



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 24  
Number 10  
October 2016

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

## Literary Costumes Contest Weird Tales Storytelling

by Marjorie Johnson

### Literary Costumes Contest:

South Bay Writers traditionally hosts a literary Halloween costume contest at its October meeting. We will give prizes for the scariest, the funniest, and the most original costume.

This year, we will add a storytelling contest to the festivities on October 10, with a prize to the top story and bragging rights.

The idea for the telling of weird tales originated with CWC East Sierra; they have such a contest in conjunction with their "Howl at the Moon" weekend, which occurred this year the weekend of September 23 - 24. Can you imagine how much fun that would be—in the Mojave Desert? It's too far to commute, but we have our share of strange occurrences here in Silicon Valley, and we'll tell about them on October 10 after the costume contest.

### Weird Tales Storytelling Competition:



#### Spin a weird and wild tale.

Tell the stranger side of Santa Clara Valley: mad computer scientists; Silicon Valley's dark side; apparitions that control the ether; haunted computer screens; rogue robotics; CEOs who attend international meetings while wearing rollerblades; or something eerie, like the ghost of the man who jumped out of the second story window in my house right here in Santa Clara. Or something gentler, but still strange.

After all, we have the Winchester Mystery House and the Almaden Quicksilver Mine, and the Santa Cruz Mystery Spot is nearby. Prize to be awarded along with bragging rights. Rules on Page 6.

Join us for a fun-filled evening, 6 PM Monday, October 10, Harry's Hofbrau. —WT

**California Writers Week:** In 2003, the California State Assembly officially declared the third week in October each year as California Writers Week. For more information, go to [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org) under the About tab. —WT

## RECAP SEPT. SPEAKER ELLEN KIRSCHMAN

## Hear from a Police Psychologist

by Kelly Gomez

After an informative introduction by VP Bill Baldwin at the September meeting of South Bay Writers, Ellen Kirschman stepped up to the podium. Her first book, *I Love a Cop*, had gained wide popularity because of its raw detail and personal police accounts. She added extra plot twists to protect police families and maintain client anonymity. For her, the most challenging aspect of her job is developing a trustworthy relationship with an officer in which the cop feels as though he or she can rely on the psychologist for support. Kirschman related an anecdote about a psychologist who "really screwed up" by saying to a policeman suffering from PTSD, "So, are you ready to stop being a trained killer?"

Kirschman later wrote a fictional account of a policeman who took his own life—and blamed his psychologist. It's a harrowing novel about guilt. The psychologist picked up the pieces of her life by reaching out to the family members of her former client.

While Kirschman has never experienced this type of atrocity, she believes that it is an important topic to address.

She could not stress enough how difficult it is for a cop to ask for help. Many police officers suffer from PTSD, and according to the US Department of Justice, policemen are more likely to commit suicide than workers in other professions.



Ellen Kirschman

*Continued on Page 6*



2014 Costumes

—Dick Amyx

# President's Two Cents

Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
President, South Bay Writers



## BOO!

*"Words leave no power to impress the mind without the exquisite horror of their reality..." — Edgar Allen Poe*

Nothing says this like the word *deadline*. During the Civil War, Confederate Inspector General, Colonel DT Chandler of the infamous Anderson Georgia Confederate prison, coined the term on July 5, 1864. He used deadline to describe the line surrounding the 6 by 6 foot federal prison enclosures, which, if crossed, resulted in an immediate death by shooting.

Writers live in a world dedicated to word craft. In homage to the upcoming South Bay Writers Storytelling Contest, here's a brief rundown of word usage lists of three masters of horror that reveal their favorite words, as well as those they find irksome, even punishable. Edgar Allen Poe's favorites included abyss, afflicted, aghast, agony, crypt, demoniacal, malady, decrepitude, turgid, and quaff. H.P. Lovecraft's most used words included hideous (260 counts), faint (189 counts), and antiqu(e)arian (128 counts).

While interviewed by Alison Ford (theguardian.com, Sept. 15, 2014), Steven King listed not only his most hated expressions but also the punishments he suggested for the offending parties: "That's so cool" writers should be sent to the corner. Writers using the phrases "At this point in time" or "At the end of the day" should be sent to bed without supper. All passive verbs and adverbs and phrases like "on accident," "some people say," or "many believe" make King want "to kick something." So, storytellers beware!

Please do fall or faint into an abyss, but don't miss your dinner due to an offensive passive verb or adverb. Instead, check out the National Storytellers Network (storynet.org) where you can look into storytelling resources such as *Storytelling*, Issue 16, Summer/Fall 1999: "Telling Scary Stories;" browse their website for storytelling-based grant applications and opportunities; and enter the November 19 *Tellabration* contest (tellabration.org). Whatever stories you tell this fall season, be forewarned by these words from the *Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration* by Vera Nazarian:

*"I'll tell you a secret  
Old storytellers never die  
They disappear into their own story."*

Happy Storytelling! — WT



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California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
www.southbaywriters.com

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TalkBooks—vacant position  
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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 or sign up online at southbaywriters.com

## WritersTalk

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

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

### Managing Editor

Marjorie Johnson

### Contributing Editors

Sheena Arora

Chess Desalls

Carolyn Donnell

Kelly Gomez

Sally Milnor

Karen Sundback

### Our Mission

Encourage writers at all levels of expertise to showcase their skills in the craft of writing and to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*

### Deadline

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

### Submissions

All electronic submissions should be sent to the above email address as text or an attached MS Word file. Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files.

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.

All submissions will be copyedited. Managing Editor reserves the right to selection.

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

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

**News Items** (400 words)

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

### Creative Works

Short Fiction/Memoir (1200 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay (900 words)

### Announcements

An announcement is information of interest and value to writers that does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator and is published free of charge.

### Advertisements

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

**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to [membership@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membership@southbaywriters.com)

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Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Ray Bradbury's Seven Rules for Writers

*You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture.  
Just get people to stop reading them.* — Ray Bradbury

We celebrate California Writers Week with advice from a great California author.

Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012) graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1938, the same year he met Robert A. Heinlein at the Los Angeles Science Fiction Society. His 1953 novel, *Fahrenheit 451*, (the temperature at which paper ignites) has been widely taught in high school English courses. While this is the story of a dystopian society that burns all its books, it is for many students the first time they learn the names Aristotle, Dickens, and Tolstoy.

Bradbury said many people do not understand *Fahrenheit 451*, his most literary work. It was neither written as a response to Senator Joseph McCarthy's 1950s witch-hunt for communists nor was it primarily about government censorship. Instead, it's a story about how television destroys interest in reading literature. "Television gives you the dates of Napoleon, but not who he was." He summarized TV's content with a single word: "Factoids."

In 1953, most people did not have TV, and those who did had a seven-inch black-and-white screen. Bradbury envisioned television as an opiate and referred to TV as "walls" and its actors as "family." He imagined a future of giant color sets — flat panels like moving paintings that hung on walls — used to broadcast meaningless drivel to divert attention, and thought, away from an impending war.

Bradbury gave seven rules for writers in *Zen in the Art of Writing*, as reported by David McMillan on [thoughtcatalog.com](http://thoughtcatalog.com), June 18, 2012.

1. Write with gusto.
2. In quickness is truth.
3. Write who you are.
4. Don't write for money or fame.
5. Feed the muse daily.
6. Don't be afraid to explore the "attic."
7. Surprise yourself.

Rule 1 is perhaps the most important: writers must share their excitement. With Rule 2, Bradbury advises us to short-circuit the inner critic during the initial phase of creative work — get that rough draft onto paper before doing any editing. His Rule 3 is similar to the familiar advice to *write what you know*.

Bradbury wrote daily to feed his muse. We writers must write daily, read daily, and train our creative muscles in much the same way as athletes train their physical muscles. He believed that each of us has a "dark attic" inside our minds, one filled with secrets we don't want to face but where a writer can find his most useful material.

Many books on writing advise planning every detail of a story in advance, but Bradbury liked to discover his story as he created it. He found plot secondary to and determined by character: "Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow *after* your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations. Plot is observed *after* the fact, not before."

*Fahrenheit 451* is a warning that we, as writers, need to do our part to keep people reading books. As members of South Bay Writers, share your short articles, stories, memoirs, and poetry in *WritersTalk* to keep us all reading and writing. — WT



# Report from SBW Board

by Pamela Oliver Lyons

On September 6, 2016, 7:00pm, the South Bay Writers Board met at Holder's Country Inn, 998 S. De Anza Blvd., San Jose. The Board was pleased to receive SBW visiting members Patrick McQueen, Jenni Everidge, and Sherri Johnson. Any member can request a review of the most current Board approved minutes including any prior approved minutes. Contact SBW Secretary Sandi Taylor at [secretary@southbaywriters.com](mailto:secretary@southbaywriters.com) for more information. The following is a meeting synopsis.

**Anthology Project Updates:** SBW Anthology Co-Editors Patrick McQueen and Jenni Everidge presented the project's status and future steps toward completion. The Board formally acknowledged their good work.

**New Committees:** A review of old business resulted in two new committees being formed, Social Media and ByLaws/Procedures. It was acknowledged that there is a need to recruit members to serve as committee chairs as preparation for Board backup.

**California Writers Club NorCal Leadership Training, October 1:** Discussion of the upcoming "Building Better Branches" leadership conference resulted in Board agreement to provide registration fee coverage for a total of 10 SBW members. This is to encourage members interested in future leadership to attend and to reward volunteers.

**New Treasurer and President Duties:** The final transitioning of accounts and responsibilities to the new Treasurer and President is nearing completion. Thank you Bill for your help in training Carole and Pam to make this transition fluid as possible.

**Social Media:** Member-at-Large Carolyn Donnell has been doing incredible work creating an overview of our Social Media presence across several platforms. This gives the Board an invaluable starting point in designing an effective program.

**Committee Chair Kudos:** TalkShop Chair Carole Taub reports this program has reached maximum capacity and temporarily needs to stop accepting new attendees. Membership Chair Sally Milnor and Open Mic Chair Bill Baldwin reported increasing numbers. September Speaker Ellen Kirschman received the largest number of hits on our website for a speaker this year. Good choice in programming, Bill!

**Halloween Party Update:** *WritersTalk* Editor Marjorie Johnson presented the plans for the SBW Halloween costume and storytelling contest combo. Thank you Marjorie for all the work bringing some tricks and treats into our traditional Halloween October meeting.

**November dinner meeting:** We will celebrate National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) but in our own way. We want to encourage *all* writing this month.

**Members are encouraged to attend a Board meeting.** At the beginning of each meeting, visiting members are invited to talk with the Board on their concerns, suggestions and/or opinions. Please email [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) one week prior to the meeting to reserve a seat.

**Announcement of the October Board Meeting:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Tuesday, October 4, at Mariani's Restaurant, 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara 95051. — WT

# Our Heritage, One Story at a Time

## IAHF Memoir Readers' Salon

by Pam Oliver Lyons

The IAHF (Italian American Heritage Foundation) Memoir Readers' Salon presented a program at the 2016 IAHF Italian Family Festa held during the last weekend in August at Kelly Park's Historic Pacific Hotel. This was an outgrowth of a series of memoir classes taught by Edie Matthews, Linda Judd, and Kathleen Gonzalez, members of South Bay Writers. Organizer Pam Oliver Lyons is a member of both the IAHF and the SBW organizations.

The goal of these efforts was preserving the stories of Italian American women as told by the women themselves and to promote Italian language in addition to dialects.

Among the presentations, Rose Crimi in her traditional dress shared her childhood reading primer, *Sillabario a piccole lettere*, La Libreria Dello Stato, a WWII Italian Grade School textbook. Lucy Clementi presented "The Clementi Family Dinner," a memoir. Family dinners are an Italian tradition, and the Clementi family's door was always open at dinnertime. Author Anna Fionina Hess told the story of her early years in a WWII internment camp in Scotland in *Born in Internment: A Memoir*, which shows a time when the United States and European allies declared Italians enemy aliens.

Grace Cugnetti and Pam Oliver Lyons were bilingual readers of the book *Such Is Life: A Memoir* by Leonilde Frieri Ruberto. The memoir was the story an Italian woman immigrant told in her own words and translated from her dialect by her granddaughter, Professor Laura Ruberto, Berkeley City College. — WT



Pam Oliver Lyons and Grace Cugnetti Photo by Leslie Hoffman

## Electronic WritersTalk

The digital form of *WritersTalk* appears on [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com) by the first of every month. Just click on the *WritersTalk* button on upper right on the home page. Do you prefer to receive *WritersTalk* electronically or do you like a paper copy sent by US mail? If you would like to change how you receive *WT*, let us know at [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) — WT

# New Members

by Sally A. Milnor



Sally Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our four newest members.

**F. Elaine Anderson** writes novels. When asked what fuels her writing interests, she said: "The development of literacy was instrumental—probably second in power only to agriculture—in the successful domestication of the once-free human race, and I don't write in denial of the costs. But

write I do. With the unrelenting intent of a warrior." She has completed four book-length manuscripts over the last fourteen years, and she is now on her third draft of a fantasy novel, titled: *The Atlantean Anarchists, Part One: The Owl Gorget*. She says: "I'm hoping through SBW to link up with a couple or three people (a predilection for fantasy or magical realism would be great but not absolutely necessary, who would like to barter reading and commentary with each other. I'm about to go on the road in October, so hoping to be able to participate in a remote critique group. I'm also interested in engaging in dialogue with people who are looking into the environmental impact of publishing: toxic e-waste vs. murderous tree waste kinds of considerations. Probably my greatest strengths as a writer are a certain kind of courage and a strong sense of values. My technical strengths tend toward characterization and dialogue. I think a couple of my weaknesses are my self-righteous rejection of the dominant culture—which limit my ability to connect with the readers who haven't quite made it to the far side of the radical fringe—and my assumption that I'm right, which is to say: posturing myself to catch all kinds of blindness. Technically, my biggest weaknesses are in plot development and in intuiting the right moment to release the right information." Elaine's email address is [ela95126@gmail.com](mailto:ela95126@gmail.com).

**Kirtida Gautam** joined our Club at our September meeting, and she writes novels. On her membership questionnaire, she says, "I was a screenplay writer. An extremely tragic event took place in India in December, 2012. This event, in which a woman was brutally assaulted, inspired me to write a novel." In addition to writing, she is interested in yoga and dramatics. Kirtida's email address is: [kirtidagautam@gmail.com](mailto:kirtidagautam@gmail.com).

**Steve Lyons** is a technical writer. On his membership questionnaire, he says: "I write about technical topics, and my main motivation for that type of writing is improving my skill in communicating something technically complicated to the reader in a way they can understand. I am also interested in learning about creating educational materials for distant learners." Steve co-authored an article that appeared in *EDN (Electrical Design News)* Magazine in July, 2012. He has served in several IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) peer review papers for journal publication. Steve, who is the husband of our Club President, Pamela Oliver Lyons, enjoys poetry, music and art. He says: "I have been known to pick a guitar and strum a ukelele or two. I also enjoy understanding almost anything to do with technology. His web page is: [stevelyons.org.shoutout-foritalianamericans.org](http://stevelyons.org.shoutout-foritalianamericans.org).

**Joe Thomas** joined us online, and he writes nonfiction books. On his membership questionnaire, he says: "I am a nonfiction

writer who tells of my work experience as a flight attendant with references to my personal life experiences. I am an avid reader. I also enjoy hiking, travel and my cats." Joe recently published a comedy book of essays. His website is: [www.flightattendantjoe.com](http://www.flightattendantjoe.com).

**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, again, for helping to keep our Club flourishing.

See you at the next meeting at our Halloween party on October 10th at Harry's Hofbrau. — WT

## Member News

### Staff

**Jac Fitz-enz** reported that his novel, *Undaunted Lovers* by Dr. Jac Fitzen, came out on Amazon on September 13.

**Madeline McEwen-Asker's** short story, "Tis the Reason," will be published by Man Love Romance Press in time for the holiday season. Maddy asks, "Short? At 13,000 words?"

Spread the good news! Got something that will make our day? Don't just announce it at meetings—send your news to *WritersTalk* at [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) and we'll publish it right here. — WT



## Listowel Irish Writers' Festival OCTOBER 6 - 9

from Catherine Barry

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

We'd like to inform you about an exciting new writers' festival taking place in Los Gatos, October 6 - 9: the First Annual Irish Writers' Festival, timed to coordinate with the Listowel Writers' Festival in Ireland.

Enjoy readings, speaker events, panel discussions, and conversation events with some of today's top writers in the charming town of Los Gatos.

Fiction, Memoir-Writing, Youth & Adult Poetry Workshops: Registration open now! Submissions are still being accepted for writing contests. Activities for writers all week. — WT

## See Conference Info on Page 14

Writer's Digest Novel Writing Conference, Los Angeles, October 28 - 30, 2016

Poets & Writers LIVE, San Francisco, January 14 - 15, 2017



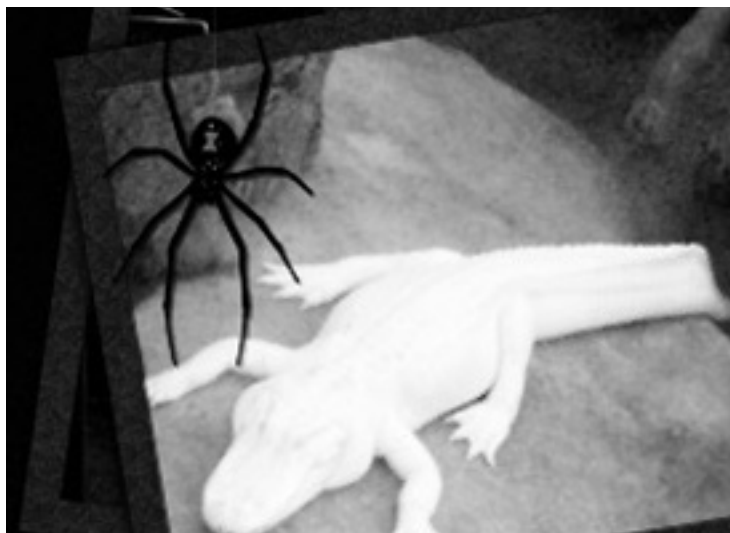
## Weird Tales Storytelling Competition Rules:

1. Story original and written by you.
2. Story in good taste (not rated R or X).
3. Story runs 5 – 6 minutes. (You will be timed.)
4. Story relates to stranger side of Santa Clara Valley.

Truth is optional – but then, truth is stranger than fiction.  
Who is the best storyteller in the South Bay?

If you are a member of South Bay Writers and you wish to tell a story on October 10, sign up ASAP by sending an email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) with your story's title. Deadline for signing up: October 3. The ten members of SBW chosen to tell their stories will be notified by October 5.

We know that the story as told may differ from the written word. However, if you would like your story to appear in November *WritersTalk*, please attach your story as a Word doc and email it to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com). – WT



Albino alligator from Pam Oliver Lyons

## Correction to Recap August Speaker Carey Giudici

*WritersTalk* apologizes for the unintentional misunderstanding that arose from the recap article on page 6, September *WritersTalk*. As stated during his August presentation, Editor Carey Giudici does not use an hourly rate. His fees are adjusted on an individual basis to fit the project and the writer's budget. He prides himself on being a collaborator – one writer to another.



Carey Giudici

Carey refers readers to his landing site (not yet launched when he gave his presentation): <http://stayhappybooks.com>. You can contact him at [betterwords4you@gmail.com](mailto:betterwords4you@gmail.com). – WT



Ellen Kirschman with her books

– Photo by Dick Amyx

## Ellen Kirschman: Police Psychologist Continued from Page 1

While reflecting on the completion of her second novel, Kirschman realized how much more difficult it was to write fiction compared to nonfiction. A novel must “tell a story to get people to turn pages,” but real life is often boring, especially psychotherapy procedures. Since most cases do not turn out to be interesting enough for the average reader, she was challenged by coming up with witty characters and a convincing plotline. With great vengeance and enthusiasm, she took the opportunity to model one character off her ex-husband's entire life.

Kirschman shared that her publishing experience has been very tough. She was able to receive support from a small publishing company in Macedonia that agreed to publish her first nonfiction piece. Her first agent, Laurie Harper, also helped pull together her initial proposal. Together they used Author Biz to arrange for her other pieces to be published.

During the Q&A, Kirschman left young writers and psychologists with a few words of advice and referred them to the *Penal Code of Mental Health* and books by Robert O'Hare. When confronting style in novel writing, Kirschman said that too many beautiful words prevent the reader from turning the pages of books. When referring to setting, she said, “You don't have to set things up all the time;” sometimes a simple thought or action is enough to draw the reader into the scene. She often creates characters from people she already knows. Character flaws are an important aspect of character development because they make a character more relatable.

As a psychologist, Kirschman's goal is not only to make patients feel better but also to behave better. As a writer, she strives to be engaging yet straightforward. “[The] simpler I can be, [the] better it is.”

You may visit Ellen Kirschman's website at [www.ellenkirschman.com](http://www.ellenkirschman.com) – WT



## South Bay Writers September 2016



—Photos by Carolyn Donnell



## Bats

by Valerie Lee

Here we are for the first time in Carlsbad Caverns. I had heard so much about this place but still felt uneasy about going down into any cave. After all, I was told it was pretty dark and spooky down there and going underground wasn't my idea of fun. I wasn't even curious about exploring it even if it was a tourist attraction. Still, I couldn't back out now and disappoint my husband.

After getting off the down elevator in the pit of the caverns, I noticed the musty, damp smell and then I saw green slime forming everywhere I looked.

Our guide pointed to several decayed rock formations and as we got closer, I could see various colors forming on them, green, blue and brown. One was shaped like a man; colored gray but green running over the back area while orange ran through the front body section. Another rock resembled a tree; the coloring was hard to describe because there were so many different shades of green and yellow intermingled throughout.

Suddenly the guide warned, "Okay, everyone, we will have a one minute blackout."

*Oh no, not a blackout?* That's all I need. I haven't had time to check things out yet. Yuck. I grabbed my husband's hand and snuggled close to him. He squeezed my hand to give me comfort.

During the darkness the guide told us that bats lived in the cave. I squeezed my husband's hand harder and tried to look around. I was terrified because it was pitch black—I couldn't see a thing.

It was scary and eerie! I suddenly felt cold and there was a gush of wind but what really made me nervous was that something ran over my shoes.



Vampire bat, from Wikipedia

Was it some kind of rodent or what? That thought sent a chill up my spine. I didn't have long to think about it because the guide turned on the lights. I was really happy and we followed the lady farther down into the cave.

After the tour, we had light refreshments at the food bar. I couldn't drink my coke or eat the donut they offered—it had no taste. I still felt uneasy because the air was stale, almost stagnant. I didn't feel right until we got on the elevator to go up to the main level.

There, the guide told us to look straight up and when we did she pointed to several black bats hanging upside down above us. I took a deep breath and said to my husband, "Good thing I didn't know about them before—nothing on earth could have gotten me down there."

He laughed. "Why do you think I didn't tell you?"

I hit his arm and then we walked hand in hand outside. It was great to inhale the fresh air and feel the hot sun on my back as we made our way towards our car. —WT

## Five More Frabbles\*

by Chess Desalls

\*A Frabble is a fable written as a drabble. Each piece is made up of exactly 100 words.

### The Lynx and the Ant

Lynx blocked Ant's path with her paw. "Take a break and chat with me."

"There's no time," said Ant.

Lynx grinned as she lifted Ant from the ground and flung him in the air, toward a clock.

Gripping the seconds hand with his legs, Ant held on as the seconds passed. He slipped each time the hand descended toward six o'clock.

Lynx watched the seconds fly by.

"Help me," cried Ant. "Time stretches with each rotation."

"Isn't that what you wanted?" Lynx helped Ant to the ground. "Sixty seconds only last a minute. The difference is in how time's perceived."

#

### The Leopard and the Zebra

Zebra paused from foraging to find Leopard lurking nearby. "You're a strange looking lion," she said.

"Dear foal," said Leopard, shaking his head. "I'm a leopard, not a lion."

Zebra's ears perked. "I see. Your spots are what make you prettier than a lion."

"You're too kind. But they're small and splotchy," Leopard said as he crept nearer. "I'd love to acquire stripes, regal ones--"

"Like mine?"

"They'd suit me quite well."

Flattered and intrigued, Zebra narrowed her eyes, then blinked. "Can a leopard change its spots?"

Leopard licked his chops. "No more than a zebra can change its stripes."

#

### The Monster and the Mutt

Monster stalked through the mists of midnight, treading softly through fields of green.

Mutt slept nearby, dreaming of fireplaces, open spaces and bones.

Spotting Mutt, Monster stepped to the side, careful not to disturb him.

Mutt slept peacefully while Monster walked on, unseen.

*Had I wakened him, thought Monster. He would've seen me for what I truly am.*

On his return home, Mutt was awake when Monster reached where he lay.

Monster stopped. Covering his face with his hands, he said, "Close your eyes and sleep while I pass."

Mutt laughed. "Monsters and men are all the same to me."

#

### The Finch and the Fiddle

Finch relaxed her wings as she landed, grazing her claws across a pair of open strings.

Without a player and wanting of bow, Fiddle's strings sang out.

*Continued on Page 12*



## Pride Day 2002

by Judith Shernock

Sylvia entered the room and sat across from Louise, her grey-haired therapist. She knew the room well. She had brought Jasper here most weeks for the past two years.

Today wasn't about her ten-year-old son, but about her own conundrum. The trip to the therapist had been bizarre. Her brand new 2002 silver Lexus seemed to groan and whine its way on the freeway. She had started to turn back but the car squealed even louder as she approached the return off ramp. So here she was, facing the therapist and her problem.

"How's Jasper?" Louise asked.

"He painted all summer, bought frames for his pictures, turned the house into an art gallery. Then he invited the neighbors to his art show with a notebook for comments. He got a lot of praise and even sold a painting. One man told him, 'It'll be worth a mint when you're a famous artist.'"

"It's always great when my clients exceed expectations."

"He's not jealous of Max's pitching arm any more. In fact, I think Max is a bit jealous of Jasper. Well, turnabout is fair play."

Louise was quiet. Sylvia knew it was time to explain the reason for her appointment.

"This is the problem. My parents divorced when I was twelve and Mom never let us see our Dad again. My mother is devout and goes to pray at least four times a week."

"Did she give any explanation as to why she wouldn't let you see him?"

"Mom said he was evil. She refused to say more or even to discuss it. Not then, not now."

"Did you and your siblings discuss it among yourselves?"

Louise nodded. "When we were kids we guessed it was something against our religion but weren't sure what exactly. As adults we never talked about it."

"Did you miss your father?"

"So much. Dad taught us songs and riddles, how to play the piano and how to dance a jig. All the fun went away when he left. Mom received a check every month but she had to go to work to pay our tuition. She took a job as a cook's helper at our school and brought home leftovers to use for supper."

"Have you gotten in touch with your father as an adult?"

"No. Not till I received this." She handed Louise a small white envelope from Tom Murphy, 58 Swift Street, Dearborn, MI.

"Isn't that the city where you grew up?"

"Yes. Dad was there the whole time and I never tried to find him. Actually, after my marriage I've never returned."

"That must be about twenty years?"

"Exactly. Jake and I have a big house and my mom and siblings come to visit us. She never forgave me for marrying out of the faith. Doesn't matter that Jacob is a successful biologist who helped invent some breakthrough medications. She comes to see her grandchildren, not us."



"May I see what your dad wrote?"

Sylvia tensed. In her head she heard her car's brakes squealing as she handed over the letter.

Louise put on her glasses and read the beautiful handwriting: "Dearest Sylvia, I am dying. Will you come for a visit to say goodbye? Please tell me that you forgive me for being who I am. I love you and the other children very much. Your loving Father, Tom."

Tears splashed down Sylvia's cheeks and stained her green blouse.

"What's so upsetting you?" the therapist asked as she handed Sylvia a tissue.

"I imagine if I visit my dad, my mother and my siblings will never speak to me again."

"Have you asked them?"

Sylvia shook her head. "We never mention him. It's as if he has some terrible affliction which we'll catch if we visit him or even mention his name."

"Is there one among your siblings who would go with you?"

"I don't think so. Mark is a cleric, Jeff's a cook, and Mary's a teacher. I'm the only one with a Ph.D. In my family that doesn't count for much. Mark is mom's darling."

"Then take Jasper and Max with you. Imagine your dad's joy in seeing his grandsons for the first time."

"Yes. That's what I'll do. Take the boys with me and Jacob too. I won't be afraid to say this is your gay grandfather. He's a wonderful man and I'm so sorry he's dying and you didn't get to know him till now."

Louise smiled at her and suggested an appointment time when she returned from the trip.

"Yes, that's a good idea. I'm a bit scared."

"Let's see how you feel afterwards."

Sylvia got up and thanked Louise who, out of character, gave her a warm hug and whispered in her ear, "This is a brave and good thing you're doing."

*Continued on Page 10*



—Photo by Karen Hartley

## On Pointe

She dreamed she was  
dancing on  
the piano keys  
Toes on pointe  
perfectly straight knees  
Pink satin slippers  
ribbons criss-crossed  
at the ankle  
She made sure they  
never tangled  
She dreamed of dancing with  
a Company one day  
New York, San Francisco  
even the London Ballet  
Soon her dream returned to  
the original scene  
Her toe shoes on the  
piano keys  
Now fading into them  
And she became one  
with the music  
and her toe shoes became  
one with the keys  
— Karen Hartley

## All Time & Eternity

If I could save nights  
In a box in a drawer  
For all time & eternity  
I'd save all the ones I wasted in haste  
Just to find what a joy they could be  
If I could save days  
In the pocket of my coat  
For all time & eternity  
I'd save all the ones I wasted when it rained  
And walk and get wet and be free  
If I could save dreams  
In a corner of my heart  
For all time & eternity  
I'd save all the ones that never came true  
Just to live them and see how they'd be

— Luanne Oleas

## Preparation for a wedding

In preparation of a wedding,  
celebrants thrum with buzzing  
calls and plans for plans for plans.  
Flowers bud somewhere — not tulips —  
and stretch before the shears  
to be swaddled with young ferns.  
Bull's flank sits frozen at ready  
for the thaw to rise with morning's fire  
so he may be grazed on wheat and greens at noon.  
Flour is slowly sown  
but the cakes are still to grow  
folding capes of fruit and sugar.  
The announcements have long since flown  
small cubbies return to perch in our nest  
some have gone and still are missed.  
Tonight the moon shows her burnished horns  
but she will be full in time  
to ring our first night in silver.  
Tonight a hall stands empty  
the faint sound of waves breaks  
across the shimmering floor.  
Foxtails and wildflowers swing  
slowly in their dance  
on our starry bluff  
In time to the breakers  
of the ocean immortal, our witness,  
clapping before we ever began.

— Daniel Jarvis



## Pride Day 2002

*Continued from Page 9*

Sylvia knew her car would purr all the way home. She left the office holding the letter to her heart. A look of pride spread across her face. — WT





Northside Mount Shasta

## Poetic Musings: Northern California

by Stephen C. Wetlesen

Both my parents are gone now. How fondly I recall our many weekend camping trips and vacations to the rugged High Sierras, where fading yellow signs warned us, "Watch for Falling Rock." My father told me that "Falling Rock" was the name of the chief of a still missing Indian tribe.

Leaves dance in soft wind –  
hidden form of butterflies?  
Art connects strange things.

Unknown birds in chase.  
Darting dance – mate or battle?  
Cedar swallows them.

### Word Painting Somewhere Near Mount Shasta

Truck park rainbow.  
Kaleidoscope of diesels.  
Spectrum of eight wheelers.  
Arranged in a straight line,  
each vehicle a different bright color,  
from purple to red,  
and all in between,  
in vibrant  
prismatic order.

All in hope of attracting sales,  
So it seems.

They have been there  
many years,  
so it is reported.

### Word Sketch

#### Heading into Downtown Yreka

Someone's front is festooned,  
for no apparent reason,  
with all kinds of bright flags.

Old Glory, of course,  
Patriotic  
Americana,  
but also  
state flags  
from every region,  
some fluttering cloth  
that might pertain  
to Harley Davidson,  
and  
of course,  
the Confederacy.

Sky dark brown from distant forest fire,  
pungent smell of wood smoke  
everywhere.

### Negative Space Haiku

Nothing left to say.  
Thin air between cartwheel spokes.  
I paint that also.

### Painting With Language

Some haiku  
are only one word.  
Some are infinite.

### Poetic Math

Four sided triangle.  
At last –  
Higher dimensional language!

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

## In the Dust Silence

Safe in the dream  
High above  
Feeling tall  
View of all  
Big city  
High life  
Thunder sound  
Shout down  
Question comes  
Doubt in clouds  
Tower one  
Tower two  
Tumbling down  
The dream ends  
In the dust  
Silence

– Karen Franzenburg

## October Tubers

Flowers in fall, pink lily surprises  
Reminds one of the Easter lily  
How could that be?  
Though you blink you still see,  
A flower cannot read calendars –  
that would be silly!  
My daughter knows flowers, all  
colors, all sizes  
I'm so grateful she also remembers--  
My birthday this month, not  
November, not December.  
I don't know all those flower names,  
Who cares! All over the yard bloom  
pink hearts-of-flames!

– Pat Bustamante



Fall Toad Lily

## Copy Editor's Bookshelf

by Leslie E. Hoffman

[lesliehoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliehoffman@hotmail.com)

Leslie Hoffman shared with readers of *WritersTalk* what references appear on her book shelf.

*Webster's Dictionary*

*Roget's International Thesaurus*

*The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed. (Fiction/Nonfiction)*

*The Associated Press Stylebook*

*The Associated Press Guide to Punctuation, Rene J. Cappon*

*The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage, Allan M. Siegal*

*MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing, 3rd ed.*

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed.*

*The Elements of Style, Strunk & White*

*The Concise Guide to Copy Editing, Paul LaRocque*

*The Subversive Copy Editor, Carol Fisher Saller*

*The Editor's Companion, Steve Dunham*

Academic Style Guides,

[www.myfinaldraft.com/style\\_guides.html](http://www.myfinaldraft.com/style_guides.html)

Mignon Fogarty, Grammar Girl,

[www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl](http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl)

## Choosing an Editor

Choosing an editor is like choosing a flying instructor — you're going to work one-to-one. You need to discuss procedures you will follow and philosophies of editing. You want someone who will help you put a professional finish on your manuscript while keeping your voice. The editor should not be taking over the writing, only guiding you.

Of course, you will have that "money" discussion. As an aid to readers of *WritersTalk*, Karen Sundback did some research, reported below.

## Book Editor Rates

by Karen Sundback

Following are book editor rates suggested by the Editorial Freelancers Association, updated July 2015. As quoted from the website [deborahbancroft.wordpress.com/how-much-should-a-book-editor-charge/](http://deborahbancroft.wordpress.com/how-much-should-a-book-editor-charge/): "Some freelance book editors will work for \$10 to \$20 per hour, but you can expect experienced book editors to charge \$25 or more per hour. Expect to pay more for editing technical writing or specialized subject matter."

Basic copyediting (work 5 – 10 pgs/hour): \$30 – 40/hour

Heavy copyediting (2 – 5 pgs/hour): \$40 – 50/hour

Website editing \$40 – 50/hour

Developmental editing (1 – 5 pgs/hour): \$45 – 55/hour

Manuscript evaluation: \$45 – 55/hour

Proofreading (9 – 13 pgs/hour): \$30 – 35/hour

Note: The industry standard for a manuscript page is 250 words. — WT

## Call for Papers:

### SELF PROMO STORIES

by Valerie Frankel

Deadline: 10/15/16

Want to share your cleverest self-promotion gimmick? Was it your book cover wrapped around candy? A costumed hero passing out fliers? Did you have success with a book fair? Or BookBub, Twitter, or Facebook? This anthology collects AUTHOR'S TRUE STORIES OF HOW THEY PROMOTE THEMSELVES. I'm thinking everyone writes one story, something cute and memorable and original, something that worked well. All types of books and activities welcome. Basically, tell me about your booth decorations, your free coloring books, your unusual chocolates, your custom sign, your party, your book fair event, your giveaway, whatever you did that was really neat. First person anecdote: 500 – 1500 words. To submit, please send your complete story as well as a 100 – 150 word third- person bio. Email to [Valerie@calithwain.com](mailto:Valerie@calithwain.com), subject: SELF PROMO ANTHOLOGY. You may send photos of yourself and your book covers (or you doing your self-promo) if you like. Sample stories are available at [valeriefrankel.wordpress.com](http://valeriefrankel.wordpress.com). — WT

### Frabbles

*Continued from Page 8*

Finch twitched and lifted into the air. Then, calmed by a measure of silence, she rested on the strings without making a sound.

With a gleam in her eye, Finch flew upward. Delicate claws plucked the strings where she'd perched, producing a tinkling of consonant tang.

She twittered back, raising each note by a third.

When Fiddle failed to respond, Finch swooped down, landed, and lifted.

Time became a gentle dueling of duet.

#

### The Owl and the Fox

Fox found Owl keeping watch in a barn. "How is it that you are so wise?"

Owl stared.

"Come now," Fox simpered. "There's no need to be humble. What is the source of your wisdom?"

The yellows of Owl's eyes focused more intently on Fox.

"Do you ignore my question because you don't want others to know your secret?"

Owl lifted her wings and glided from her perch to the ground. "No," she said.

"And?" Fox licked his chops. "Tell me more."

Owl cocked her head sideways.

"Why do you gawk in silence?" growled Fox.

"To listen and to learn." — WT



# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

**The Fault Zone:** Fault Zone is an anthology series edited by the SF/Peninsula Branch of California Writers Club. Each edition features stories, creative nonfiction, and poems by branch members. In addition, non-members [of the SF/Peninsula branch] may enter a contest to win cash and a publication spot in the next Fault Zone. Deadline for non-member: 10/31/16. See guidelines at <http://cwc-peninsula.org/fault-zone/>

**The Writer magazine's contest, "Our Darkest Hours."** Write a 2,000-word fictional short story using any nuance, definition, or understanding of the word "dark." Deadline: 11/15/16. Grand prize: \$1,000 and publication in the magazine. Second: \$500, third: \$250, and publication at [writer-mag.com](http://writer-mag.com). Submit at <https://writermag.submittable.com/submit/66220>. See other contests at <http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/>

**TBL-Tethered By Letters F(r)iction Fall Literary Competition:** Any genre/form. Winners to be published in *F(r)iction*. Enter before 11/1/16. Three categories:

- **Short Story:** \$1,000 and publication. 1,000 – 7,500 words; \$15 USD per entry.
- **Flash Fiction:** \$300. Up to of 750 words; \$8 per entry or three entries for \$12.
- **Poetry:** \$300.00. Up to three pages per poem; \$8 per entry or three for \$12.

They also have a Twitter Contest. If you can tell a story in 140 characters or fewer, they want to hear from you! See all four contests at <http://tetheredbyletters.com/submissions/contest/>

**Writers Digest Popular Fiction Awards:** Short stories up to 4,000 words: Romance, Thriller, Crime, Horror, Sci-Fi, YA. Deadline 10/14/16.

[www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/popular-fiction-awards](http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/popular-fiction-awards)

**Alice James Award:** Alice James Books is accepting submissions of poetry manuscripts to the Alice James Award (formerly the Beatrice Hawley Award) postmarked through 11/1/16. They welcome submissions from emerging as well as established poets. Entrants must reside in the United States. \$2000 prize, book publication, and distribution through Consortium. Entry fee: \$30. See <http://alicejamesbooks.org/alice-james-award/> for complete instructions.

**Winning Writers:** Get access to a database of free contest profiles when you subscribe to the Winning Writers free email newsletter. Sign up at <https://winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests>

**Other contest opportunities:** A few other contests came to my attention and looked interesting. Check them out carefully before entering.

<http://toadthejournal.com/submit/>

<http://www.wtawpress.org>

<http://www.coniumreview.com/contests/book-chapbook-contest/>

<http://twosylviaspress.com/wilder-series-poetry-book-prize.html>

<https://dl233.infusionsoft.com/app/orderForms/Holiday-PB-Contest>

**Chicken Soup for the Soul:** You will be paid \$200 (\$100 for devotionals) and receive ten free copies of the book your story or poem appears in. Deadlines:

- *Stories about Cats* / October 31, 2016
- *Stories About Dogs* / October 31, 2016

Visit [www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story](http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story).

**Nimrod, a biannual literary journal from The University of Tulsa,** seeks poetry, short stories, and creative nonfiction for its Spring/Summer 2017 thematic issue, "Leaving Home, Finding Home." Works must be previously unpublished; stories and nonfiction up to 7500 words, poetry up to eight pages. Submit online \$3, <https://nimrodjournal.submittable.com/submit>. Deadline 11/5/16. Publication April 2017.

Have fun, and be sure to let us know if you score! — WT

WRITING OPPORTUNITY

## 2017 CWC Lit Review

This is the annual publication of California Writers Club. Submit today! Open for submissions through November 30. See Page 14 and visit [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) for guidelines. — WT

WRITING OPPORTUNITY

## Write a Biography

from Kristen Stephenson  
[kmstephenson23@gmail.com](mailto:kmstephenson23@gmail.com)

My Grandmother, Mary Becker, born in San Francisco in 1916, will be 100 on December 11. I was hoping to find someone who could write her biography, but I had no idea where to look. I saw the South Bay Writers Club and thought there might be someone there who could help.

Mary Becker is part of an astonishing amount of history. It would be wonderful if someone could not only get this history onto paper but also capture her true essence. She remembers everything: the names of streets and people she hasn't seen in 80 years; World War II and what times were like then in the Bay Area.

I can guarantee that whoever does this will fall in love with my Grandma and will be invited to her birthday party. I'm not sure what to pay for this — whatever is fair; I am open to suggestions. — WT

## AuthorsPreview.com

by Alan Wills

As a member of CWC San Fernando Valley, it is my pleasure to announce [www.AuthorsPreview.com](http://www.AuthorsPreview.com), a new free website for you to preview your writings and receive critiques. You can submit a poem, a short story, or a chapter from your book; you will receive critiques from readers around the world. You may send your bio, including a photo if you choose, to be listed under Writers.

To submit your writings, complete the submission form at [www.AuthorsPreview.com](http://www.AuthorsPreview.com)  
Questions? Send email to [AuthorsPreview@gmail.com](mailto:AuthorsPreview@gmail.com) — WT

# News from California Writers Club

## CWC Central Board

by Bill Baldwin

The Central Board met on July 24, 2016. SBW gave our proxy to Evelyn LaTorre of the Fremont Branch.

This past year, with David George as President of California Writers Club, we created two new branches, Coastal Dunes and North State, and in November we will charter another new branch, San Joaquin Valley.

The new CWC President is Joyce Krieg of the Central Coast Branch. VP is Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal; Secretary, Elizabeth Tuck; Executive Member-at-Large, Jeanette Fratto.

Joyce Krieg's vision for the coming year is to clarify and improve the relationship between the Central Board and the local branches; move forward with the idea of a CWC Scholarship; make greater use of social media; and clarify Jack London's role in the founding of the California Writers Club.

The next meeting of the Central Board will be on January 29, 2017, location to be determined (San Jose, San Francisco, or Oakland). — WT



## 2017 Literary Review

by Bob Isbill, CWC Promotions

This is a reminder that the *Literary Review* 2017 edition will be accepting submissions beginning Thursday, September 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016. Please remind your membership so that they will be aware of these important deadlines for submissions.

For guidelines, visit [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) under the "Publications" banner: <http://calwriters.org/literary-review/#submissions>. Close adherence to these guidelines is requested.

Advertising in the next Lit Review may also be obtained now. However, the advertising deadline is on a later schedule to be announced in early 2017. — WT

# CWC Around the Bay

Published meeting locations and times for other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you want to attend one of their meetings, first check their websites for details.

**Berkeley:** 2:00 third Sundays, Oakland Public Library Main Branch. [cwc-berkeley.org](http://cwc-berkeley.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**San Francisco/Peninsula:** 10:00 third Saturdays, Redwood Yacht Harbor: check website <http://cwc-peninsula.org/>

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

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## Conferences

### Writer's Digest Conference

**Writer's Digest Novel Writing Conference,**  
Los Angeles, Oct 28 - 30, 2016.

Hear from celebrated writers such as Garth Stein, Jane Smiley, and Christopher Rice. CWC members can take \$25 off registration when they use the code CWC16. Note that the cost of registration goes up as the date gets closer, so even though the discount would apply right along, anyone interested might think about signing up ASAP.

For further details: [novel.writersdigestconference.com](http://novel.writersdigestconference.com). — WT

### Poets & Writers LIVE

San Francisco, January 14 - 15, 2017

Join Poets & Writers at the San Francisco Art Institute (in Russian Hill near Fisherman's Wharf) for two days of sound advice, practical information, and inspiration. P&W has put together a celebration of creativity that includes readings, lectures, multimedia presentations, panel discussions, and writing workshops.

Presenters include US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera; best-selling novelist and author of *Purity*, Jonathan Franzen; author of *The Orchid Thief*, Susan Orlean; acclaimed poet Kay Ryan; writer and activist Ishmael Reed; and renowned poet Jane Hirshfield. Publishing professionals include editors Ethan Nosowsky, Jordan Bass, Steve Wasserman, and Rusty Morrison; and agents Danielle Svetcov, Anna Ghosh, and Jennifer March Soloway.

Don't miss it!! Go to Poets & Writers' website [www.pw.org/live](http://www.pw.org/live) — WT

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### CWC Bulletin

by Bob Isbill, CWC Advertising & Promotions

The August edition of the *CWC Bulletin* news from most of the 21 California Writers Club branches was distributed on August 18. The current "flip-page" issue may also be accessed online by visiting <http://calwriters.org/bulletin/current-issue/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October 2016</b>						<b>1</b> Leadership Conference, Fremont, 9 – 3
<b>2</b> 10A Our Voices	<b>3</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>4</b> 7:30P SBW Board Meeting, Mariani's, Santa Clara	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	<b>8</b> 1:30P Editors Powwow
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2P Valley Writers <b>6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>
<b>16</b> 10A Our Voices	<b>17</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10A Our Voices	<b>31</b> 2P Valley Writers				Fremont Area Writers 2 - 4 PM, De Vry University, Fremont	
<b>Future Flashes</b>						
October 6 – 9 Writers' Festival Los Gatos: see page 5	October 28 – 30 Writer's Digest Conference, Los Angeles (p. 14)	November 8 SBW Board TBA	November 14 SBW dinner meeting TBA			

## Ongoing Events

### Critique Groups

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

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

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

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

### SBW Board Meetings

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

Details Oct. 4 : 6:30 PM dinner; Board meeting 7 - 9 PM, Mariani's, 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara.

## You send it. We calendar it.

**Fremont Area Writers Speaker** October 28, 2 – 4 pm, De Vry University, Fremont, Jan Ellison: "Breaking into print by learning to fail."

### 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:** Group is full.

**SBW TalkBooks:** discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. **Note:** TalkBooks needs a leader.

**Facebook Group:** Members of South Bay Writers can join our Facebook group – South Bay Writers Club.

### 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  
October Regular Meeting  
6 PM, Monday, October 10**

Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

## **Boo! Literary Costumes and Storytelling October Speaker: YOU**

*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.