



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 24  
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May 2016

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

MAY SPEAKER: ROBERT BALMANNO

## The Meet and Greet

Make the most of your experience to experience the most

by Jenni Everidge

All authors have fantasized about swarms of fans who will read their books and shower them with compliments. But little do we know what that “meet and greet” scenario may actually look like. What if it means a mob of angry faces at a bookstore waiting to tell you how much they hate your main character? What if you get up in front of them and have nothing to say?



Robert Balmanno

If you have published a novel and your PR comes back to you about potential events and “meet and greets,” how do you feel? Are you eager to shake the hands of your loyal fans, or does the concept of meeting strangers who have read your work make you break out in hives? What’s it like to schedule an event and speak at one? Should you discuss your writing process, chat about your inspiration, or just read chapters 2 and 3?

On May 9, SBW member Bob Balmanno, with over 225 “meet and greet” events under his belt, will regale us with his experiences and answer your questions while he entertains us with Do’s and Don’ts for a good “meet and greet.” He’ll discuss the process of working with PR and small publishers. He will bring a plethora of information our way, here for the taking!

Robert Balmanno has written fiction for 38 years, and during the last 30 of those years, he worked as a library specialist in a public library in Silicon Valley. Balmanno has published three novels: *September Snow*, *Runes of Iona*, and *Embers of the Earth*. He is now continuing his Blessings of Gaia series with *Auger’s Touchstone*, the fourth novel in this futuristic, dystopian quartet.

Be sure to join us at Harry’s Hofbrau, 6 p.m. on Monday, May 9. —WT

RECAP: AMANDA MCTIGUE WORKSHOP

## Amplify Your Voices

by Marjorie Johnson

When the agent says, “No voice here,” he means something’s missing, something important; the piece is too generic or lacks energy. Amanda McTigue says what matters most in writing is voice.

So what the heck is voice and how do we create it?

Amanda McTigue, in her April 16 workshop, “The IT Factor,” answered those questions with “juicy answers” of her own as she helped us to shift focus, “to crack that voice open” — truly mind-expanding experiences.

APRIL RECAP: KEVIN FISHER-PAULSON

## Honor your Truth

by Sheena Arora

“What is the truth?” he asked loudly. “It is a fact of life that we embrace.” Kevin Fisher-Paulson, our April guest speaker, softened his tone. Kevin is a father, husband, poet, author, and the Captain of the Honor Guard for the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department.



Kevin Fisher-Paulson

Kevin talks about his Irish Catholic grandmother who broke early 20th century barriers by marrying a protestant man. His grandparents compromised on how to raise their children: Kevin’s grandfather would name them; Kevin’s grandmother would raise them as Catholic. As a result, Kevin’s mother was named Vivian but was baptized as Ruth. His mother learned her legal name when she applied for a nursing certificate. “That is when,” Kevin says, “my mother chose to continue identifying herself as Nurse Vivian.”

Kevin emphasizes that is where the crux of a memoir lies: Truth is a fact that we embrace. The job of a memoir writer is to be interesting by dramatizing life but never by fabricating the truth. He reiterates that a memoir is not a work of fiction. To dramatize doesn’t mean that you can invent things. He cautions us not to erase the bad parts of our life while writing a memoir. He explains that by just listing the facts, a memoir will read like an autobiography. Remember that the trick to writing a memoir is to give readers what they want to read.

Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 6

# President's Perspective

by Patrick McQueen  
President, South Bay Writers

## Member Involvement



Let's be honest for a moment. There have been a few obstructions to club participation in the past. While I'm not about to call perfect those of us in leadership positions today, we've cleared out quite a few of the obstacles this year, and people are starting to feel more comfortable participating with the leadership of this club once again. Even as a writer, I struggle to put into words how happy that makes me. Thank you so much for your participation!

We had a great turnout and a lot of fun while learning about amplifying our voices with Amanda McTigue during our workshop on April 16. We have an enthusiastic team of ten club members reviewing and editing nearly 30 submissions to the one-dollar prompt. At least one member is running for each position on the board of directors for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Renewals for next year's membership are already coming in. Overall, it's a wonderful time to be a part of South Bay Writers!

Below are a few upcoming events members of the club have brought to my attention. I'm not specifically endorsing these events, but I am endorsing the determination of the individuals who reached out to me to tell me about them.

Pamela Oliver-Lyons diligently sought multiple members of South Bay Writers to lead sessions of her Italian American Memoir Writing series for women. On May 21, I have been invited to introduce and represent South Bay Writers to the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF). If you are interested in more information about IAHF, reach out to them at [iahfsj@iahfsj.org](mailto:iahfsj@iahfsj.org).

Audry Lynch approached me during the April dinner meeting and asked me to call her as soon as I got a chance. We spoke Thursday evening on the telephone for twenty minutes, sharing stories and pleasant memories of our club. She wanted me to tell you about the 2016 International Steinbeck Conference and the 35th Annual Steinbeck Festival.

The 2016 International Steinbeck Conference will be held in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Library at San José State University on May 4 - 6. More information is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/steinbeck/conference/#registration>. The 35th Annual Steinbeck Festival takes place May 6 - 8 at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. Please visit their website for more information: <http://www.steinbeck.org/events/2016-steinbeck-festival> —WT

### And now — the anthology reminder

Be sure to submit a Perils of Progress novella (10,000 - 25,000 words) — deadline May 31 — to [prompts@southbaywriters.com](mailto:prompts@southbaywriters.com). Check our website for details.

### INSIDE

View from the Board: S. Arora	4	So Here I Come: W. A. Baldwin	5
2016-17 SBW Board Candidates	4	S V Comic-Con: V. E. Frankel	8
Lost Jade of the Maya: M. Johnson	5	Sci-Fi Gala in LA: J. Shernock	9
Spellbound: C. Desalls	5	Off the Shelf Cartoon: E. Matthews	9
Heart Adventures, PuppyGirl: B. Johns	5	Bicycles: K. Hartley	10
May Member News	5	The Work: K. Franzenburg	10
May Terse on Verse: P. Bustamante	11	Letter to Editor: S. Wetlesen	11
For Nonfiction Writers: M. Johnson	12	Letter to Editor: Jac Fitz-enz	11
Contests and Markets: C. Donnell	13	An Occurrence: J. Everidge	11
SBW TalkBooks	14	Shelf Life Cartoon: M. McEwen	13
		Freshly Ground: R. A. Burns	13

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

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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](http://southbaywriters.com)



## WritersTalk

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

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Sally Milnor  
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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. The Managing Editor decides which submissions to publish.

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Suggested word limits are not absolute; shorter preferred. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files.

**Anything Goes—Almost** (300 words)

**News Items** (400 words)

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

### 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.

Authors retain all rights to their works. *WritersTalk* gratefully acknowledges the authors' permission to publish their works here. Contact individual authors for permission to reprint.

### Our Mission

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

**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com or use MRMS

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# Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## On Apathy: Aesop for Writers

The works of Aesop, a fabulist, have words of wisdom for everyone. Children love the repetition in those classic tales, but writers cluck and shake their heads. This retelling of an Aesop's fable is for writers, even though there will be more telling than showing.

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen. She lived on a farm with her good friends the lazy dog, the sleepy cat, and the noisy yellow duck.

One day the little red hen found some wheat seeds on the ground. She had an idea—she would plant the seeds.

The little red hen asked her friends, "Who will help me plant the seeds?"

"Not I," barked the lazy dog.

"Not I," purred the sleepy cat.

"Not I," quacked the noisy yellow duck.

Then I will," said the little red hen. So she planted the seeds all by herself. She watered and weeded and ate any bugs that bothered her plants.

When the seeds were grown, the little red hen asked her friends, "Who will help me cut the wheat?" Their replies were exactly as told above.

When the wheat was cut, the little red hen asked, "Who will help me take the wheat to the mill to be ground into flour?" Of course, she got the same help as before.

"Then I will." She brought the wheat to the mill all by herself, ground the wheat into flour, and carried the heavy sack of flour back to the farm. The tired little red hen then asked, "Who will help me bake the bread?"

No volunteers.

So the little red hen baked the bread all by herself. When the bread was finished, she asked her friends, "Who will help me eat the bread?"

"I will!" barked the lazy dog, purred the sleepy cat, and quacked the noisy yellow duck.

"No! I will." And the little red hen ate the bread, sharing only with her chicks.

Aesop's moral: If any would not work, neither should he eat.

South Bay Writers' moral: Surely you are not the lazy dog, the sleepy cat, or the noisy yellow duck. You could volunteer to help our executive board.

The little red hen didn't let her friends' apathy kill her spirit—she moved on to better things. But apathy kills a writers' club. —WT

## Something for Everyone

April was poetry month, and November was NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month. We published poems from 21 poets last month, and many articles for novelists have appeared in *WT*. That is because half of SBW members claim to be writing a novel and another quarter of us give poetry as a genre. This month, we have included some ideas for writers of nonfiction on Page 12. We note that November is also National Nonfiction Writing Month.



## View from the Board

by Sheena Arora

On Tuesday, April 5, nine SBW board members met in San Jose: President Patrick McQueen, Vice-President Jenni Everidge, Secretary Sherrie Johnson, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Member-at-Large Sheena Arora, Hospitality Chair Carole Taub, Publicity Chair Linda Myro Judd, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, and Membership Chair Sally Milnor. ArLyne Diamond, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave a report. Kymberlie Ingalls, Carolyn Donnell, and Alfred Jan also participated.



- **Elections** are just around the corner. Give back to your community and volunteer in any capacity. Serve as a SBW board member or assist the board members. Contact ArLyne Diamond, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, in person or email at arlyne@diamondassociates.net
- Remember to submit to the **vignettes writing prompt** before April 30. Check our website [www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com) for details.
- The SBW board is looking for a **Web Editor** and **representatives** for CWC NorCal and CWC Central Board. For details about these positions, contact President Patrick McQueen or Vice-President Jenni Everidge. You can email them at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) or [vp@southbaywriters.com](mailto:vp@southbaywriters.com)
- The SBW Board has chosen the 2016 winners of the **Matthews-Baldwin Award**. To be announced soon.

Meet the SBW Board at our next meeting at 7 pm on May 3 at Lyon's Restaurant, 4233 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose. Our board meetings are open to all SBW club members. Find us at Harry's or email us at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com).

Lyon's Restaurant is a hit! Visitors like the food and love our company. We are happy to see new faces at every meeting. We meet in the downstairs room, so come and join us. There is enough space and food to accommodate all. —WT

## Special Prize

A special prize will be awarded to a lucky SBW member who has renewed for 2016-17 by 7 pm, May 9.

## 2016-2017 Candidates SBW Board

### Linda Myro Judd Candidate for President

When operating in a leadership role, I always work with people and bring in others to assist in accomplishing the desired goals. For a year preceding the *Timecon* sci-fi convention I served as Writers' Chair with one assistant. I consulted with the participating writers, then created and organized writers' panels and readings. My efforts were appreciated by all 50 writers, and more than 4,000 members attended the convention.

### Suman Ganapathy Candidate for Secretary

I have a lot of experience volunteering at my children's schools: PTA, Music Boosters, Athletic Boosters and Foundations. In addition to chairing various committees, over the past 15 years I have held the following Board positions: Garden Gate Elementary School PTA Secretary and President; Lawson Middle School PTA Secretary and Parliamentarian; Cupertino-Fremont Council of PTAs Historian, President, VP Leadership, and Parliamentarian; Monta Vista High School PTA President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian; and Monta Vista High Music Boosters, Secretary.

I am passionately committed to helping out wherever I can. I would be honored to be of service to South Bay Writers as your Board Secretary.

### Kymberlie Ingalls Candidate Member-at-Large

I am a dual member of South Bay Writers and the Berkeley Branch, California Writers Club, where I have served as President this past year. I have attended several SBW Board meetings and would like to continue in an official capacity.

### Sheena Arora Candidate Member-at-Large

I have served as SBW Member-at-Large for one year, and I write "View from the Board" for *WritersTalk*. Also, I am part of the editor's staff for *WritersTalk*. I am ready to continue.

### Sandi Taylor Candidate Member-at-Large

No statement.

### Pamela Oliver-Lyons Candidate for Vice President

I attended the April SBW meeting looking for a good meal, writer contacts, and an interesting writer's presentation; the club was recruiting Board members. I wasn't interested until I heard the duties of the Vice President were to make contacts with other clubs, writers, speakers, and work on events. That sounded right up my alley.

I have had the best times of my life as a Board Member leading the Italian American Heritage Foundation's (IAHF) 2014 Scholarship Program team, revitalizing the IAHF library, and reaching out to elderly Italian Americans in a local nursing home. I chaired the 2015 IAHF Festa's Cultural Children's and Family Theater which brought in local and bilingual authors, their ages ranging from 11 to 92. This year I started the 2016 Italian American Families in Conversation at the IAHF.

I am excited about the possibility of joining the new SBW leadership team, if elected as the next Vice President. I know I will enjoy working to bring speakers and events to enrich us all in our upcoming year of writing successes.

### Bill Baldwin Candidate for Treasurer

I have already served as Treasurer for two years, learned a lot, and even enjoyed my duties. I can add and subtract, balance our bank accounts, and remember when to pay bills and report our finances to the state-level California Writers Club.



## It's Time to Renew

Your membership in South Bay Writers expires on June 30, 2016. To renew for 2016-17, please pay \$45 by check at the SBW meeting May 9 or pay online at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com) —WT

## Book Announcements

### *Lost Jade of the Maya*

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

*Lost Jade of the Maya* is my third novel. I crafted the story after extensive research, including visits to Mayan lands. Linda Judd designed the awesome book cover.

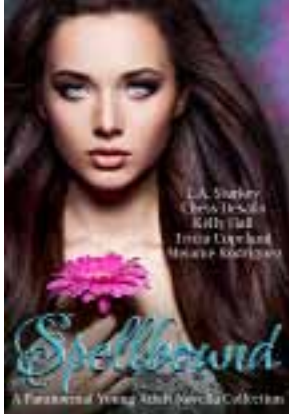
Chanla Pesh, university lecturer and secret Mayan shaman, embarks on a perilous journey to find the source of the sacred jade her ancestors prized, an unsolved archaeological mystery for 500 years. Pesh uses her jade jaguar talisman and its powers in her search—but angers Cimil and the gods of the underworld Xibalba. Jade, more valuable than gold to the ancient Maya, attracts modern-day greedy thugs. Cimil torments her and a crime lord targets her. To discover the site of the lost Mayan jade, she must appease the gods and avoid criminal gangs in the jungles of Guatemala. Available on Amazon in late May. —WT



### *Spellbound*

A Paranormal Young Adult Novella Collection

by Chess Desalls



Chess Desalls will release a new novella this summer as part of the anthology, *Spellbound*. In her story, *Glistens*, Marian Spritz won't gain guardian fairy status if she fails her summer school project. But when she hears a call for help—a song felt only by *Glistens*—she must choose between not letting her schoolwork and teammates suffer and protecting a ward who faces grave danger. The expected release date is May 31, with pre-orders starting on May 3. —WT



### So Here I Come

So here I come, bouncing across the sand  
On flying crutches, like some strange bird  
With sticks for wings, rushing to catch you,  
Frantic with longing; laughing, shouting.  
Haven't seen you lately, can't let you get away.  
I need you, you know; I need you desperately.

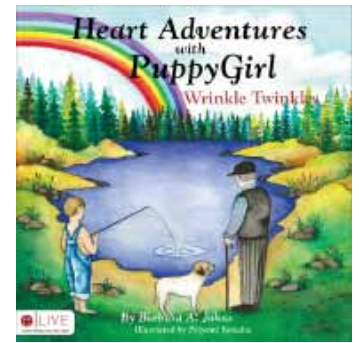
—William Albert Baldwin

### *Heart Adventures with PuppyGirl: Wrinkle Twinkles*

by Barbara A. Johns

Come along with PuppyGirl and BigBestFriend as they share an adventure of the heart with the Wrinkle Twinkles. Do you know any Wrinkle Twinkles? Let JesusSaviorFriend explain why they are special to God's heart and how YOU can be God's arms of love to help them remember joy!

*Wrinkle Twinkles* is the second book in the *Heart Adventures with PuppyGirl* series. *The Lake*, the first book, was released in 2014 by Tate Publishing. As a Lifetime Author, Barbara plans to release *Rock Gardens* and *Nobby Star* in early 2017.



*Heart Adventures with PuppyGirl* books foster family “together life” with interactive stories and projects to remember teachings of Christian morals to make the world a kinder place to live. [www.adventureswithpuppygirl.com](http://www.adventureswithpuppygirl.com) —WT



## May Member News

**Betty Auchard's** recent interview with Matilda Butler, creator of [womensmemoirs.com](http://womensmemoirs.com), is <http://womensmemoirs.com/memoir-writing/interview-with-author-betty-auchard-free-giveaway/> Betty is the author of *Dancing in My Nightgown*, *Home for the Friendless*, and *Living with 12 Men*.

**Valerie Frankel** and **Dave Strom** were on an author's panel at the SVComic Con. Story on page 8.

Two new releases on March 17 from **Valerie Estelle Frankel**: *Shadowhunters & Myths: Discovering the Legends Behind The Mortal Instruments* and *Chosen One: The Heroine's Journey of Katniss, Elsa, Tris, Bella, and Rey*. Both on Kindle.

One of **Linda Judd's** story entries is moving on to final judging in the WOW! Women On Writing: Winter 2016 Flash Fiction Contest. She is in the top 50 of more than 200 entrants. Linda's contest entries can be found on her blog WritersJacket <https://lindyjudd.wordpress.com/>. Quarterly contests from WOW! at [www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php](http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php).

Coming soon: *Faith and Moonlight: Part 2* by **Joe King** and **Mark Gelineau**. Release date Amazon Kindle, May 15. —WT



## Honor Your Truth

*Continued from Page 1*

Ask yourself, will a reader be more interested in reading about the cat lady next-door or about Barack Obama?

Kevin underlines that all of us have a unique story. The way we organize our words would ultimately make them stand out. He compares memoir writing to a pilgrimage—a journey where memoir writers discover their own identity and truth. He recounts, “I am a white gay man with an adoptive black child.” He explains that he is both Kevin Fisher-Paulson and Kevin Paulson. But he needed to decide the identity that he relates to, because our memoir is not only how we remember our life, but also an embracement of how all of us are different things.

He informs us that his current memoir is one year, 365 days, of his life. After reading an excerpt from his book *A Song for Lost Angels*, Kevin outlines an easy method to start a memoir. He asks future memoir writers to keep a dirty notebook (emphasis on ‘dirty’) on their bedside, to wake fifteen minutes earlier than their usual time, to write in the dirty notebook for fifteen minutes, and to do this every day. Kevin promises that at the end of the year, aspiring memoir writers would have a memoir just like his.

Along with class exercises and anecdotes, Kevin provided the following ten rules for memoir writers.



Edie Matthews with Kevin Fisher-Paulson  
—Photo by Carolyn Donnell

### Rules for Memoir Writers:

- Rule one: Never say no to a reasonable request from a fellow writer.
- Rule two: Dare to be worthy. In other words, find moments in your life and make your life story interesting.
- Rule three: Write for fifteen minutes, at least two pages, every day first thing in the morning. Write anything; do this for 90 days, and read through after 90 days. You will find your memoir somewhere in those pages.
- Rule four: Leap and a peculiar word will appear. To achieve that, first, write about the oddest moment of your life; second, write about the article of clothing you associate with that moment.
- Rule five: Keep no secrets. Take a risk.
- Rule six: See how the world gives you meaning. Look around you, talk to people who know you. Connect their stories to your life.
- Rule seven: Jump right in. Start the book with a crisis or the most horrible day of your life. Raise the stakes throughout, but don’t resolve them until the end of the book.
- Rule eight: Don’t put lipstick on a pig. Don’t glamorize; always tell the truth, whether you win or lose. Here is Kevin’s aid: first, write the saddest moment of your life; second, write the piece of music you associate with that moment.
- Rule nine: Practice your memoir. Tell the story repeatedly.
- Rule ten: Choose the truth you like best.

In his parting words, Kevin differentiates between musicians, artists, and writers. He points out that musicians sit under a rock and artists lock themselves in a room. Whereas compared to them, writers socialize. Ah, ha: now I understand why I attend SBW dinner meetings!

You can email Kevin at [Kevin@twopennypress.org](mailto:Kevin@twopennypress.org) or tweet him @kipcap1213.

If you didn’t hear Kevin in person, you can still participate in his homework assignment: Write three pages on how you got your tattoo. Or if you don’t have a tattoo, write about your favorite scar. —WT



Amanda McTigue

—Photo by Carolyn Donnell

## Amplify Your Voices

*Continued from Page 1*

Amanda had us begin by describing the room at Harry’s to diverse audiences, certainly a different description when addressing a Bedouin tribesman than when talking to a Victorian-age matron. But voice is more than the narrator or the protagonist speaking; we must ask, who is listening?

Instead of *to whom are you writing?* try asking yourself, *to whom are you talking?* Each of your characters has a different voice, and each sentence you write should be framed with your listener in mind.

Amanda had many exercises accompanied by imagination-provoking images as well as music and sounds. Listing them all here would remove the magic of Amanda’s voice.

Everything speaks; everything has a story; everything has a voice. The grandfather clock standing next to the brick fireplace knows a story. The weather advises the mood. Even the setting speaks if you listen. Amanda suggested we ask the place to tell a joke and advised us to “Tell it slant.” (Tell it from an angle, slant the telling.) Ask questions, the oddest question in the world.”

Amanda energized us while expanding our imaginations. The charming picture of her sitting on the table was taken at a rare moment when she was not in motion.

Did we enjoy Amanda McTigue’s presentation? Did we come away with new ideas, ready to write? You bet! —WT



South Bay Writers Meeting April 11, 2016

— Photos by Carolyn Donnell



# Paneling at a Comic-Con: One Author's Weekend

by Valerie Estelle Frankel

Before we get started, that was *a* Comic-Con, not *the* Comic-Con. *The* Comic-Con is in San Diego each year with 120,000 attendees and famous for the insane lines and crowds. This was the first Silicon Valley Comic Con, sponsored by Steve Wozniack and held at the San Jose Convention Center. They expected 30,000 people, and I was speaking twice.

During the course of the crazy weekend, I chatted with several authors and they all asked how I got to speak. I told them: I watched the website, and when it said it was accepting panel proposals, I assembled friends and sent in 13 proposed panels with 15 interested panelists. Of course, they had over 200 proposals submitted. After scheduling the really famous people they accepted maybe...20? So to make it, a panel had to be something special. That said, there were about five on how to write this or that; strong women, diversity, comics. Thus the writers who really aren't movie stars did get their shot.

My talk on the heroine's journey was accepted. Not a big shock: it's very popular and something unusual and highly desired in fandom. Less than a week before the con, my super-heroines panel was accepted to fill in the rather unscheduled Friday.



Captain Midnight and Valerie Frankel

The super-heroines panel went well: me, my dad, and four first-time panelists, including our own Dave Strom. We all had different interests and presented a friendly, polite panel. Our room was pretty filled, but not squished. After, in a bit of a party mood, we all went to see William Shatner speak. We had to sit toward the back but we all got in without the massive line. We saw movie trailers after.

Saturday was a mess. At 10:15, there was no parking for blocks. I parked about five away; my handicapped dad gave up and went home. Downtown San Jose will let you park for \$5 a day on the weekend, and some shops validate, but the close-up parking is \$20 a day. There's a light rail and other options, but on Saturday, downtown was straining at the seams.

That day, I saw two celebrities speak (Nathan Fillion and Jeremy Renner). Each had sweaty, crowded half-hour lines (well, bunched up lines more like a geeky overheated mob all on cell phones) outside the massive room one. Though granted, if one came late, there were still seats. However, Nichelle Nichols, in one of the smaller rooms, became overfilled and closed. The next day, the *Big Bang* writers' panel was the same. The little rooms really became a toss-up on whether you'd get in at all. Food and bathrooms lines were doable, though again, long. Saturday registration was so bad that if I hadn't had a badge I would've given up. And the bit where we needed to scan our badges in and out of the exhibitor room area got irritating fast. Like with airport security, I'd often be trapped behind slow people with three confused kids. And each time my dad wanted a soda, I had to tag in and tag out once more.

The exhibitor room, where people sell crafts, books, and other fan goodies, had such a line to get in that I ran off in terror Saturday morning. I braved it at 3pm when it had cleared out some, though still crowded and hot. The room was huge, welcoming crafters, indie comic producers and artists, and fascinating companies. There were small lines, but quite workable ones. In the middle were six couches—nice, but not enough for 30,000 people and not reserved for those with special needs. Tech demos also developed long lines by noon.

I admired many amazing costumes and took some selfies with wax figurines. And I caught glimpses of the TV stars, though approaching them to say hello or get an autograph or photo had an additional charge. I viewed lots of fannish jewelry and art as well as several exciting products such as the robot pressing pancakes into fannish shapes and the sci-fi publisher reprinting vanished classics. A couple of my friends were handing out sci-fi classics in an outreach program.

Next year, I plan on getting a table: better to put the mob to good use buying my books than getting squished by them. This time around, the artists' alley tables in the exhibitors' room were sold out. I was on a wait list, but nothing came of it.

Sunday I returned at nine, taking no chances—early, plenty of parking. A friend and I did the heroine's journey talk. All the king's horses and all the king's men took 45 minutes to get the power point with its video clips working, so we started a bit late. While I could vamp indefinitely, I think the crowd would've preferred we get on with our talk instead of squishing up the end, but the Con was too scheduled to go over our time. After, I saw Stan Lee speak, then the cast of *Con Man*. Both times I waited in line for a good seat, though I admit I didn't need to since I wasn't lining up to ask a question. I made another pass through the exhibitors' hall, then told it goodbye forever—until next year.

Hall costumes were amazing (this means just ordinary fans choosing to dress up, in contrast with costume contest entries). Too many Reys, Wonder Women, Deadpools, and *Firefly* characters to count, along with every other genre imaginable. You could see Storm talking with Merida or Circe paling around with Batman. Steve Wozniack arrived escorted by a dozen storm troopers and the fun kept coming. Everyone was there, from the *Ghostbusters* to No-Face from *Spirited Away* and Falcor from *Neverending Story*. The young women dressed as Mordor and Hobbiton were quite clever, as was Gandalf with a stop sign, telling people who could pass. The fans were polite and friendly, eager in fact to take my photo, wearing my five-foot witch hat.

*Continued on Page 10*



## Sci-Fi Gala in L.A.

by Judith Shernock

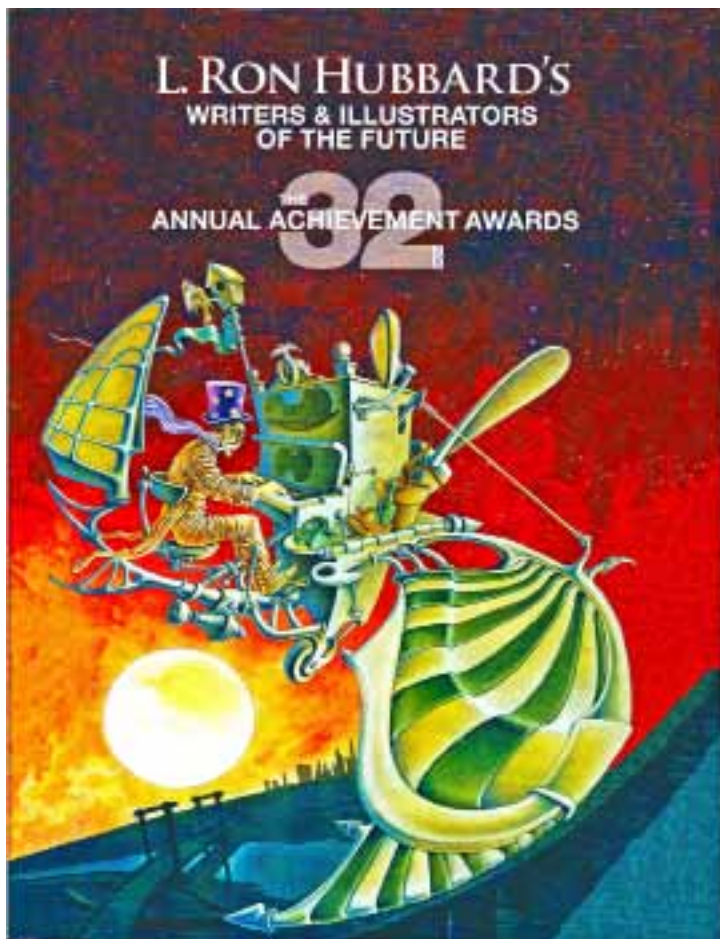
Formal or Steampunk was written on my impressive invitation to the Sci-Fi Gala. What should I wear? What is Steampunk? How would I fit into this fancy event?

These questions and many more were whirling around in my mind upon receiving the invite. Unsure of what my next step should be, I called the number of the producer, Joni LaBanqui of Galaxy Press. She explained that my story wasn't up for a prize for 2016 but would be a contender for the 2017 awards, and that I should attend this year to get an idea what a gala with eleven hundred people from fifty countries would be like.

I told her I was a member of the California Writers Club, but she had never heard of our organization. Joni said that L.A. had its own organization of over one thousand writers. Among her wise suggestions was that we get to the Ebell Theatre early to get a good seat. There was free valet parking.

The day my husband and I left for the trip, rain poured down on our car like the proverbial deluge. The weather on the Grapevine almost stopped the cars that were crawling along at the slowest pace possible. This could not bode well for the whole event.

Nevertheless Sunday evening came around, and we dressed in our rather simple finery. We reached the beautiful theater with the promised valets waiting to whizz away our car. The women wore glittery dresses but the men just suits, not tuxes. We breathed a sigh of relief.



## Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



*My problem: my book was published in Vegas and it stayed in Vegas!*

The folks wearing Steampunk clothes were being photographed by one and all. I had learned that this was a sub-genre of Fantasy: speculative fiction in a quasi-Victorian alternate history setting. "What the past would look like if the future had happened sooner." This incorporates aesthetic design inspired by 19th century industrial steam-powered machinery. If H.G. Wells and Jules Verne were writing today the same stories they wrote in the 19th century, their work would be considered Steampunk.

The doors opened and indeed we got excellent seats. The show began with drums and a dance troop dressed in Steampunk, doing an imitation of the dance group, "STOMP." The stage was beautifully decorated with the logo of L. Ron Hubbard, whose money provided for the show and the prizes. The winning stories and art illustrations, in color, had been published in a book by Galaxy Press.

There were six prizes for writers of the short stories and six prizes for their illustrators. Then the grand prizes for one of the six writers and one of the illustrators were presented. We heard an excellent lecture about the advances in space technology by a woman who had been accepted to be on the first ship to Mars. Though having done vigorous training for the trip, she doubted that the lift off would occur in her lifetime.

This contest received entries from all over the world. The winners came from Australia, Lithuania, Argentina, Mexico, Russia, England, and, of course, the U.S. The president of the foundation announced that this year, for the first time, they had received entries from Syria and Swaziland, and only twenty nations remained from which they had never received at least one story or piece of art.

Who'd have thought that my fantasy story, looking for a place to rest its head, would lead my husband and me to such a fantastic adventure. — WT

## But don't drink the Kool-aid.

*Editor's comment:* L. Ron Hubbard was the founder of the infamous Church of Scientology.

## Comic Con

*Continued from Page 8*

The costume contest, always a staple, boasted many delightful projects. The MC wasn't given all the entries and contestants weren't told they'd get a mic, but exhibits moved quickly and delighted the audience. The superheroes in soda can armor, the tiny children dressed as Supergirl or BB-8, the *Guardians of the Galaxy* group costumes: all were wonderful.

In the end, the con was fun and delightfully fannish but also hot, crowded, and awkwardly organized. Next year it would be nice to see more programming in better-chosen rooms. Nonetheless, it seems likely that either way I'll be back to see it. — WT



Valerie Frankel wearing her five-foot hat



### Bicycles

Brightly colored bicycles  
standing in formation  
The bright afternoon  
sunlight reflects off  
the spokes  
and folks cover their eyes  
against the glare  
Bicycles waiting to be ridden  
for someone to come along  
and remember that thrill  
Brightly colored bicycles  
recalls a vision of speeding  
down a hill  
on the seat of one  
Racing with hands tightly  
clasping the bars  
hoping not to take a spill

### The Work

No more wads of paper  
Overflowing file thirteens  
Save the tree that bore you  
That book will not have your name  
Words form the thoughts of many  
Wrapped in choices of fonts  
Notebooks and laptops will travel  
Making it to new writers and old writers haunts  
Imagination dances to their creative song  
Excitement stirs  
Culminating  
Final draft is complete  
It has taken so long  
Publishers approve  
Selling and signing begins  
Finished  
Is it really  
The end  
No  
Authors and poets are ready  
To start it all again  
— Karen Franzenburg

Then suddenly you  
become aware they're  
tethered with steel cables  
connecting them  
and holding them there  
Wheels all facing the  
same direction  
but oh, just to ride  
one would be such  
perfection

Speed and breeze and air  
your hair blowing free  
you don't have a care  
Then a purple one  
catches your eye and  
you so want to get on and  
fly through the streets  
but no, it's still only  
a memory

So what now?  
You walk away thinking  
of that long ago day  
when you rode freely  
everywhere  
And you smile  
looking back one more time  
at the rainbow of bicycles  
and you realize that now  
your soul has to be satisfied  
with those few moments  
of reflection

— Karen Hartley

### Poetry is a Passion

With me poetry has not been  
a purpose, but a passion.

— Edgar Allan Poe

### Bonnie Blue

Spreading ocean waves  
Bonnie caps of royal blue  
Texas comes alive

— Carolyn Donnell





# May Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante  
Contributing Editor

## May Eye?

Where the words make you weep  
Or run-run to dodge a pun,  
My cure is to sneak or keep  
On that island known as poetry,  
Different from some writing, or should be!  
Write down a story, crown it with glory,  
Forgive me my answer in doggerel,  
Some poems are lost in fog, so I will  
Ask permission, this is my mission!  
I fall in love with every rhymed word.  
Be kind, overlook when I may sound absurd.

— Patricia Bustamante

It's so much fun to column-ize. I jumped into poetry at a very young age. Kids yelled, "alli-alli-aux-in-free!" or sang out in rhythm in hopscotch. There it is: rhyme and rhythm, and "Hello, new words!"

As a writer, one is allowed to create a new word now and then. It's as much fun as creating a new hero or heroine or a villain. That's why it's "creative writing." You are a creator and you are in control. You have the power to make magic. Your created universe is under your control. New worlds, new words: isn't that fun?

I get wonderful feelings from both poetry and fiction. When long, long ago I was being toilet-trained, I sat in bathrooms and sang to myself: "Potty-Do, I love you!" The rhyme as I saw it, then was about "Patty Lou," short for Patricia Louise. Somebody loved me! The obvious double meaning was ... well, you get it. — WT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## On Haiku

by Steve Wetlesen

As to your April 2016 editorial, I'm afraid haiku are a bit more complex than just 5-7-5. Many argue you should refer to a season, though this has now fallen by the wayside in modern Japanese usage since about 1900 or so.

Haiku should strive to depict a moment or paint a word picture. A haiku should NOT tell a whole story. I will close below with a quote from a great master, Buson, also a painter, renowned for the visual artistry of his language, as quoted by Berkeley Professor Robert Hass, in his *Essential Haiku*, Harper Collins, 1994.

Little has changed since the 18th century, when Buson wrote:

"These days [the 1700s], those who dominate the *haikai* [haiku] world peddle their different styles, ridicule and slander everyone else, and puff themselves up with the title of master. They flaunt their wealth, parade their ignorance, and promote them-

## What is Haiku?

Most common is the 5-7-5 Haiku form: 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the next, and 5 in the last, with no specific rhyme or meter.



selves by arranging their students' innumerable wretched verses in anthologies. Those who know better cover their eyes in embarrassment and are ashamed of such behavior."

"Library Orchard" is haiku,

## Library Orchard

Bare apricot trees.  
Infinite mustard flowers.  
Tears for my deep home.

while "After Rene Magritte" is not.

## After Rene Magritte

This is not haiku.  
It is something different –  
name it Paradox.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## An Occurrence

### Between a Beretta and a Birch

You are made of stop  
the stutter in your engine  
faithful to the one who holds your key  
and you enjoy passengers  
so long as they remain in their seats.

I am a waving branch  
a scratch on your windshield  
a sight to behold  
a waking moment  
where our worlds touch  
and you marvel at my willingness  
to grow, to face destruction

While I appreciate how  
the wind flows differently on your face  
the way you move forward  
sitting on tons of moving machinery  
and combustible motion

that will take you further  
than my limbs could hope to bend.

— Jenni Everidge



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## On Haiku

by Jac Fitz-enz

I read your piece on Haiku in *Writers Talk*. Inspiring. It made me look at some haiku I wrote when my son died 20 years ago. There is one for each season.

### Almost Perfect Boy

My beautiful boy  
Lies sleeping in summer's shade  
Why must he die now

### Autumn Alone

Early autumn sky  
Soft clouds cover my sorrow  
Where is my baby?

### Winter Denial

Cold silent graveyard  
Withered grass covers my son  
I miss him too much

### Lifeless Spring

Crocus bloom through snow  
Still I feel so lifeless now  
My son is missing

— Jac Fitz-enz

## For Writers of Nonfiction

by Marjorie Johnson

*Writers Digest*, May/June 2016, describes “101 Best Web-sites for Writers.” For writers of nonfiction, *WD* lists [www.writtenonfictionnow.com](http://www.writtenonfictionnow.com). That web site began in 2011 as a blog to support writers completing a 50,000-word nonfiction manuscript in thirty days, counterpart to the national Novel Writing Month challenge at [NaNoWriMo.org](http://NaNoWriMo.org). They offer nonfiction resources year-around.

Several nonfiction websites made the cut at *WritersDigest*.

- [freelancewritinggigs.com](http://freelancewritinggigs.com): a daily comprehensive stream of freelance listings as well as tips on freelance writing, job hunting, and building your own writing business.
- [freelancewriting.com](http://freelancewriting.com): more than 1,000 articles, tutorials, and videos on freelancing and pitching.
- [pitchtravelwrite.com](http://pitchtravelwrite.com): advice for writers about how to market their story ideas for the travel industry.
- [therenegadewriter.com](http://therenegadewriter.com): unconventional advice about how to succeed as a freelance writer.
- [awriterofhistory.com](http://awriterofhistory.com): blogs about researching, reading, and writing historical fiction.

Resources for bloggers: *Writers Digest*, May/June 2016 has the article, “Blog Your Way to Success,” by Robert Lee Brewer.

SBW member Nina Amir has written *How to Blog a Book* and *The Author Training Manual*, both published by *Writers Digest* Books. Those interested in writing and blogging can subscribe to [www.howtoblogabook.com](http://www.howtoblogabook.com) or to the blog at [www.ninaamir.com](http://www.ninaamir.com).

Writers of memoir may want to check out [gayswithkids.com](http://gayswithkids.com) and [twopennypress.org](http://twopennypress.org), both sites from SBW April speaker, Kevin Fisher-Paulson.

The Great Courses offers *Analysis and Critique: How to Engage and Write about Anything*, Professor Dorsey Armstrong, Purdue University, 24 lectures on DVD: a professional writing course, right there in your living room. You can borrow this excellent course from me; I suggest that you view it with a few other writers one night a week, two lectures at a time. Contact me at [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com). —WT

## Nonfiction Writers Conference

I am reaching out to let South Bay Writers know about the 6th annual Nonfiction Writers Conference, May 4 – 6, 2016. This virtual event features fifteen speakers over three days, all conducted by teleseminar (no travel required!).

As you may have noticed, nonfiction writers are often neglected at writers’ conferences and events, yet our needs are quite different from those writing fiction, poetry, or children’s books. The Nonfiction Writers Conference and The Nonfiction Authors Association aim to bring much-needed support and education to the nonfiction writers community. Visit <http://NonfictionWritersConference.com> and <http://NonfictionAuthorsAssociation.com>

Best regards, Dotty Lacson, on behalf of Stephanie Chandler, [www.stephaniechandler.com](http://www.stephaniechandler.com) —WT

## Exciting CWC Member Benefit: Bay Area Book Festival

by Joyce Krieg, CWC Vice-president

The California Writers Club-NorCal Group takes great pleasure in announcing an exciting opportunity *just* for you, our members. This year, CWC-NorCal Group has reserved a booth at the second annual Bay Area Book Festival, and is offering the opportunity for CWC members to sell their books at the booth—at no cost!

The Bay Area Book Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, in downtown Berkeley in and around Civic Center Park. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. both days. Last year, this free event drew some 50,000 people, 300 author/speakers, and 160 vendors. This year, CWC will be one of the exhibitors.

Details are still being worked out. Here’s what we can tell you:

- CWC members are invited to sell their books and/or promote their writing-related business at our booth at no cost to the member.
- You must have a current seller’s permit from the State Board of Equalization if you plan to actually sell anything.
- You must be present in the booth and handle all details of making the sale. No dropping off books and expecting others to sell them for you!
- Shifts will be set up on two-hour intervals. You must remove yourself, your books, and all other promotional materials at the end of your two-hour shift.
- Shift assignments will be made either on a first-come, first-served basis or by lottery, depending on demand. You may not sign up for more than one shift unless and until all other interested CWC members are accommodated.
- You may use your shift to promote a writing-related business (editing, book design, PR, etc.) in lieu of selling books.
- This opportunity is available *only* to current CWC members.

If this sounds like something you’d like to do, add your name to the master list by sending an email to Joyce Krieg of the Central Coast branch, [pacificgrovejoyce@gmail.com](mailto:pacificgrovejoyce@gmail.com). Even if you have already signed up or indicated interest to someone at your home branch, please add your name to Joyce’s master list. Put “Bay Area Book Festival” in the Subject field and indicate your home branch in the body of the email. We’ll send detailed information on how to reserve a spot about May 10. —WT

## West Marin Review

*West Marin Review*, a literary and art journal published by Point Reyes Books, is now accepting submissions of unpublished prose or poetry and visual art for Volume 8. No online entries.

Attach a check for \$10 made out to *West Marin Review* for as many as 3 submissions in any one category (prose, poetry, art, music). Mail to *West Marin Review*, P. O. Box 1302, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

If accepted, writer will receive two copies of the volume of *West Marin Review* in which the piece appears. See more at <http://www.westmarinreview.org/submissions.html> —WT



# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

## 22nd Annual CIPA EVVY Book Awards

The CIPA EVVY Awards Competition is sponsored by the Colorado Independent Publishers Association (CIPA) and the CIPA Education and Literacy Foundation (ELF). Over 200 entries in 39 book categories and 8 technical categories. The CIPA EVVYs are open to all types of independently published books, regardless of CIPA membership. The EVVYs recognize achievement across a diverse range of genres and technical categories. The 2016 competition is open to any independently or self-published print book, e-book or audio book and may be submitted by the author or publisher. CIPA membership is not required.

Must have an ISBN and a publication date no earlier than 2012. Must not have been entered in any previous CIPA EVVY Awards Competition. However, a book that has been revised and printed in a second edition may enter the CIPA EVVYs a second time.

Deadline: May 21, 2016. see <http://cipabooks.com/cipa-evvy-awards/>

## Did you write poems in April? Put them into a chapbook contest.

**2016 Swan Scythe Press Poetry Chapbook Contest:** Swan Scythe Press announces the submission requirements for its 2016 Chapbook Contest. Submit 20-32 pages of poems. Manuscripts accepted until June 15. Winners will be published in 6 x 9" format with full color cover and will receive \$200 and 25 copies of the book. See details at [swanscythe.com/contest.html](http://swanscythe.com/contest.html) Send manuscript to Robert Pesich, Editor, Swan Scythe Press, 1468 Mallard Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Reading fee: \$18, check to Swan Scythe Press.

**2016 Water Sedge Poetry Chapbook Contest:** Contest Judge: Amit Majmudar, Ohio's first poet laureate. Page count: 24 - 48. Entry Fee: \$20. Deadline: May 25. \$500 cash prize; publication of chapbook; Amazon distribution for Kindle and print; and 25 free print copies. For complete instructions, see <http://writersrelief.com/watersedge-poetry-chapbook-contest/> — WT

## Central Coast Writers Contest

Tia Araminta, Director

The much-anticipated launch of the Central Coast Writers Contest is here! As part of the 32nd Annual Central Coast Writers Conference, this year's contest offers writers invaluable opportunity for exposure, accolades and significant cash prizes. Writers will have their work read by a truly impressive panel of judges.

The theme of the 2016 Central Coast Writers Contest is The Final Word. All entries must depict this theme, originally interpreted. Categories include Short Fiction, 1,000 to 1,200 words; Poetry, up to 40 lines; Flash Fiction, up to 500 words. New: Screenwriting, up to 20 pages. Prizes for Short Fiction, Screenwriting, and Poetry: \$1,000 for First; \$500, Second; \$100, Third. Flash Fiction: \$500 for First; \$100, Second; \$50, Third. Contestants may enter more than one category. Entry fee, Short Fiction, Poetry, and Screenwriting: \$20. Entry fee for Flash Fiction: \$15.

Contest deadline: July 15. Submission guidelines and contest rules at <http://www.CCWritersContest.com>

## Central Coast Writers Conference:

September 29 - October 1, 2016. For more information, visit [CentralCoastWritersConference.com](http://CentralCoastWritersConference.com). — WT



## Freshly Ground

drip, drip  
blip, blip  
i hear the hopeful sounds  
water trickles in and drowns  
the fragrant mound  
of magic beans freshly ground  
turning into pick-me-up  
steam emerging from my cup  
inhale sweet aroma, gently blow  
and blow once more and oh  
a pause to treasure the pure pleasure  
its flavor in abundant measure  
so i'm out for an oven-baked treat  
cinnamon bun sweet  
with a mug full of java  
steaming like lava  
watching slow sippers  
comfortable as old slippers  
solving ills of the world  
with pinky fingers curled

— Richard A. Burns

## Shelf Life

— Maddie McEwen-Asker



A novel approach:

*Just think of every sentence as a perfect Tweet.*

## California Writers Club: CWC News

### Be Seen Statewide in the CWC Bulletin

*Deadline for advertising submissions for the August issue is Friday, July 29, 2016. The spring issue is in press.*

All ads submitted must be self-edited, print-ready, and will be published as received. Capacity for advertising will be determined by the Editor-in-Chief. All ads must be emailed as a jpg file to Bob Isbill at [advertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingCWC@gmail.com). Details at [CalWriters.org](http://CalWriters.org).

Checks or money orders, made payable to CWC Central Treasury for submitted ads, must be mailed to: HDCWC, The Bulletin Marketing Department, 20258 Hwy 18, STE 430, PMB 28, Apple Valley, CA 92307. — WT

*Your ad will be seen by 2,000 writers.*



## SBW TalkBooks

### Free Publicity Buzz

SBW TalkBooks is a book club that selects books written by SBW members for its monthly group read. This is a two-location event: the book is discussed online and the author is interviewed in person.

Join Meetup.com to receive advance notice of the book, the author meeting location, and online links. Join Goodreads.com to follow along with the book discussions during the month.

On the last Wednesday of the month, we schedule a meeting for the live interview. We host and write-up each interview for social media and post on Twitter and Facebook. This creates additional book buzz for the author and the book to reach new readers.

TalkBooks currently meets at 7:30 pm at the Santa Clara City Library on Homestead Road.

If you are an SBW member who has published a book, send a jpg of the cover and a descriptive paragraph to the editor at [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com). We will publish your book announcement in *WritersTalk*.

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

**Central Coast:** 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

**Fremont Area:** 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 120, Fremont. [cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

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

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

**Mount Diablo:** 11:00 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. [cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com](http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com)

**Napa Valley:** 7:00 second Wednesdays, venue is changing. [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net)

**North State:** 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. [northstatewriters.com](http://northstatewriters.com)

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

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

**San Francisco/Peninsula:** 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Congregational Church, 751 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. [sfpeninsulawriters.com](http://sfpeninsulawriters.com)

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

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## What's Happening at Other Branches

**Mt. Diablo Branch:** May 14: Guest Speaker, Heather Mackey, "Turning Ideas into Stories." Story-hunting, ideas, building a story, and why storytelling matters. Reservations required: check website <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/> Location listed above.

**Fremont Area Writers:** We missed a great speaker on April 23: Tanya Egan Gibson who believes that good dialogue brings characters to life, but bad dialogue turns them into zombies. The problem is that the deadline for *WritersTalk* is out of phase with FAW's meeting schedule. See listing above.

**Central Coast Writers:** Check website. Location and time listed above.

May 17: Sylvie Simmons: Writing a Comprehensive Biography

June 21: Michael David Lukas: Revision and Inspiration

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Contact Linda Judd at [lindyjudd@yahoo.com](mailto:lindyjudd@yahoo.com) for a TalkBooks Author's Kit and for availability to schedule your TalkBooks event.

Sign up — for free — on Meetup and Goodreads; take advantage of this free publicity. — WT

### SBW TalkBooks spring schedule:

April 27: *Dancing in My Nightgown: The Rhythms of Widowhood* by Betty Auchard

May 25: *The Forgotten*: by R.L. King

June 29: *A Gelett Burgess Sampler: Ethics and Aesthetics* by Alfred Jan





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Our Voices	2 1:30PM Mystery Circle 2PM Valley Writers	3	4	5	6 7:30P Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	7
8	9 6:00PM Regular Dinner Meeting, Harry's 2PM Valley Writers	10 7 PM SBW Board meeting 7 PM Poetry readings	11	12	13	14 1:30PM WT Editors Powwow
15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i> 10 AM Our Voices	16 2PM Valley Writers	17	18	19 7 PM Poetry readings	20 7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	21
22	23 2PM Valley Writers	24	25 7:30 PM TalkBooks	26	27	28
29 10 AM Our Voices	30 2PM Valley Writers	31 7 PM TalkShop	May 2016			
Future Flashes						
June 7: SBW Board meeting	June 13: SBW regular dinner meeting	June 11 – 18: San Mateo County Fair, Literary Division	TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN SOUTH BAY WRITERS		Sunday, July 10: Annual SBW picnic and BBQ	

## Ongoing Events

### Critique Groups

**Our Voices:** Meets at Le Boulanger in the Pruneyard in Campbell every other Sunday 10 AM. Genres: Fiction, memoir, nontechnical nonfiction. Contact: Dave LaRoche at dalaroche@comcast.net

**Valley Writers:** Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center, Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara, Mondays 2 PM. 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

**Your Critique Group:** Send info 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

**CWC SF Peninsula Speaker:** May 21, 10 a.m. to Noon

**Maureen Studer, Award-winning Playwright**

Belmont Congregational Church, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont.

<http://www.cwc-peninsula.org/events.html>

### SBW Board Meetings

Our Board meets at at Lyons Restaurant, 4233 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose 95129, at 7 PM on the Tuesday night preceding the second Monday SBW dinner meeting. Contact Patrick McQueen, pres@southbaywriters.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 TalkBooks:** discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. Meets last Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Santa Clara Library, Homestead Road. For more information, read article on Page 14 and 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

**Well-Red Poetry Reading Series:** Second Tuesdays, 7 – 9 pm, at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street. Featured reader followed by an open mic, if time allows. www.pcsj.org

### SBW Recommends ...

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



**California Writers Club**  
South Bay Branch  
P.O. Box 3254  
Santa Clara, CA 95055  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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**South Bay Writers  
May Regular Meeting  
6 PM, Monday, May 9**

Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

## The Meet and Greet Market Your Story

**Robert Balmanno  
May Speaker**

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

Regular dinner meetings are  
second Mondays 6 – 9 PM  
except July and December.



### Harry's Hofbrau

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