cluck. Quiet birds can make a point without unnecessary words or unfair assumptions."



### The Monkey and the Lizard

Lizard watched Monkey through half-closed eyes.

Monkey jumped and flipped, catching a tree branch with his tail. Then he lowered himself until his upside down head dangled right in front of Lizard. Monkey laughed. "Why so sad?" he asked.

Lizard sniffed. "Quit clowning around. The blood will rush to your head."

"I'm not worried about that. I can see you better this way. Look!" said Monkey, pointing. "There's your frown, upside down!"

Lizard pulled his lips up into a fake smile. "And now?"

"I'd say you look rather silly that way."

"That's because true intentions aren't well-hidden behind fake expressions."



### The Polar Bear and the Seabird

Seabird landed on a warm heap of snow. The heap shifted. A smaller mound, with umber eyes and a charcoal nose, lifted and turned.

"Good morning," said Seabird.

Polar Bear sniffed. "Is that whale on your breath?"

Seabird hopped backward and turned his beak.

"Have you been eating the hunters' leftovers again?"

"Ah," squawked Seabird. "I don't rely on human prey."

"You brought down the whale yourself?" Polar Bear grinned. "Or was it one of mine?"

"I belong to a colony!"

"Scavengers range large and small."

Seabird flew away, knowing he'd have snacked on the remains of Polar Bear, too. — WT

*Ed: Each piece has exactly 100 words.*

## The Painted Mailboxes

The ten painted mailboxes  
Were lined in a row  
On each one a name  
Showed where to go  
One address said "Sparkle"  
Another said "Act V"  
Brightly painted mailboxes all  
alive with color  
There were four yellow,  
Three orange  
And three green  
I'd never seen such a display  
I wondered what was  
Inside each one  
Letters, notes or  
Maybe something fun  
The boxes were so bright and unique  
I thought it would be interesting  
To meet their owners  
I looked around to see  
if others were aware of  
the colorful containers  
But no one seemed to turn that way  
or observe the playful names



I must've stood there a long time  
because the light grew dim  
and the colors changed  
and the tones became  
shadowed

I was glad I'd taken a photo  
because those mailboxes  
with all the bright, shiny colors  
mattered to me and that  
was all I needed to know

Leaving that day  
I took one last look at the  
ten painted mailboxes  
all in a row  
and wondered about those names  
that showed where to go  
— Karen Hartley

## Heavenly Grief

My mother died a few months ago.  
She loved Strauss,  
Vienna waltz music.

Therefore,  
to honor her,  
I watched an old British  
period drama  
chronicling  
the Strauss family.

As Johann Strauss  
conducted  
"Blue Danube"  
an old film scene  
entered my mind –  
astronauts approaching a space station.

Suddenly,  
I began to weep.  
Unexpected connections.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## Evening Surprise

Crescent greets Venus.  
Dimming faint salmon twilight.  
Does my mourning ebb?

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## Kauai dreams

I colored my time here  
drawing broad strokes through  
short days, as they ran by fast- passing like cruel minutes  
I paddled and swam through the blue water heart of this island  
floating quietly like a crocodile,  
nose showing, one eye above, and one below  
watching rain fall and bright fish school  
I dreamed in Spanish, and some language I don't really understand  
In dreams, I flew to the emerald crystal heart of the mountains  
And danced with sea turtles

Later, I chose this and that to take back, pretty things for my girls  
But the best gift of all I still carry inside, remembering-  
Snorkeling with eyes closed, stopping on the trail  
to listen  
to the lion's roar  
of the first winter swells

*(I shared these things with you:  
warm sake,  
legs so sore from walking,  
laughing again like children)*

And so we color our time here  
reflected in these gifts  
these moments  
in all  
of these  
smiles

— Michael Hahn



## Summertime

A day with you in summer  
Is a soft gentle kiss to the meadow greens  
A lovely rose bud that shoots its fragrant bloom  
A flight on mighty wings to the lofty sapphire skies.  
A summer spent with you could outstretch time  
beyond the cosmic chambers  
Your substance lit the jewels and fires of the winter  
Pleiades and great Orion  
Your heat is a fever that sparks the deepest fiery  
springs of Betelgeuse and the Sun.  
Do not cast away your eyes from me this summer  
Though your gaze be a thousand army that attacks  
me with swords and banners  
Your countenance is a throne of Angel Oak trees  
That spreads its canopy over my sweet darling  
fields of white and red flowers.  
You are a path to wedding feast, rich banquet, and  
thoughts of endless sunshine  
Days that miss you bequeath a desert heat and  
drought of starlight to Deneb, Vega, and Altair  
And loss of my heavenly dark blue hopeful nights  
of warm blessed summer.

— Elinel Rabara

# May Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante  
Contributing Editor

## May Pull

The hard work, as we're told so often,  
Is the blankity-blank rewrite,  
Where the brain can soften  
As over and over ... and mine will tonight!  
Make it perfect? Make it charming?  
My poor head; it's so alarming  
That this could morph into an endless fight.

— Pat Bustamante

One of the outstanding talents of the person creating literary work, fiction, poetry, memoir, or otherwise, is the choice of topic: something that needs to be fixed.

Creative people are apt to shine a light on what is right or wrong. Here is a topic all of us living in this part of California find important: "Why a continuous drought?" Can any of us contribute a possible cure? Regardless of what Mark Twain or Will Rogers had to say about the weather—somebody might find a way to improve it! Anybody with a poem, a paragraph or two to summarize the problem, who can suggest what could be done, please send to WT now. We have a significantly large collection of wise brains in our group. Let's use them!

My contribution: stop watering lawns. My front lawn is native grass that was planted by birds or the wind—it's still green and rather thick and tall. My neighbors used to turn on sprinklers for hours and water spilled over sidewalks and ran down gutters into storm drains. Nobody is doing that now—or nobody I've caught.

I am against stopping the natural creeks in our valley to enable piping the water over to a reservoir. The animals and insects are not to blame for our drought: why punish or eradicate them? If you have a pet peeve and your own cure for some major problem, now is a good time to use WT as a sounding board. You might be the cause of something wonderful happening! — WT

## Old Man of the Sea

He had never bothered to dig it out  
the urchin spine  
lodged there in his right thumb  
since he was ten

The blue black dot  
perhaps a punctuation  
marking the end  
of innocence

The first year  
was painful  
he said

Then it just became  
a part of me

— Elaine Brady



## The Sailor-Growl

Harsh salty-hoarse voices of the seas.  
Cold on the outside, afire on the inside:  
Recognizable no matter in what language.  
Even the tender lullaby of the daddy  
has two-tones. Sailing on seas has made its mark.  
There is kindness, often rubbed not by the rasp,  
And there is rough-and-ready toughness,  
A tattoo or two; fighting on the deadly ocean is no lark.  
Nonremovable internal brand is burned  
By the fire-and-ice sea breeze.

— Pat Bustamante

## Hairy Carrie

Hairy Carrie, the bearded lady,  
I heard she married someone shady.  
Now she doesn't seem so weird,  
But you should see the *baby's* beard.

— E. Michael Lunsford



## Chrysalis

Struggling to exit the cocoon.  
Working hard, don't get out too soon.

I could help, slit it with a knife.  
Cut it open, try to help that Life.

Yet if I do, it's all in vain.  
Caterpillar will caterpillar remain.

Muscle required for future flight  
is formed inside the current fight.

Without the striving, even pain,  
the strength to change is never gained.

Nature's lessons show us why,  
no obstacles, no butterfly.

— Carolyn Donnell





## Standing in the Bookstore Aisle

I notice you've begun to smile  
while standing in the bookstore aisle,  
Perusing with some satisfaction  
words of humorous distraction.  
Don't get me wrong, I'm not about  
to tell the clerk to throw you out.  
In fact, I happily espouse  
engaging in an idle browse.  
Bookstores do, without much strife,  
improve the quality of life,  
Contributing to education  
by stretching the imagination.  
I see that something caught your eye —  
you've found a book you'd like to buy.  
You contemplate the price a while;  
then move on to another aisle.  
It's pleasant on a rainy day  
to pass a little time that way.  
You browse and shop and wander through,  
and probably that's all you do.  
But now you find you have to go,  
you've spent a lot of time, you know.  
Returning when you're more disposed  
to find your favorite bookstore —  
closed.

— Jack Hasling

## Resolution Shifts

With resolution,  
I began making goals on the altar of my birth,  
each year soaring higher with expectation than the last.  
I claimed to cease with foolishness  
to reign in my emotions, my angry monster  
to work with those that care,  
team-building exercises with my soul.  
I personalized the perennial promise  
to twist my being into something better  
and creep toward the future  
and escape the black hole of the past.  
I have learned, with each added hair that grays  
with each sign of wrinkle to come  
with each new pair of eyes I meet  
I am.  
I have perception on my side, each window of someone  
showing me their slight reflection  
and making plans with me to bridge between  
each altar.  
With resolution,  
I know I am moving forward  
because I choose to move.

— Jenni Everidge

## now your gentle hand

*a surreal love meditation*

hear your moment gaze  
iron leaf  
now justify spring  
your laughter elevates  
the deep emerging  
now will speak you now  
open to the sea green  
the other dogwood or  
the color of your hair will  
touch  
the gentle  
hand your planet wizard  
speeding blue confuse  
now bridge your open time  
speak here or after

—David Zeltzer



## We circle

We circle  
like two hummingbirds  
desiring the same nectar  
but fearful  
of approaching  
first  
Lest the other  
be scared away  
or steal the wounded heart  
that lies within  
Love  
like a luscious flower  
full of promise  
but proven  
to be unfaithful  
over time  
Luring in  
with bright colors  
and heady scent  
fogging the senses  
and weakening self-restraint  
Hypnotic humming  
of blurred wings  
like heartbeats  
lulling caution  
drawing us in  
like moths to the flame  
'Tis nature  
irresistible as time  
as inevitable as destiny  
that sweet nectar  
of love

— Elaine Brady

## Off the Shelf — Edie Matthews

*What Oliver Twist really wanted.*



"Sir, any bacon and eggs?"

# New Market

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

*The Literary Nest* is a brand new literary magazine. Submissions are open year 'round for unpublished literary work. Fiction: 1000-5000 words. Poetry: Up to five poems, 50 lines of fewer each. Include a 75-word biography at the end. Submissions are only through email at this time for the following categories: Short Story and Poetry. Send one document to [theliterarynest@gmail.com](mailto:theliterarynest@gmail.com) with "Submission" in the subject header. See <https://theliterarynest.wordpress.com/submissions/> for full guidelines.

## Contests and Markets

If you hear about intriguing writing contests, markets, or events, please share the information by sending it to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).

**Ongoing list of contests and other monetary opportunities:** Be sure to check all deadlines and follow all rules.

- [awpwriter.org/contests/overview](http://awpwriter.org/contests/overview) (Assoc. Writers and Writing Programs)
- *Poets & Writers*: [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants)
- Fan Story: [fanstory.com/index1contest.jsp](http://fanstory.com/index1contest.jsp)
- Writer Advice: [writeradvice.com/markets.html](http://writeradvice.com/markets.html)
- Funds For Writers: [fundsforwriters.com/contests/](http://fundsforwriters.com/contests/)
- *Writer Magazine*: [writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/](http://writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/)
- *Writer's Digest*: [writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions](http://writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions)
- Winning Writers: [winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests](http://winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests)
- 10 Literary Journals That Pay Their Writers: [authorspublish.com/10-literary-journals-that-pay-their-writers/](http://authorspublish.com/10-literary-journals-that-pay-their-writers/) — WT

## Children's book conference

The 13th Oregon Coast Children's Book Workshop will take place July 13-17 in Oceanside, OR. Designed for beginning, intermediate, and advanced writers. Go to [www.occbww.com](http://www.occbww.com)

## San Mateo County Fair—Literary Arts

Go to <http://sanmateocountyfair.com/contests/departments/literary-arts> and check out all of the Literary Events we're offering for 2015. You have missed the submission deadline for entering our writing contests, but we will have many other events for writers: workshops, speakers, actors, poetry readings, and an authors' day for writers to advertise and sell their books.

The Literary Stage runs all week. Last year, they had "The Running of the Poets," very cool. The San Mateo Literary Stage is better than a writers' conference! Plan to attend with a friend from SBW.

**This year's San Mateo County Fair dates:**  
**June 5 - 14.** — WT

Post Office Tax Day –  
American flag at half staff.  
Paper labyrinth.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## Stories of Music

If music has changed your life then this anthology may be for you. According to their website, "We are seeking new and published authors and artists to share works focused on music and the impact it has on people's lives. Whether it expresses a story of healing, community, cultural or family traditions, musicianship, travel experiences, an historical account, or any other experience with music, we invite you to tell your story."

They are currently accepting submissions, stories or poems, and they pay \$200 to each author they publish. The deadline is June 1, 2015. To learn more about their guidelines and rights, or to submit your story, visit [storiesofmusic.com/submit-a-story.html](http://storiesofmusic.com/submit-a-story.html) — WT

## 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/Haiku

### 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



Cartoon by Maddie McEwen-Asker

### CONTEST:

Write my caption by May 5. Winner announced May 11 at SBW meeting.

## Beta Reader Exchange

by Dave LaRoche

You have finished a book or a story. It's had the benefit of critique, perhaps an editor's look. The technical bases are covered, all aspects of craft considered, but is it a good read?

Your Alpha readers are those looking for chinks in the craft; the Beta reader is looking at story. Your Beta reader finds story distortion and missing or excessive passages. He looks for that certain appeal that keeps readers turning the pages. The Beta reader's only interest is story.

The Beta Reader Exchange is a place in the newsletter for the names and contact information of those who will read and those who need. I will want your email address, your genre(s) of interest and whether you will read or are requesting a reader. Address questions and send your interest in participation to me, dalaroche@comcast.net.

As a guide, the Beta reader is expected to provide a one-page commentary, naming likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, specific passages needing work or outstanding as is. The reader and author might expect a "coffee-shop" sit-down where the comments are discussed.

Finally, reader and author will establish all of the details between themselves. *WritersTalk* and the SBW will provide only the Exchange information. —WT

## Beta Readers: Listing

### Members needing a reader:

David Strom: Action heros  
dave.strom@gmail.com

Dick Yaeger: Historical, YA Fiction  
dyaeger@aol.com

Hans Hansen: sci-fi/crime  
shamough@yahoo.com

### Members willing to read:

David Strom: anything  
dave.strom@gmail.com

Dick Yaeger: Fiction, no poetry  
dyaeger@aol.com

Jenni Everidge: Fiction  
everidge.jenni@gmail.com

Add your name to this list. Send email to dalaroche@comcast.net.

## 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](http://cwc-berkeley.com)

**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. [cwcmarinwriters.com](http://cwcmarinwriters.com)

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

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

**Napa Valley:** 6:30 second Wednesdays, Napa River Inn. [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net)

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

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

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

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

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## Ongoing critique groups

### Our Voices

Meets at Le Boulanger in the Pruneyard in Campbell every other Sunday 10 am. Genres: Fiction, nontechnical 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](mailto: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](mailto:polpap@prodigy.net)

### Riders Do Right

Meets at Vallco Shopping Center, second floor, Food Court near Burger King, Noon, second Thursdays. Any genre. Contact Pat Bustamante, [patatat@hotmail.com](mailto:patatat@hotmail.com)

### Your Critique Group

For consideration, send information to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

## Ongoing open mics

**South Bay Writers Open Mic:** Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen, first and third Friday evenings. See calendar for schedule. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

## Ongoing writers discussion groups

**Talkshop:** Discuss topics of interest to writers — challenges, problems, and tips. Meets last Tuesdays, 6 – 9 pm. Contact Carole Taub at [777777ps@gmail.com](mailto:777777ps@gmail.com)

**SBW Underground:** Come to exchange ideas on non-mainstream art and writing, past and present. Meets at Coffee Society, Stevens Creek Blvd, across from De Anza, 7:30 pm, third Tuesdays. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

**TalkBooks:** New SBW discussion group focusing on books written by our SBW members. We will read and discuss books written by SBW members. Second meeting: April 29. Look for meeting info here next month. For information, email: [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

**Check out all these opportunities and others available from CWC and SBW.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May 2015</b>					<b>1</b> 7:30P Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	<b>2</b>
					<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30P Mystery Circle 2P Valley Writers	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30P SBW Board Meeting	<b>7</b>		
<b>10</b> 10:00A Our Voices	<b>11</b> 2P Valley Writers 6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Deadline for <i>WritersTalk</i> is Friday, May 15	<b>14</b> Noon Riders Do Right	<b>15</b> 7:30P Open mic Wil- low Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	<b>16</b> 1:30P WT Editors Powwow
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>19</b> 7:30 PM SBW UNDERGROUND	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:00A Our Voices	<b>25</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>26</b> TalkShop 6 - 9 PM	<b>27</b> TalkBooks 7 PM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Future Flashes: SBW Board June 3 — SBW Dinner Meeting June 8    Note: Read Page 14 for details related to calendar listings.</b>						

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



Send WT your ad for something  
of interest to writers.

## Poetry readings

**Poets@Play:** Meets at Markham House History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, Second Sundays, 1 – 4 pm

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

**Words Drawing Music:** Ongoing open mic opportunity at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street, on second Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. Enjoy inspirational poetry and music while exploring artistic creativity.

## Ongoing write-ins from NaNoWriMo

If you went with NaNoWriMo last November or even if you didn't, here are some ongoing activities. Two ongoing write-ins (For Nanos and non-Nanos):

Morning Write-In at Barnes & Noble (near 85 and Almaden),  
9am – 12pm on Tuesdays

Chromatics Write-In in Santa Clara

Thursday afternoon - noon until about 4pm

Chromatics Coffee, 5237 Stevens Creek Blvd., Santa Clara

## CWC bags: Sale Price \$5



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

## South Bay Writers Anthology



**Sale Price: \$5 at meetings**

## South Bay Writers Coffee Mugs



**Sale price: \$5 each**



## California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

P.O. Box 3254

Santa Clara, CA 95055

[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers  
May Regular Meeting  
6 p.m. Monday, May 11**

Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

**Facebook face off:  
Master social media**

**Corrine Litchfield  
May Speaker**

*WritersTalk* deadline is always  
the 15th of the month.

Regular dinner meetings are  
second Mondays 6 – 9 pm



### Harry's Hofbrau

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