



WRITERSTALK

Volume 23
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Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER ELAINE BRADY

Let's Poem Our Way To the Finish Line!

by Jenni Everidge

Every writer has a preferred genre — whether a faction of fiction or nonfiction. Some may seldom look anywhere else when writing; after all, it can be hard enough to produce the words you need in the genre you prefer. I identify as a poet first and foremost because it is the writing I know I can deliver. I definitely enjoy writing fiction; and I find myself excited with the tasks of fleshing out new ideas and meeting new characters who are born inside my head. But I don't often mix the two.

I've never thought about how my poetry can influence my fiction and vice versa. So far, the closest I've come is telling the truth with a little slant in my poetry, or using an overindulgent flowery description of the kitchen sink in my fiction.

"The ceramic receptacle for my sustenance dishes" does not exactly roll off the tongue, does it?

But what if we tried writing in a different genre just to see what it's like? Setting aside any pressure to make the technique perform for us, such experimentation with a different form of writing could cleanse the palate of our writing brains. How could it benefit our writing? How could it enhance our outlook? Might it even be profitable?



Dr. Elaine Brady
September Speaker

At our dinner meeting this month, Dr. Elaine Brady, author and psychotherapist, will give us a chance to answer those questions with an emphasis on the genre of poetry. She will guide us through several exercises designed to "Unleash Your Inner Poet" — and make it pay. Dr. Brady will speak on the following points:

- What is poetry?
- We are all poets
- Six reasons prose writers attempt poetry
- Evoking the inner poet
- Make it pay!

I look forward to the information Dr. Brady will be sharing with us. Please join me on September 14th at Harry's Hofbrau as we step into the world of a familiar or alternate genre, and we'll see where it takes us. — WT

RECAP:

AUGUST SPEAKER, AMANDA MCTIGUE

The Author's Voice

by Karen Sundback

It can be the most difficult part of writing, but publishers, critics, and your readers expect it. How do you develop it? Our August speaker Amanda McTigue took on this herculean task, and in the process, gave a disarmingly funny talk on bringing your voice to life.

Amanda McTigue is a novelist and short story writer. *Going to Solace*, her debut



Amanda McTigue

novel set in the Blue Ridge Mountains, was named a Best Read of 2012 by public radio KRCB's "Word for Word."

By way of showing the importance of voice, McTigue asked us to write down a description of the auditorium.

After giving us time to jot down our thoughts, she then displayed two pictures: a boy half-obscured by a burlap cloth and two white-haired women critically staring into the camera. Would our descriptions be different if we were describing our surroundings to these new potential readers? Indeed, most of us agreed that keeping this audience in mind changed our writing. So, key in developing our voices is asking ourselves: who are we writing to?

To McTigue, a grippingly written voice reaches readers like a tenor whose voice reaches his audience in the highest balconies. It is authentic, compelling and memorable.

Her example of a powerfully written voice is author Tayari Jones's opening

Continued on Page 6

Writing Short Fiction for Fun & Profit
Upcoming Workshop, November 14. See Page 7 inside.

President's Perspective

by Patrick McQueen
President, South Bay Writers

An Open Letter To The Soon-To-Be Published



I haven't yet read your next book. I eagerly anticipate its publication date. I haven't preordered it yet, but only because I haven't been able to find it listed online, and I haven't received your message containing the link to your preorder. As soon as I can, I will sign up for my first chance to dive into the world you've created.

I will read it right away. After consuming the last word, the review of your work will start rolling through my mind: "Your voice was daring yet intimate. You drew me into the vivid landscape, shoulder-to-shoulder with relatable characters. At times I forgot I was reading a story. I felt engulfed with them in the struggles, crippled by the forces pressing down from every side, empowered by hope and determination. I celebrated with them in their triumphs."

In the end, I will sit and stare at those last words, rereading them as I allow the totality of your book to steep. I will reflect on the wild ride I loved so much. Closing the book, I will turn it over and admire the cover with renewed perspective. It will be too impressive to hide between the bindings of other books, so I will clear a space on my shelf to display it proudly.

Feeling infatuated with your brand, and hoping for consistency in your voice, I will return to your website looking for an advertisement or a pre-order for your next volume. I will hope you are interested in writing a sequel or prequel to the book I just finished, wishing to spend more time in the world you've introduced. However, your voice was enthralling enough to pull me into wherever you wish to take me next.

I will find myself describing scenes from your story to my friends and family. They will ask for more, and I will point them to your book, where they can get their fill. When a major film studio secures movie rights, I will follow and contribute to the hype for the film. The studio will get it right and will win awards for best adaptation. Even if the studio doesn't get it right and botches your story or shamefully rewrites your characters into one-dimensional cardboard cutouts, your fans will insist the book was so much better. "Not to worry," we will say to everyone we meet, "in five-to-ten years, the studio will remake it and hopefully get it right next time. That book is amazing, and deserves a much better film."

This awesome eventuality can't happen just yet. There is one thing you need to do first. You need to finish your next book. —WT

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SBW Mission

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

Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Dual membership: \$25. Contact 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 (1200 words)
Memoir (1200 words)
Poetry (300 words)
Essay (900 words)

Member Achievement and News: newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Announcements and Advertisements
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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.

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

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Our Mission

Encouraging writers at all levels of expertise to hone their skills in the craft of writing

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Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Managing Editor



Short and Sweet Can't Be Beat

Your novel is in its final stages. It has been edited and smoothed and tweaked, ready for Beta readers. What's next?

While waiting for the Beta readers to report, format the novel to ready it for its publisher. For example, fit it onto 5.5 by 8.5 inch pages, single-spaced. Then only a few steps remain.

Check the format for every chapter. Is the format consistent everywhere, or has your computer played a trick? Weed out orphans and widows, the places where only one word appears on a line. Get rid of any one-line pages.

Scan for huge chunks of prose. Are you overloading the reader? Can you break the block into smaller parts to make it more inviting to the eye? Can you pare back your description to invite the reader to complete the image in his mind?

Pay particular attention to the first and last paragraphs of each chapter. Does the first paragraph draw the reader into the scene? Does the last one lead the reader to anticipate what might come next without spelling it out?

Search your manuscript for the words *feel* and *felt*. If the character is angry or embarrassed, show his feelings without using the words *angry* or *embarrassed*. Try to *reveal* the emotions by the character's actions, thoughts, or gestures. Remember that people read novels for emotion.

Finally, after considering your Beta reader's comments, have someone help you proofread your final copy. Also, you need a book description for the back cover.

Good luck, and while you're waiting, keep honing your skills by writing shorter items.

Many contests want brief prose, and you need that skill for writing descriptions of your books. Note that *WritersTalk* has shortened the suggested length of short fiction to 1200 words, with 900 to 1000 words preferred. That is because *WT* prints Club news and announcements before allotting space for creative work. Also, *WT* rarely prints a story in two parts; serializing it interrupts the flow and forces *WT* to reserve space for it in two successive months.

WritersTalk wants to encourage new writers. We will give preference to submissions from new members of SBW and to members who have not submitted recently.

So, write short pieces, enter them in contests, and submit them to *WritersTalk*.

And while you're at it, remember to send your writing news and to share your triumphs with us at newsletter@southbaywriters.com — *WT*

Blog Posts Featured

We're trying out a new feature in *WritersTalk* that puts a spotlight on member blogs. See sample format on Page 12.

If you have read or written a blog entry that you wish to share with other members of SBW, send a synopsis or excerpt. Submissions limited to 100 words; publication on space-available basis. — *WT*



Dry brown leaf flutters,
hovers in air one moment,
then drops on traffic.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

View from the Board

by Sheena Arora

On Wednesday, August 5, twelve SBW board members met in Santa Clara: President Patrick McQueen, Vice-President Jenni Everidge, Secretary Sherrie Johnson, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Members-at-Large Robyn King and Sheena Arora, Hospitality Chair Carole Taub, Publicity Chairman Kimberly Malanczuk, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, and Membership Chair Sally Milnor. Carolyn Donnell along with Ex-President Colin Seymour also participated.

Discussions:

A new all-day writing workshop is approved for November. We are excited to invite Michael Bracken to teach us about writing short fiction for fun and profit. The workshop will include meals, so reserve fast to get an early-bird price.

We are hoping that members will update their biographies on SBW's website before the September 1st deadline.

Our club is moving into a new age! The SBW Board is hoping to create a central repository. This will make it easier for future volunteers to understand each board member's responsibilities.

There was a discussion about redesigning our branch's logo and brochures, along with starting a CafePress account.

Old business: The board unanimously passed all officer and committee reports.

All South Bay Writers members are welcome to attend our SBW Board meetings. However, just in case, we hope you are not allergic to standing as seating might be tight! Also if you have concerns or suggestions that you want to get to the Board's attention, email any Board member or approach them during a Monday meeting at

WritersTalk Challenge

August Winners

by Meredy Amyx,

WritersTalk Challenge Administrator

Winners of the August 2015 WritersTalk Challenge were announced at the August general meeting:

Fiction: Chess Desalls, "Needles"

Nonfiction: Judith Shernock, "Short History of Haiku"

Poetry: Jack Hasling, "Standing in the Bookstore Aisle"

Poetry Special Mention: Elaine Brady, "Old Man of the Sea"

Entries were for the period from January to July 2015. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to the judges for their service to the club: Dick Amyx, Carolyn Donnell, Tina Glasner, Sylvia Halloran, Pratibha Kelapure, Edie Matthews, and Sally Milnor.

The semiannual *WritersTalk* Challenge recognizes members' work that has been published in *WritersTalk*. Prizes are awarded in February and August. All contributions over a six-month period are automatically entered, except that of the editor, the contest administrator, and contest judges, who are not eligible to judge any genre that includes their own work.

Judging a category is a great way to help the club with a small commitment of time during a fixed period. It's an opportunity to gain perspective and learn something about our own writing strengths and weaknesses through evaluating the work of others. Forming and refining our own sense of what's good and what doesn't work can help us look more objectively at our own creative efforts.

Past winners are especially encouraged to volunteer as judges. Here's a chance to return value to the club through service. Many thanks to all volunteers. —WT

New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our four newest members.

Carey C. Giudici joined our Club at our August meeting. Carey writes fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. On his membership questionnaire, he says that incredibly varied experiences and a big heart fuel his writing interests. Carey's website is www.careygiudici.com.



Sally Milnor

Mary Lasher was a first-time visitor to our club when she joined at our August meeting. She is a recently retired 911 dispatcher, with two grown sons who have left the nest; she is now enjoying having plenty of time to write. Mary writes both fiction and nonfiction. On her membership questionnaire, she says that through her writing she wants to share her life experiences with others in the hope that she can help them along the way. Mary's website is www.thetransgentlewife.com.

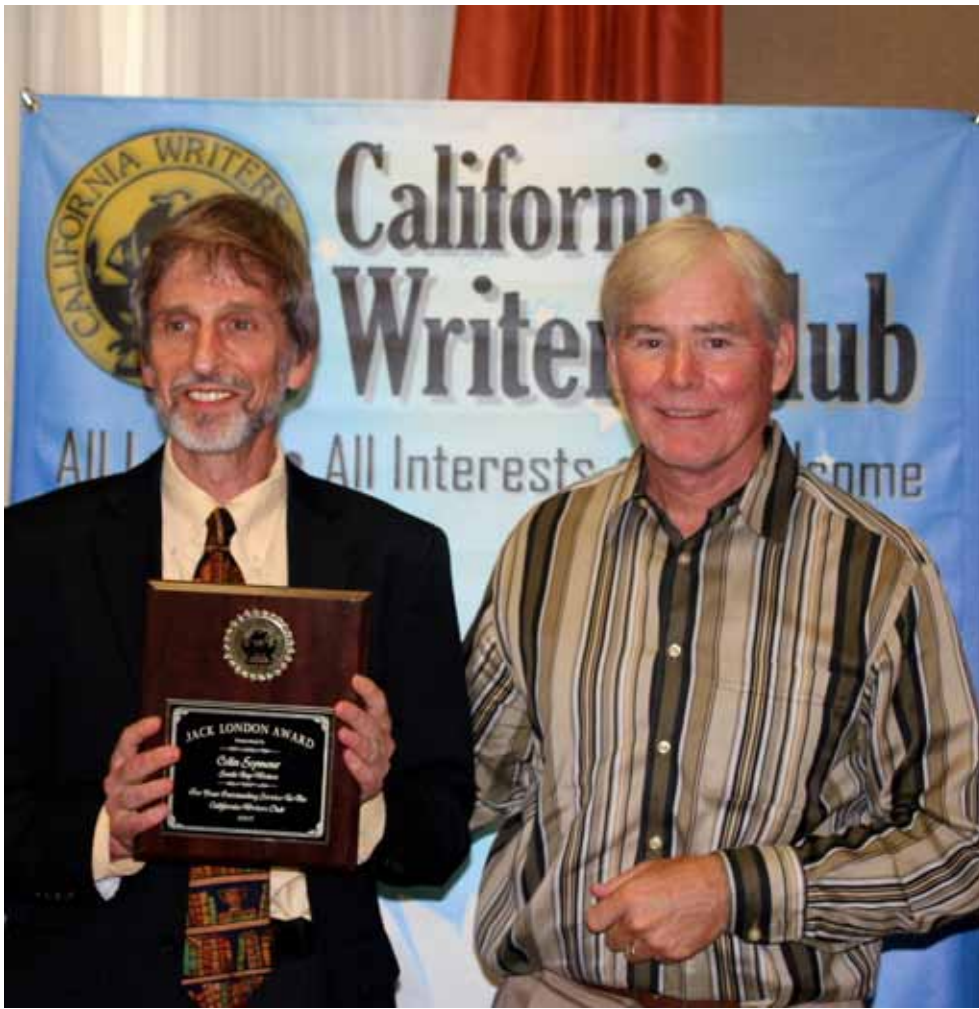
Shannon Michelson found us online, and she is interested in writing fiction. Shannon has a B.A. in psychology from Sonoma State and a Master's in social work from SJSU. She enjoys hiking, traveling, and reading; she is also a lover of dogs and animals in general. On her membership questionnaire, she says she would love to write a novel some day, and she hopes to be inspired by other writers. Shannon's email address is michelshannon@gmail.com.

Wylie York also found us online, and he is interested in writing fiction. He teaches high school social studies to special needs students. Wylie's email address is wylieyork@sbcglobal.net.

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

To all of our South Bay Writers: We appreciate and need your continuing presence and support. Thank you for helping to keep our club flourishing. —WT





Colin Seymour (left) received the 2015 Jack London Award, presented by CWC President David George (right).
— Photo by Ray Malus

Colin Seymour Wins 2015 Jack London Award

WritersTalk Staff

The Jack London Award is the only formal acknowledgment provided by the State in recognition of service to a Branch of California Writers Club. One such award is made every other year with a luncheon presentation at the July meeting of the Central Board, California Writers Club. Selections are made by the Branch; in our case, by the South Bay Board of Directors. Colin Seymour is our Jack London Award winner for 2015.

Colin served as president of our Branch during the preceding two years (2013-14 and 2014-15), a period of growth and change that saw our membership increase by fifty percent. He advanced the “incubator” idea, encouraging programs and events that enhanced the knowledge of members and stimulated our creative environment. He worked diligently at this job, and we are the beneficiaries.

In the year preceding his presidency, Colin served as VP — bringing us speakers who spoke to our writing and publishing needs. He served on the East of Eden Committee in 2010, selecting and persuading some forty experts to join with classes and keynotes. He succeeded with this critical task, though the conference did not materialize, and thus he was required to apologize and explain while maintaining our branch credibility. All of this, he accomplished with the greatest aplomb.

Colin Seymour is a South Bay Writers booster — before he held office, since, and doubtless will continue to be. He is deserving of our respect and praise. He most certainly deserves this award. Congratulations, Colin, on achieving our acknowledgment, and thank you, sir, for leading us on. — WT

Member News

Compiled by WritersTalk Staff

To have your writing accomplishments appear here, submit them by email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com or fill out a form available at the registration table at any regular meeting of South Bay Writers.

Examples of newsworthy accomplishments: story or poem published; book published; book signing; contest won; invited as a speaker; interviewed for TV or newspaper; play produced. In addition, when your book is published, you can submit a thumbnail of the book’s cover and a paragraph describing the book to *WritersTalk*.

Maddy McEwen-Asker’s short story, “Fragile Threads,” has been accepted for publication in *Dali’s Lovechild Magazine* for their August edition. Also, her short creative nonfiction piece, “Mummy Crimes,” will be published in the *Lowestoft Chronicle* in November.

Now that summer vacation is over, be sure to send your accomplishments to *WritersTalk*. — WT.

Emma Remembered

by Mel Moore



Emma Hooker

February 23, 1918 – July 23, 2015

I hoped Emma would make 98, but she passed quietly on July 23. Born to Peter J. and Jenny M. Hupy in Menominee, Michigan, she was one of nine children. Emma will be most remembered for her portrait photography, known locally as Emma Hooker Photography of Los Altos. She is survived by her son, James Hooker; her daughter, Linda Moore (not related to Mel); and her husband, Mel Moore. She was a long time member of South Bay Writers. Her writing of limericks and poems was much enjoyed by members of our Club. — WT

The Author's Voice

Continued from Page 1

line in *Silver Sparrow*: "My father, James Witherspoon, is a bigamist." It is simple, yet potent.

But how to vary a compelling voice? She threw out several ideas as to how to create both interest and variety.

First, think of someone who doesn't want to hear. How do you get through?

Second, ask yourself: why am I telling this story? Do I want to comfort? Inform? Amaze? Bulls—t? Speaking of dishonesty, this last motive leads to the unreliable narrator, the love child of an unusual coupling in writing: the joining of lying to authenticity.

Another idea to arouse interest is to change to unexpected characters, such as animate and inanimate objects.

For example: pigs talking with spiders (*Charlotte's Web*); using a puppet as a main

character (*Pinocchio*); or a picture to reveal the truth (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*).

McTigue's suggestion for bringing characters to life is to listen to what you hear every day. Sit down at a café and write down what you hear, a captivating idea that I decided to try.

I had written a story about student life in middle school. To check the authenticity of my characters, I would write down the conversion of middle schoolers. Our schools haven't opened yet, so I had to settle for eavesdropping on a girls' soccer team.

On examining the written conversion, nothing unusual popped out. It sounded just like me at that age. But comparing it to my characters revealed that my characters were not true to form.

I had not written a believable story.



Amanda McTigue

—Photo by Dick Amyx

As a result, I can testify that McTigue's talk was not only an evening of fun, but also full of insight and helpful suggestions. —WT

Scenes from the August 10 South Bay Writers Meeting

—Photos by Carolyn Donnell

Photos by Carolyn Donnell from monthly meetings and other events appear at southbaywriters.com, Events tab, Event Gallery.

Or visit our page on shutterfly, southbaywritersgallery.shutterfly.com/



Dick Amyx receives a thank you gift card from SBW for his work behind the scenes.



Dave LaRoche, ArLyne Diamond, and Maddie McEwen-Asker networking



Edie Matthews, July BBQ hostess, receives a thank you gift from SBW.



Amanda McTigue answers questions



Your Last Issue of WritersTalk?

Is this your last issue of *WritersTalk*?

If you somehow overlooked the remittance of your dues for 2015/16, then you will see "xxx" following your name on Page 16. That means that your name will be erased from the WT mailing list for the October issue — unless you rectify the situation by September 15.

You can renew at southbaywriters.com or send a \$45 check to South Bay Writers, P. O. Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

Upcoming Workshop: Use Short Fiction to Jumpstart Your Writing

WritersTalk Staff

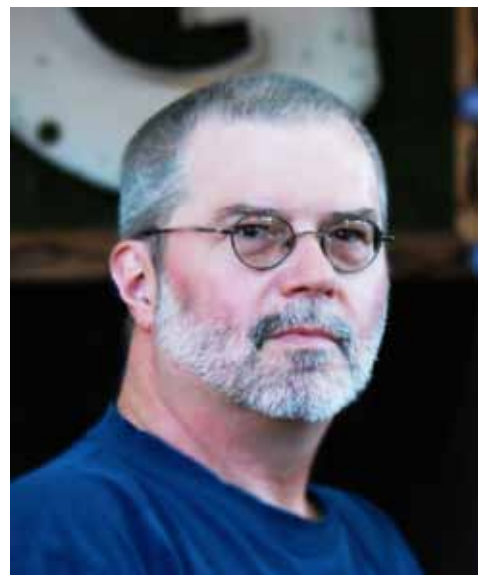
At our August meeting, we announced the first workshop planned for the season! On Saturday, November 14, 2015, South Bay Writers will present “Writing Short Fiction for Fun & Profit,” led by Michael Bracken, a prolific living short story writer. More information is posted at southbaywriters.com.

If you write fiction of any length in any genre and want to improve your ability to develop your ideas into publishable fiction, you’ll want to participate in this hands-on workshop.

Bracken will discuss and then lead workshop participants through the processes he has used to write and place more than 1,100 short stories worldwide, including:

- Violating the “rules” other workshop leaders have taught you
- Generating story ideas and turning them into workable plots
- Creating compelling opening scenes
- Understanding the proper chronology of sentences, paragraphs, and scenes
- Gaining mastery of scene construction, dialog, and description
- Comprehending Chekov’s shotgun and the rule of three
- Utilizing and properly placing dialog tags
- Employing writing tips and tricks you never learned in creative writing class
- Establishing and maintaining productivity
- Wrapping everything up into finished, submittable manuscripts
- Finding appropriate markets

Attendees will be active participants and should bring their favorite writing tools to the workshop, whether pen and paper or laptop. Registration is open online, and you can sign up for the early-bird member price of only \$60. You can also pay by check and mail to South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara CA 95055. —WT



Michael Bracken

Workshop: November 14, 2015

Michael Bracken, award-winning writer of fiction and nonfiction, regularly speaks about writing, editing, and publishing at conferences and conventions. He holds a BA in Professional Writing from Baylor University and currently serves clients and publishers from his office in Waco, Texas.

Michael is the author of 11 books and more than 1,400 shorter works published in more than 150 publications. —WT

ARTICLE

Zozobra

by Judith Shernock

We spent our vacation in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico, going to the Opera. The theater, the second most important opera venue after the Met, is a magnificent twenty-two thousand seat building on a hill that overlooks wonderful desert scenery. The gorgeous red sunsets become part of the backdrop of the performances.

The five operas we saw were a musical and visual treat. However, what I wish to share with you is something much less known: Zozobra. He is a fifty-foot marionette made of paper, cloth and wood. A small, seven foot replica was standing in our hotel lobby.

All over Santa Fe there are “Gloom Boxes” with a slot in the middle. This opening is for you to deposit a written note stating

your anxieties and worries. They will be burned, together with Zozobra, in a giant bonfire on September fourth.

Zozobra is a grumpy character who lurks in the hills around Santa Fe, stealing sheep, making dogs bark and children cry. The name is Spanish and means anguish, despair and gloom. His burning symbolizes the end of the sorrows that you have collected during the previous year.

This annual event is attended by 50,000 people from around the world. They watch as their misery burns together with Zozobra, whose effigy waves its arms and groans as he goes up in smoke. Perhaps he is a precursor to the famous “Burning Man” celebration.

It would be wonderful if every community in the world had a celebration like this one. Immeasurable sorrows disappear in flames which burn only a marionette and nothing more. —WT



Zozobra

—Photo by Donald Shernock

Manipulation

by Patrick McQueen

Do you know any freethinking and self-empowered individuals? Do you know people pursuing their joys with confident disregard for the stifling objections of opinionated neighbors, friends, and family? If so, manipulating them could be the best way to get them to change their lifestyle from the course that clearly brings them joy. If you are going to manipulate others, there are a few key tactics I recommend.

First, subtly create an environment in which people believe the only correct choices are those choices you want them to make. Creating this environment takes time and patience. When you boil a frog, you have to turn the heat up very slowly or the frog will leap out of the pot. Likewise, when you manipulate others, you can get great results with a long con. The real danger here, though, is that you have to con others for so long that you might even start conning yourself. By the time the manipulation really pays off, you may have manipulated yourself into believing your carefully prescribed choices are the only right choices.

Second, intentionally alienate those who promote self-confidence and individuality. These people will continue filling everyone's head with beliefs that everyone can do whatever they want. They teach individual responsibility. They promote treating every person, even those making disagreeable choices, with decency and respect. They will trust others, believing each is capable of making the best possible choices. Of course, this is fundamentally problematic for you as you attempt to convince people of a narrower subset of options. You need those within your sphere of influence to believe in what "should," not what "can," be achieved. You need them to focus on limitations and rules, careful not to let them discover the fullness of their own potential.

Third, strategically punish and reward their choices. Negotiate with them, leveraging their desires to drive the choices you want them to make. I have seen parents and governments do this all the time. There is no reason it shouldn't work on those you try to manipulate. Since humans are just animals at a cellular level, domesticating people shouldn't be any harder than training a puppy. Just wave something desirable in front of their faces,

delivering treats to reward "good" behavior, and withholding treats in response to "bad" behavior. If things escalate, or people attempt to usurp your authority, violence may help clarify the situation.

When it comes to manipulation, you have to be careful of a very common misconception. Don't ever think you can take your agenda too far. You are trying to protect people from their bad choices. You obviously care deeply for them and are trying to keep them from becoming failures or monsters. Since your motives are pure, you can do no wrong. Don't think introspectively. Don't evaluate your own behaviors with the same discernment you use to judge others. That will only limit your potential to manipulate people.

If none of this works out for you, and you find yourself isolated from those you care most about, then consider quitting. You are a manipulation failure. Resign yourself to loving and respecting those around you. Consider approaching your relationships with open-mindedness. Leave manipulation to those who are good at it. —WT

ESSAY

Do Angels Exist?

by Pat Torello

A few years ago I was too cynical to believe in angels. I envied the people who did believe in them, who had unquestioning faith that helpful beings are sent to earth from heaven as messengers and helpers to mankind. That they appear to us not only as humans but as animals, sometimes plants, sometimes even as a beautiful sky or dazzling stone or other object. All I could think was...no, like, seriously?

Then about ten years ago, I discovered that I had my very own team of angels. They had been waiting, hidden in the wings (no pun intended) until I needed them. Indeed, an extremely large gathering of them—a flight, I believe it's called—is at my disposal constantly, there for me 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

I can't see my angels but the blessings

they've bestowed are firm testament to their existence. And I can hear their voices, clear and strong. Sometimes I detect a distant vibration in the background like the beating of wings.

They are my high-tech angels, the customer service men and women who answer technical help lines when I need assistance (which is quite often) with my PC or iPhone or tablet or any other electronic gizmo. Pushing 70, I'm the audience that all those "Idiot" books are for. Without my cherished angels, I couldn't function in this high-tech world.

My first angel appeared back in olden days when I first got high-speed Internet. AT&T sent me this mysterious router thingy that I had to set up myself. Were they kidding? After hours of lonely, futile struggle, I gave up and called the technical help line. An angel with the soothing voice of a young man came on the line to be my unfailing guide for three more hours. First I was instructed to read aloud the model and serial numbers on the router and on my existing dial-up mo-

dem and my huge, awkward PC tower. I struggled to turn the modem and PC around, without pulling out the cables, and fetched flashlight and magnifying glass to decipher the teensy-weensy numbers I found on the back. The angel asked many questions and determined that the phone jack I had connected to the router was bad and I would have to use another one. In darkness of night I crawled around the house on the floor, hooking the router up to different jacks to test connections. My knees and back ached and I could hardly see. Finally, at the fifth jack, located in the kitchen, the angel got a strong, heavenly signal on his equipment. It worked. My router is still connected there, next to the toaster.

A few years later my first Verizon angel appeared. I didn't have Wi-Fi (or so I thought), and to update software on my new iPhone I had to connect it to the USB port on my PC and log into iTunes. I couldn't find my iTunes password anywhere and finally called Verizon support.

Continued on Page 12

Hannah's Booth: Part Two

by Chess Desalls

She squints again. "So, then, who are you?" she asks, drawing her lips into a lopsided smirk.

Her reaction warms me, gives me strength to explain. "I'm an old man trapped in a young man's body." I tap my ribs with my hands. "Some days I rather like it."

Hannah laughs. There's an unfamiliar cackle to her voice. "Surely this is a joke. All right, you got me. You had your fun. Tell me—who are you, young man?"

My lips tremble. "You don't believe me. I—why, I'm Charlie, your first love. Don't you remember, Hannah—our last date, in San Jose?"

The pink tinge in Hannah's cheeks fades, leaving her face cloaked in a blanket of white.

"Near the Winchester House," I continue. "When we were approached—"

"By that man—"

"By that man."

"Why, that's ridiculous!"

"Hannah, do you remember what he said to us that day?"

Her forehead creases into a sea of rippling waves. "He said something ridiculous too. Something about no one believing in him..."

"Yes, yes," I urge. "Do you remember how we laughed and waved him away?"

Warily, she nods.

"Later that night, he came to me, Hannah. He appeared in my bedroom, out of nowhere, out of nothing. He said that he'd leave his mark on me—that I would someday remember and acknowledge him." I sigh. "I was too afraid to ask questions."

My shoulders slump forward as I look down at my shoes in shame. Not long after that terrible date on Winchester Boulevard, San Jose, in the year 1943, long after the mistress of the House had passed away, Hannah and I had broken up. She was only sixteen. I'd just turned seventeen and wasn't ready to commit.

And, still today, I have the body of a seventeen-year-old. Once I realized that the man's mark on me prevented me from physically aging, it was too late. Over the years, I'd checked in on Hannah from time to time, from afar. I was careful not to disturb her, but I wanted to make sure that she was doing well...that she was all right. I was also curious whether the man had visited her—had marked her—but, as far as I could tell, he hadn't. She'd been left to grow old gracefully, just like the cliché.

I sigh again and look up, relieved that I'd finally told someone.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier?" Hannah asks, staring at me with unblinking eyes. "Maybe I could have helped."

I grimace. "I didn't realize what was going on until I reached the age of forty-five!" Shoving my hands in my pocket, I add, "The fellas at the construction sites couldn't understand why I

Off the Shelf

—Edie Matthews



It's not for me. My protagonist needs help. She's married to a veterinarian but she's afraid of animals—especially hamsters.

had enough stamina to work the long hours, but I could work harder and longer than any of the other laborers." I grin, perhaps a touch too proudly.

"Why are you telling me this? Why now ... after all these years? Why today?"

"Because today's the day the man told me he'd be here at the farmer's market—at your booth. He'll lift the curse—erase his mark on me—if we acknowledge him."

Hannah stretches her neck out from behind the booth and looks both ways into the street. "He's here? Today?" Her voice is a whisper. Her eyes are on fire.

I shrug. "That's what he said."

"We?" she asks, shuddering. "How do we acknowledge—"

Hannah freezes mid-sentence. I feel a chill in the air. It's as if the icy claw of death grabs me from behind and refuses to let go. A man in a long, dark coat walks by. He catches my eye and grins. It's not a pleasant grin.

"We need to acknowledge that he's real," I whisper. "That he's one of us—that we care." I have no idea how I know this. But, suddenly, it all makes sense.

"You!" Hannah yells out at the man. "We would like a word with you."

The chill deepens as he nears. I press myself closer to Hannah's booth, knocking over a basket of picked over strawberries. The berries tumble and land on the dark pavement; some bounce, others form soft splats of red.

Shoulders from underneath the dark coat rise into a shrug. "You see me," he says. It's not a question.

"Yes," Hannah and I say at the same time.

Hannah's chest puffs out. "Who are you?"

"Who doesn't matter, dear woman. Only what."

Continued on Page 12

Children Teach French

Monday in Grenoble,
The town tucked in snugly, cradled by noble Alps.
A crucial meeting coming, preparing like mad,
It's my job, but fagged out, my jets lag.
Outside to stretch my legs,
I'm greeted with the modern mixed with the quaint.
I roam pizza row, hot wood burning ovens, red wine,
Tiny restaurants crowded along the road,
Little parking to be found,
The sweeping river bends; houses on hillside.
Craggy postcard peaks, their backdrop.
White, billowing clouds here and there,
The sky around them clear, nature's best blue.
The same sky I've seen shine on San Francisco, too.

I chance upon an elementary school,
A noisy playground full of wild kids; recess time,
Young girls and boys lost in happy chaos.
And, though, I don't understand a single word
Of thousands I hear,
Somehow, the glad energy erases
Recent news-born fears for the coming generations.

– Richard A. Burns



Two Hummingbirds

Two hummingbirds rest
together on one leafless twig –
fly off and dogfight.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

The Circle

Hopes and Dreams
Loves first dance

Destiny wrapped in bands of gold or silver
Life's sweet bouquet of roses and babies' breath
Memories to have and to hold

Until my soul mate sings
The final song
Life's breath takes

We are left with the memories
We were able to make

– Karen Franzenburg

Hidden Lament

A few days ago,
in the gardens of
my local
library,
I saw a gigantic
pale whitish
Tiger
Swallowtail
Butterfly,
and,
entranced by its beauty,
imagined that
there must be,
on some far distant
fantastical world,
creatures like this,
the size of our largest
airliners
painted with infinite
vibrant
color schemes.
I feel deep grief
because
I seem to have no one
with whom to share
such sublime
thoughts.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen



Liberated In The Library

To be welcomed is to feel esteemed
That warm feeling of highlights high-beamed
This is a place that for sure some good books
Will fit the mood perfectly if one really looks.
And the guardians of these treasures
Certainly add to the pleasures
Polite, understanding, patient and kind
What you may look for, they work hard to find.
For me it's the quiet mood, freedom of mind
I work in the real world, need to rest and pretend
I'll one day reach Heaven. Here for practice I ascend!

– Pat Bustamante

Repose

In repose, we lie in peril
awaiting the one who will press on our
lips, wrap our kiss
stand and anger the esophagus
choking our souls until they exit.

Only then, can we truly appreciate
the stars
who have died many years before our souls
were born.

– Jenni Everidge



September Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante
Contributing Editor

September-Temper-Meant

The artistic temperament can glow like coals of fire:
So do not bother that person hunched over the table
Scribbling away, wearing a face fierce with desire —
A year has mostly passed by now, should have been able
to sell something! Got to keep the old brain humming!
And check that mailbox — could be good news coming!

— Pat Bustamante

The artistic temperament has long been known as a fact; poetic license is also known, and carefully regarded (nobody wants to be attacked by what appears to be a rabid writer!). I opted for an occupation that felt natural, given that I was always “the brat” as the youngest child. I want what I want — and I want it NOW!

Poems make wonderful faucets for backed-up flowing emotions, good feelings, or bad feelings. I remember little-kid songs or rhymes that made a game or even a taunt into a song but there was always something about the rhythms or the words as though they sang by themselves, making me think: I will learn to make that happen. This was even before my starting to go to school; I tagged along with “not always happy about it” older sisters.

I was the nuisance and, like most bratty little under-five-year-olds, liked any hint or bit of power. Words, words — the big kids had more words. Well I can tell you, I have plenty of words now: I write a poem every day. Doesn’t have to be perfect. Try it for a few weeks. Words can be toys for grown-ups too! A poem can summarize your feelings about your novel, your story, your memoir.

If you are feeling a case of “temperamental” or just need a jab to get your work moving, try putting the theme or the problem into verse. Write about feeling: angry, happy, goofy, grateful, weary, the tingle of love, the joy of beautiful scenery, or sizing up weather. I hope to see it here at *WritersTalk*. — WT

I’ve Glued My Brother

I’ve glued my brother up on the wall,
And he doesn’t mind a bit.
I put him there to fill a space,
Like a human ornament.

He really does a super job
And he doesn’t move at all;
And I’m really feeling kind of proud
With my brother on the wall.

‘Cause when my friends come over
They seem to be impressed,
They say he looks so awfully real
(Especially when he’s dressed).

And lately I’ve been thinking:
He might be worth a lot!
I could even start a business,
Selling living works of art!

Just imagine the potential,
Why, it fills a public need!
A picture that stares back at you!
A work of art you feed!

I’ve only got one problem
(Or maybe it’s my mother’s)
I don’t know how to get a fresh
Supply of baby brothers.

— E. Michael Lunsford



Junk Heap

Graffiti and grunge
all around
what lies among
all that stuff on the ground
tossed aside without
a thought

That graffiti in colors
like a rainbow
there’s a red, a yellow
a green and a blue
peeking through
so much litter

Can only guess at the words
the letters offer little clue

There are signs on old
buildings and a crane in sight
the sky hanging over
the junk heap is drab
even in daylight

I took a photo that day
before I had to walk away
Every so often I look at it
and I can almost hear
the sound of
all that stuff being dumped
on the ground
tossed aside without
a thought

— Karen Hartley



Sirens

Sirens wailing
screaming
announcing
some catastrophe
somewhere
every day
more than one
wakes
rest evades
repose captured
keening banshees
lamenting
someone’s tragedy.

— Carolyn Donnell

Hannah's Booth: Part Two

Continued from Page 9

Hannah corrects herself quickly. "What then?"

"Real. You're—you're real," I sputter. "Now, leave us be. Let us continue our lives in peace."

The man grins. Pointed teeth interconnect the top and bottom of his jaws, leaving no space in between. "And now I am free."

He holds out his hand to me. I shiver as wave after wave of icy coldness pass through my skin and into my blood and bones. My hands shake. When I looked down at them, I gasp.

My strong hands—young hands, firmed and calloused with hard work—shrivel and bend, aging right before my eyes. The once-firm skin puckers and pales, leaving wrinkles and liver spots where the flesh had been tanned and smooth.

I look back up at the man.

"Charlie!" Hannah cries. "It is you!"

I want to turn toward Hannah, but I can't pull my eyes from the man, or whatever he is. His shape flickers in and out of focus. Out of the corners of my eyes, I notice nearby shoppers who stop to gape. Then, raising both hands in the air, the man fades and disappears. From somewhere inside my head I hear echoes of his last words until I no longer feel the chill of his presence.

The sun overhead warms my cheeks and hands. Blinking, I look over at Hannah. Her mouth hangs open.

A small boy from the crowd looks at me and points. "Hey! Where'd you come from? What happened to the other guy?"

I look down at the ground, searching for an answer. The spilled strawberries are now withered and faded.

Smiling, I look at Hannah and take her hand. "I'm a young man in an old man's body," I say.

"Ready to begin my life." —WT

Shelf Life —Maddie McEwen



Brad outlined his best-selling manuscript with military precision.

Blog Posts:

SBW Authors and Books

by Linda Judd

Post: "TalkBooks Interview with Doctor Jac," 6/29/2015

Blog: Chessdesalls.wordpress.com

Tip: Page down to the post or search the site using "Doctor Jac"

Features: SBW writer Jac Fitzenz and his book *Rough Waters*

Excerpt: "The book seems to have three distinct parts: Michael grew up in a small town; he falls in with Navy intelligence; he struggles for years to find true love. What is the most important theme in your book? I have rewritten the story regarding Navy intelligence as *The Spy from Nowhere*. The memoir will be treated differently." More online.

Note: This is a sample format to use for reporting blog posts written by or featuring a member of SBW. This month's contribution is from the TalkBooks Group's growing collection of interviews of South Bay Writers and discussions of their books. Tell us about members' blog posts that you find interesting and related to writing. —WT

Do Angels Exist?

Continued from Page 8

The first thing the angel did was inform me that the password was the same as my Apple ID.

Who knew? I felt so stupid. The angel, in female form, told me not to, that lots of people didn't know. High-tech angels never judge. She led me sweetly through the backup phase involving many complex, anti-intuitive steps. She launched me into download and when that was well underway gently hung up. The update took the whole afternoon. And every time Apple released a new update, I had to call Verizon angels again because the iTunes steps kept changing. But the angels never failed me.

My angels also teach me deep spiritual lessons. When I decided to get Wi-Fi at home so I would no longer have to update my iPhone using iTunes, I called Verizon to find out where to start.

"What kind of router do you have?" the angel asked.

"AT&T 2-Wire," I answered.

"The wireless component of 2-Wire is Wi-Fi," she said with infinite patience. "You already have it." I had had everything I needed all along—I just didn't know it! If that isn't spiritual, tell me what is.

You see, my router's wireless component had been unstable ten years before, when I first installed it. The connection would crash constantly and I finally just hooked up my PC via cable. That worked so well I kept it that way, and eventually forgot I even had wireless.

Until my sweet angel revealed it.

So when the next iPhone software version was released I serenely plugged my phone into the charger and downloaded the software package before bed. Bless Wi-Fi! First thing in the morning I woke the phone up and saw a lovely message that the software had been successfully installed. Hallelujah!

Recently I purchased a new PC from Best Buy and added a year of Geek Squad service to my angel team. I'm now complete, with all the guidance I could possibly need. My angels are always there.

At times I long to see them, but I know I can't right now. I can see only the telephone through which I make contact with them. I'm patient, though. I know it will happen, when I finally lay my earthly garment down and float up to the iCloud. Then we'll all have a Meetup, and we shall see face to face. —WT

Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell
Contributing Editor

Some contests with fall deadlines

Writers Digest Popular Fiction Awards:

Early-Bird Deadline: September 15; Final deadline, October 15, 2015. Entries \$20 early, \$25 later. Short stories: 4000 words or fewer. Romance, Thriller, Crime, Horror, Science Fiction, YA. Enter at writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/popular-fiction-awards

Check out other contests from *Writers Digest* (Poetry and Short Short coming up in October and November) as well.

13th Annual American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest:

Still time to get in on this one. Final deadline: September 14, 2015.

Winning scripts will be considered for film option and development by leading production companies. For details, see zoetrope.com/contests/

September Freestyle Writing Contest: Brilliant Flash Fiction

Original, unpublished elsewhere; 600 words or fewer; no entry fee. Deadline: September 15, 2015. Email submissions to brilliantflashfiction@gmail.com

Prizes: 50 euro first prize; 25 euro second; 15 euro third. See brilliantflashfictionmag.wordpress.com/2015/06/26/freestyle-writing-competition/

Two “Highly Recommended” contests from Winning Writers:

- **L. Ron Hubbard’s Writers of the Future Contest: Short Fiction.** Quarterly prizes \$1,000; deadlines March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. More information at writersofthefuture.com/Contest-Rules-Writers/
- **Life Lessons Essay Contest: Memoir.** Deadline: September 21. Free contest gives \$3,000 and publication in the lifestyles magazine *Real Simple* for personal essays up to 1,500 words. 2015 theme: “What single decision changed your life?” See details at realsimple.com/magazine-more/inside-website/contests-sweepstakes/life-lessons-essay-contest-rules

Walt Whitman Poetry Award:

\$5,000 first book publication prize, all expenses paid six-week residency at the Civitella Ranieri Center in the Umbrian region of Italy, and distribution of winning book to thousands of Academy of American Poets members. Collection must not have been previously published. Submissions accepted online only September 1 through November 1 each year. Entry fee: \$35. See guidelines at www.poets.org/academy-american-poets/walt-whitman-award-guidelines

Find many other contests at winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests. For poetry contests, try poetrysociety.org/psa/poetry/resources/poetrycontests/ and visit Poets & Writers at pw.org/grants for lots more!

Live Canon 2015 International Poetry Competition

Deadline: September 6. First prize: £1000. Still time, if you hurry to read the information found on their website: livecanon.co.uk/poetry-competition

24-Hour Short Story Contest: Fall, 2015

The 24-Hour Short Story Contest from WritersWeekly.com opens on September 19. You must sign up **before** they announce the topic, and then you have 24 hours to write it. Lots of fun and lots of prizes: details on their website.

In every case, check the website and follow all rules carefully. If you hear about an intriguing contest, market, or event, please share at newsletter@southbaywriters.com And if you have a winning entry, please report your triumph to us for Member News. — 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 – 1200 words
Memoir, 500 – 1200 words
Essay/Nonfiction, 500 – 900 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. Judges will not judge a genre in which their work currently appears.

* Eligibility for the *WritersTalk* Challenge is limited to members of the South Bay Branch of the California

Calling All Memoir Writers!

Pacific Grove’s weekly newspaper, *The Cedar Street Times*, is looking for true-life stories, 500-750 words, for the “Keepers of Our Culture” column. Author gets a blurb, including link to website, blog or Amazon sales page. Submit as Word.doc by 15th of each month to pacificgrove-joyce@gmail.com (Editor for Park Place Publications) — WT

Faux Senryu for Astronauts

The whole point of NASA
is not to find space aliens,
but create them.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen



Beta Reader Listing

You have finished a writing project. It's had the benefit of critique and careful copy editing. But is it a good read?

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 does not copyedit—his only interest is story.

The Beta Reader Listing gives names and contact information of those willing to read. To be listed here, send your interest in participation in an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.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

Mike Freda: anything; fiction preferred
freda.mike@gmail.com

Patrick McQueen: any genre
droidpat@gmail.com

Reader and author will establish all of the details between themselves. *WritersTalk* and the SBW will provide only the listing information. —WT

Plan Ahead

SF Writers Conference

2016 San Francisco Writers Conference, February 11 – 16, Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. www.SFWriters.org

San Mateo County Fair

June, 2016. Deadline for entries for literary division is always March 31. They take short stories, memoir, essays, poetry. Read about the 2015 fair at sanmateocountyfair.com



SBW presents ...

Michael Bracken Workshop

Jump start your fiction

Saturday, November 14

See article on Page 7

CWC Around the Bay

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

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

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

Fremont Area: 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 120, Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conferences & Workshops

Central Coast Writers Conference, September 18 – 20

The Central Coast Writer's Conference. will be held at Pismo Beach: September 18 – 20, 2015. Multiple-creators panel, nine tracks, fifty-five workshops, booths. Go to cuesta.edu/communityprograms/writersconference

Central Coast Book and Authors' Fair. Pismo Beach, September 20. Go to CentralCoastBookAndAuthorFair.blogspot.com

Notes: Pismo Beach is 200 miles (three hours) from Santa Clara. Team up with someone to share driving and hotel expenses. Treat yourself to a super weekend.

Horror Book Festival, October 3, 2015

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club will present the second annual Horror Book Festival at the Courtyard Marriott, 9619 Mariposa Road, Hesperia, California on Saturday, October 3rd from 2 to 5 pm. Admission is \$8.00.

Julie Adams, who starred in many horror films; E. Van Lowe, author of *Child's Play* and *Never Slow Dance with a Zombie*; Roberta Smith, *The Accordo* and *Dreamer of Downing Street*; and Michael Raff, *Scare Tactics* and *Seven: Tales of Terror*, will have their books available for sale and autographs. The Creature of the Black Lagoon will make an appearance.

Published writers in the horror/supernatural genre are invited to be on hand and sell their books. The fee for a limited number of half tables is \$20.00—must register in advance. Please visit horrorbookfest.com for details on the event.

Memoir Writers Conference, October 23 – 25, 2015

Produced by West Coast Writers Conferences. Learn how to author a memoir, autobiography, or biography that the widest audience will want to read. Discover the secrets of how to organize your story ideas; how to research and write an effective nonfiction book; how to write a true story without legal entanglements; how to write a book proposal; how to pitch a publisher; plus much more. Seminars, workshops, panels, and pitch sessions. Meet with literary agents and publishers looking for new talent. Visit wcwriters.com/genrela

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
		1	2	3	4 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	5			
6	7 1:30P Mystery Circle 2P Valley Writers	8	9 7:30P SBW Board Meeting	10 Noon Riders Do Right	11	12 Powwow 1:30 PM Editors of <i>WritersTalk</i>			
13 10:00A Our Voices	14 2P Valley Writers 6P SBW General Meeting , Harry's	15 7:30 PM SBW UNDERGROUND Deadline October <i>WritersTalk</i>	16	17	18 7:30P Open mic Wil- low Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	19			
20	21 2P Valley Writers	22	23	24	25	26			
27 10:00A Our Voices	28 2P Valley Writers	29 TalkShop 7 PM	30 TalkBooks 7:30PM	<div>September 2015</div>					
Future Flashes							Next general meeting: Monday, October 12.		

Ongoing Events

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 at 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, 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

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

Your Critique Group

For consideration, send information to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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

Ongoing discussion groups

TalkShop: Discuss topics of interest to writers—challenges, problems, and tips. Meets last Tuesdays, 7 pm. Contact Carole Taub at 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

TalkBooks: New SBW discussion group focusing on books written by our SBW members. We will read and discuss books written by SBW members. Meets last Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. For information, send email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Poetry Readings

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

Poetry Center San Jose: Meets at Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, Third Thursdays, 7 pm. poetrycentersanjose.org 408-808-3045

Words Drawing Music: Ongoing open mic opportunity at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street, on second Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. Information at workssanjose.org

SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
P.O. Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055
www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

South Bay Writers
September Regular Meeting
6 p.m. Monday, September 14

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

Poem Your Way to the Finish Line

Dr. Elaine Brady
September 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.