



# WRITERSTALK

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February 2017

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

FEBRUARY SPEAKER TANYA EGAN GIBSON

## From Writing Onward Into Editing

Tanya Egan Gibson is a well-known speaker on the craft of writing. Author of the novel *How to Buy a Love of Reading* (Dutton, 2009), she has been featured multiple times in *Writer's Digest* and *The Writer* with articles on various aspects of fiction writing. Her short fiction for young adults has appeared in *Cicada* as well as in literary magazines such as *Curve*. One of her stories was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

She is also well known to South Bay Writers, having spoken to us in 2010 and 2014. She was an invitee to our 2010 East of Eden Conference. She has taught us how



Tanya Egan Gibson

to create and build a fictional world, including what to borrow from "real life" and what to invent. She has shown us how to use dialogue to enliven our scenes and highlight our characters. An engaging and good-humored speaker, she has enchanted us with anecdotes and examples drawn from her own experience.

At our February dinner meeting, Egan Gibson will shift her focus to editing, and will cover this topic thoroughly.

There are various aspects of editing, of course – beginning with the editing you do yourself on your own manuscript. This can be enriched through feedback from critique groups and beta readers. It is said that no one can catch all his own typos – and this rule generally holds. More than that, hearing another person's perspective can help you negotiate the blind spots we all have towards our own works.

Of course, we can also hire a professional editor to review our manuscript. How do you decide whether to do this, and whom to choose? How do you know how to make the most of an editor?

And how do you work with these people? How do you build a good working relationship with someone who holds a piece of your future in your hands? Are you clear on what you expect to get out of this relationship?

Come and find out, as Tanya Egan Gibson shares her editing experience and wisdom with us. Hers is sure to be an informative and entertaining presentation!

Hear Tanya Gibson at Harry's Hofbrau, Monday, February 13, 6 – 9 p.m. – WT

You can read about Tanya Egan Gibson at:  
[www.howtobuyaloveofreading.com/](http://www.howtobuyaloveofreading.com/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/tanyaegangibson>  
[tanyaegangibson.com/](http://tanyaegangibson.com/)

RECAP JANUARY SPEAKER NILS PETERSON

## A Poet for All Seasons

by Leslie E. Hoffman

Nils Peterson entered the back room of Harry's Hofbrau quietly and without fanfare the evening of January 9th. As he walked toward the speaker's podium, the members of South Bay Writers grew silent and glanced in the direction of the tall, slim SJSU Professor Emeritus.

Upon being introduced by SBW's President, Pamela Oliver Lyons, Peterson playfully commented on our recent weather: "Rain on the window / Rain on the wall / Rain on the rooftop / Covering all..."

The first Poet Laureate of Santa Clara County (2009-11) then read selections from his *A Walk to the Center of Things*, Caesura Editions, a 2011 publication of Poetry Center San José, as well as sharing passages from the writings of Robert Bly's "Watering the Horse," Robert Frost's "Dust of Snow," and Galway Kinnell's "Tenderness toward Existence" from *The Book of Nightmares* – "Never finish knowing what's going on."

Per his biography: Nils Peterson has published poems in many journals and has written science fiction, as well as articles on subjects as varying as golf and Shakespeare. A chapbook of poems titled *Here Is No Ordinary Rejoicing* was published by No Deadlines Press; a collection of poems titled *The Comedy of Desire*, with an introduction by Robert Bly, was published by the Blue Sofa Press; and a collection of poems titled *Driving a Herd of Moose to Durango* appeared in 2005.

Continued on Page 6

# President's Two Cents

Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
President, South Bay Writers



## A Sense of Place

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use  
to change the world."*  
—Nelson Mandela

The words "Silicon Valley" give rise to unlimited possibilities. This is our home base! Lucky us! South Bay Writers is a safe place for new ideas. The worldwide collection of talented people coming to this valley challenges us to develop educational opportunities in a rapidly changing craft, which continues to undergo redefinition. We must meet this by nurturing new leaders. Our Branch has the benefit of being able to tap into Silicon Valley's sense of place. As a Tech nomad of sorts, I have always embraced the words, "Bloom where you are planted."

Those gardeners amongst us will recognize the term "pot bound." This is where a plant has grown to such a size that its roots can no longer be contained by the pot it is in. To continue to grow, the plant must be put in a bigger pot or planted outside into the larger garden. If it is repotted, it will thrive; otherwise, either it will burst the pot or wither and die.

We exist in the right place at the right time, so why aren't we thriving?

Many see our Branch as being in a "comfortable" position. Why change anything? But I have heard from membership comments expressing a sense of not being satisfied: "There is no growth from year to year." We seem like bonsai, beautiful but staying the same size. Individually many members are thriving. I feel the excitement when I see a member standing to announce an award received, or the shared joy on members' faces when a new writer announces being published for the first time. However, this is not the full story behind organizational thriving.

Every year we gain and lose the same amount of members. This means something is preventing growth. So what? If we exist as a small social club happy in an unchanging state, does it matter? But if we really believe learning is life long and that writers of all levels should have support, then this does matter.

"The only constant is change," my husband's favorite quote, presents a demanding reality. Perhaps this is felt all the more acutely because of our local work culture. What are the talents required of a successful leader (or a Board) of writers in Silicon Valley?

Our future leaders will need to find fresh ways of placing South Bay Writers into the rapidly changing world of young writers interested in new and yet unheard of genres and technologies. These seeds of change need to be planted within the current community. We will see mistakes. We all will learn together. Consider how many times writers rewrite, edit, and repeat the self-correcting cycle: this is learning. This also is our mission.

Our Elections Nomination Chair ArLyne Diamond is now asking members who are interested in running for a SBW Board position to contact her at ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net. Come to a Board meeting and introduce yourself. I urge everyone to consider your own sense of South Bay Writers' place in Silicon Valley as well as your part in this journey. —WT

## Late Breaking News

Call for CWC Branch Volunteers, San Francisco Writers Conference, February 16 - 19 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. See [sfwriters.org](http://sfwriters.org). Volunteers will not be able to sell their books but they can be part of a book exhibit. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Pam Oliver Lyons at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com). —WT

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

— o —

### SBW Officers

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

### SBW Representatives

Central Board—Bill Baldwin  
[treasurer@southbaywriters.com](mailto:treasurer@southbaywriters.com)  
NorCal—Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
[pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

### SBW Committee Chairs

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

### SBW Events

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin  
[WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)  
TalkShop (filled)—Carole Taub  
[hospitality@southbaywriters.com](mailto:hospitality@southbaywriters.com)

### SBW Mission

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

### Join Us

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

**Circulation:** 200

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Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Banish Writer's Block

Does writer's block have you tied in knots? Writer's block shows up for all sorts of reasons, and when it does, it can seem as if it will never pass. Writer's block, how do I hate thee? Let me count the ways ... These six tips have helped some writers.

**1. Write at unusual times, in different settings.** You might be too in your "comfort zone" and not enough in your writer's zone if the ideas aren't flowing. If you have become accustomed to seeing the same faces at the same time in the same coffee shop, how can you create new characters for your story? While new settings are important for resetting your writing-mind, so are times of day. Research shows we perceive information uniquely at different times of day because of how our neurotransmitters are influenced by outside information. Those psychologists keep busy, don't they?

**2. Try brain-enhancing music.** Supposedly, you can help out your mind with brain-resetting music, such as that on *MindAmend* by Jason Lewis. That is, if the nonmusic doesn't drive you nuts with its cognition enhancing isochronal tones.

**3. Write about your writer's block.** Does it follow a pattern, or take place at certain times or when you are under stress? Journal what it's all about and get some introspection. Writing about writer's block is better than not writing at all.

**4. Ramble a bit.** Let your uninhibited thoughts hit the paper. No stopping for grammar, no stopping to edit, no stopping until you fill a sheet of paper. It's out of style to suggest pen and paper, but this may be an important mode for you.

**5. Try some writing prompts or contests.** Carolyn Donnell has come up with reams of contests for you on page 13, and Michael Lunsford has some unusual Internet sites for writers on page 12. Be sure to follow all guidelines given for contests. The winning secret is – always follow all the rules – which leads to a secret reason for rejection.

**6. Deal with rejection.** Don't let rejection lead to dejection. You have to be tough here; you cannot stop writing. Instead, consider the **secret reason for manuscript rejection**. You have heard that often the agent/editor weeds out manuscripts after reading only the first page – or even the first paragraph. Sometimes they stop before that – if the manuscript **looks like the work of an amateur**. See "Formatting Your Manuscript 101" on Page 9.

**What have you tried to cure writer's block?** Send what you do about your writer's block to *WritersTalk*. And be sure to crow about your writing successes by sending them to us for "Members News." – WT

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## View From the Board

by Trenton Myers, SBW Secretary

The January SBW Board meeting was held on January 3 at The Grill 57 in Los Gatos and was attended by President Pamela Oliver-Lyons, VP Bill Baldwin, Hospitality Co-Chair Alfred Jan, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, Membership Chair Sally Milnor, and guests Kelly Gomez, ArLyne Diamond, Colin Seymour, Steve Lyons, Sherrie Johnson, Kymberlie Ingalls, and John Byrne Barry.

**Website redesign:** John Byrne Barry presented a South Bay Writers Website Redesign Proposal (including general information and examples of graphic designs). President Pamela Oliver-Lyons presented a proposal for cost of general website services from Mark Cyrus from Brave Whale (bravewhale.com) which included a slide show of website work done for local Bay Area customers. The Board requested a brief written paragraph about the need for a partial website redesign, and a donor is interested in providing partial support for the project.

**Incoming Board members approved:** President Pamela Oliver-Lyons declared the emergency convention of accepting written votes via email, stating the voting intentions of Carolyn Donnell and Sandi Taylor; those letters had been received prior to the vote. The slate of Vice President Kelly Gomez, Secretary Trenton Myers, and Treasurer Bill Baldwin was unanimously accepted. Two new Chair appointments were presented to the Board: Webmaster/MRMS Dick Amyx and Nominations Chair ArLyne Diamond. The President received the resignation of Member-at-Large Sheena Arora on January 2; this position remains vacant.

Kelly Gomez spoke about her qualifications for VP, as a past De Anza student intern on *WritersTalk* and a recent English major graduate from Berkeley. ArLyne Diamond encouraged the Board to consider nominations for the 2017 upcoming June election.

**SBW logo:** a new set of two SBW logos was approved on a split vote of 3 – 4. The CWC requires a trademark be included in the graphic; SBW will comply.

**B & N Eastridge Book Fair:** Pamela presented the results of our first Barnes & Noble Eastridge Book Fair Fundraiser: SBW authors sold over \$800 books in 3 hours and received 10%, approximately \$80. Marjorie pointed out that SF Peninsula Branch had greater success with longer hours and advance voucher distribution. We plan to give more advance notice for our next B&N event to be held Sunday, March 12, 11:30am – 5:00pm.

**MRMS:** Marjorie and Pam discussed criteria for using the MRMS data. Guest Member and Former Berkeley President, Kymberlie Ingalls, stated that MRMS was available to all general members with the intention to assist communications. Pam will verify how to educate members on using MRMS to help members communicate with each other and to insure privacy for all concerned.

**TalkBooks** will resume Thursday, January 26 at Santa Clara Library, Homestead Road, Santa Clara. Kymberlie Ingalls will be interviewed about her new book, *Bridges*.

**February speaker:** We look forward to Bill's February Speaker, Tanya Egan Gibson, giving us editing tips and other ideas.

**Our next Board meeting** will be Tuesday, February 7, 6:30 – 8 pm, at Tony and Alba's Pizza and Pasta, 3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose. – WT

## Member News

**Robert Garfinkle** received the prestigious Ina Coolbrith Award July 2014 from CWC Central Board. Because of health problems, he was unable to share his award with South Bay Writers until the January 2017 Membership meeting. Bob joined South Bay Writers in 2002; in 2009, he established the CWC Fremont Branch, Fremont Area Writers. He has been a dual member, Fremont and South Bay, ever since.

The Ina Coolbrith Award is given in recognition of exemplary service to California Writers Club and/or the Central Board. In Bob's case, he successfully handled the CWC trademark infringement by the now defunct California Writers Coalition. Ina Donna Coolbrith (1841-1928) was the first California Poet Laureate, the Librarian of the City of Oakland, and a mentor to Jack London's literary community.

Belated congratulations, Bob, and welcome back! – WT



Robert Garfinkle holds his plaque for the 2014 Ina Coolbrith Award.

– Photo by Pamela Oliver Lyons

## Shout out for SBW Authors: Mystery/Thriller/Action

by Pamela Oliver Lyons

South Bay Writers will be returning to Barnes & Noble, Eastridge Mall, on Sunday March 12 for a Mystery/Thriller/Action Book Fair and Author Meet-N-Greet Fundraiser from 11:30am to 5:00pm. Only four authors can be selected for each event. If you have published books or if you have just published your first book in one or more of these genres, please contact [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) for more information.

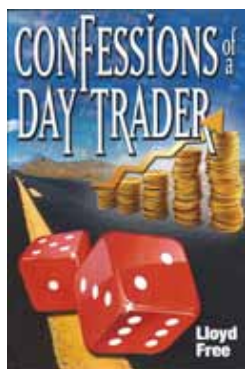
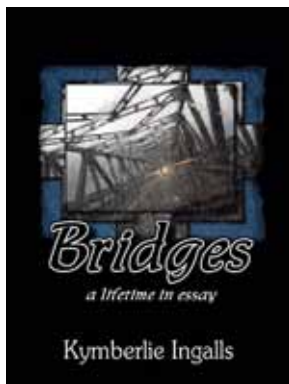
If your genre has not been represented yet, on Saturday June 24 a third event will be held at the same location. Please make a suggestion regarding the genre you would like to have featured. You can use the email address above or see me at a SBW dinner meeting. – WT

## New Books by SBW Authors

### *Bridges: A Lifetime in Essay*

by Kymberlie Ingalls

Dive into the forgotten life of a woman who searches for meaning in the everyday, and you will fall deep. What began with an email list amongst friends has grown into a popular online journal that you'll want to follow to see the extraordinary blossom from the ordinary. In this compilation of both published and never-before seen essays, journey with Kymberlie through multiple generations of her life, spanning from a young adult to a mature woman. Available on Lulu.com and at her website, [www.rainfallpress.com](http://www.rainfallpress.com). – WT



### *Confessions of a Day Trader*

by Lloyd Free

Main Street grabs for the brass ring. Wall Street snatches it away in the Yin and Yang of trading the stock markets: investing, day trading, gambling. Based upon a true story, retail investors Jay and Stevy battle the insiders, the wolves of Wall Street. Against all odds, will they succeed?

To find out, read *Confessions of a Day Trader*.

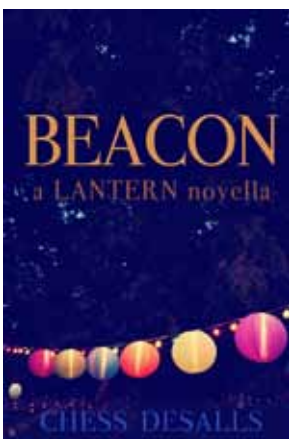
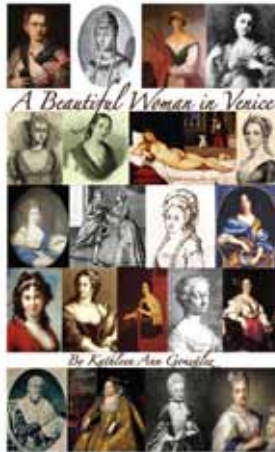
Available on Amazon. – WT

### *A Beautiful Woman in Venice*

by Kathleen Gonzalez

A mirror merchant in simple white blouse takes action to preserve her republic. An elegant singer poses in a private salon. Standing at a university podium, a woman holds forth in Latin on women's education. A cloistered nun in a walled up convent uses the only power she has—her pen. Artists hold in their hands pastels or pens or glass or thread to document or protect or adorn those around them.

All these women represent Venice, Italy's city of water and light. Libraries of books have been written about Venetian history and Venetian men's roles in shaping it. But little is written about the lives of its women. In this book you'll read their stories. Available on Amazon. <http://kathleenanngonzalez.wixsite.com/beautifulwoman> – WT



### *Beacon (Lantern, #2)*

by Chess Desalls

Book 2 of Chess Desalls' novella series for teens and tweens released this January.

When Serah's life in Havenbrim becomes unbearable, she accepts an apprenticeship with a celestial mechanic and glazier. Her master assigns her the task of opening a globe framed in copper. But the glass and seal are unbreakable. The solution to the puzzle traps Serah inside the globe, and transports her to a world where she longs for home. Website: [chessdesalls.com](http://chessdesalls.com) – WT

## TalkBooks Resumes

Harli Rabow is the new chair for SBW TalkBooks, a discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. TalkBooks meets in the Sycamore Room, Santa Clara Library, 2635 Homestead Road, 7 pm on the last Thursday of the month. On January 26, we will interview author Kymberlie Ingalls and discuss her book, *Bridges*; on February 23, Kathleen Gonzalez, *A Beautiful Woman in Venice*; and on March 30, Judith Shernock, *Sammi the Seahorse*.

SBW authors' books appear on Goodreads. To visit our books, just click Goodreads on the [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com) home page. SBW TalkBooks interviews our authors about their books. Interested persons are invited to attend and to enter into the discussion. If you would like to be interviewed about your book, please send an email to Harli Rabow at [tb1@southbaywriters.com](mailto:tb1@southbaywriters.com) – WT

## New Members

by Sally A. Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our two newest members:

**Sayantika Mandal** joined us online, and she writes fiction and poetry. Her writing interests are fueled by ancient and medieval history, and contemporary life, generally based on Indian experiences. Sayantika has two published short stories, "Lies" in a webzine called *Celebration*, and "Immersion" in *Dukool Magazine*, and her work has appeared in *The Times of India* and *The Hindustan Times*. Her email address is [sayantika100@gmail.com](mailto:sayantika100@gmail.com).

**Jessica McDole** also joined us online. Jessica has a background in technical writing, and she writes fiction and nonfiction.

**To Our New Members:** We wish 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 our next meeting at Harry's on February 13th. – WT



Nils Peterson  
—Photo by Leslie Hoffman

## Nils Rocks!

## Recap Nils Peterson: A Poet for All Seasons

*Continued from Page 1*

The Mission of Poet Laureate is to elevate poetry in the awareness of Santa Clara County residents and to help celebrate the literary arts, a mission Peterson continues to celebrate beyond his term as laureate. You can visit Nils online at <https://nilspoet.wordpress.com/>

Celebrate romance with Nils and the poets of Poetry Center San Jose ([pcsj.org](http://pcsj.org)) at the 37th Annual Valentine's Day Celebration on Wednesday, February 15, 2016, 4:00 p.m., at Café Stritch, 374 South First Street, San Jose. (Free Admission, no host bar, and food for order.) Come early, get a glass of wine, and socialize. —WT

### Invocation to Venus

In Spring when you appear  
the hearts of all grow great  
with longing. The small bird  
turns fierce for love, and  
heavy-footed farm animals  
push against the fences  
of the warming fields.

So the shy man leaves his house  
throat filled with song.

Accept, O Goddess, these lines  
whose divine source you are,  
for without you, nothing comes  
into being beneath the changing moon.

—Nils Peterson

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## Observations of a fly on the wall

by Michael Shipp

Nils Peterson, Poet Laureate Emeritus. He is an extra tall drink of water and had to duck when he came into the room. He had an easy smile, greeted a couple club members, and then sat in the back of the room to wait for his turn to speak.

I wondered if he had played basketball in his youth. I was clueless and didn't know what to expect from his presentation. He admitted to being nervous, being a poet in a room full of prose writers.

His voice was mellow and his diction clear. His poems were as refreshing as cool spring water on a hot summer day. Natural. Pure. Flowing. Spoken slowly with a rhythm that comforted, his words soaked in deep like rain after years of drought.

Nils Peterson offered his poetic work and did justice to others he read, and every phrase held the added value of his touch. His style was meditative, and I could hear him clearly all the way in the back because the room was so quiet and still.

Something special was happening. I scanned the room; every single person was all eyes and ears forward, absorbing every word. It was inspiring. I wanted to understand, so I closed my eyes to fully listen. I could feel the Respect. —WT

Deaf people live in  
the deep music of the spheres –  
divine soundlessness.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen

## Cinequest: Screenwriting Competition and Writers Celebration Day

by Pamela Oliver Lyons

"Cinequest loves writers!" The 2017 Cinequest Film Festival takes place February 28 through March 12 in downtown San Jose. Cinequest, voted Best Film Festival by readers of *USA Today*, is based in San Jose. Don't forget the Cinequest Screenwriting Competition annually – big prizes. Submissions for films and teleplays will be accepted from Spring through Fall 2017 for Cinequest Film and VR Festival 2018.

At the Festival, the winners of the First Annual Cinequest Screenwriting Competition will be announced in categories such as feature films, shorts, and teleplays. The work of top winner Stacie Shellner went into production in November with Vijay Rahman as Co-Director.

The Writers Celebration Day occurs during the Cinequest Film Festival and includes opportunities. It's a time for writers to connect with producers, enhance their careers and networks, and hear about the latest trends in the business/craft of screenwriting. The event also features learning opportunities for pitch training/challenge and writing craft courses. Tickets are \$20.

Go to [Cinequest.org](http://Cinequest.org) for more information and the 2017 Festival Schedule. There is a live link to ISA (International Screen Writers) craft courses. See you there! —WT

# *South Bay Writers Club Nils Peterson Jan. 2017*



Collage and Photos by Carolyn Donnell

# Hummingbird: A Memoir in Miniature

by Cal Stevens

Today the Santa Clara Valley is covered by houses and business establishments, streets and parking lots, so different from times past. It makes one wonder, where is all the indigenous life that was here earlier? Is it all gone? Or is some of it still around?

In early March, while sitting in my easy chair facing a large mirror reflecting our spacious backyard, I noticed a hummingbird investigating the hanging ornaments my wife Frances had hung from the beam supporting our patio cover. Sometime later we both noticed what we assumed to be the same bird flying into one ornament where upon closer inspection we saw a tiny nest about one inch in diameter. This observation intrigued us, so we started observing the nest daily. Shortly later we observed the hummingbird, which we figured probably was the female, sitting on that nest for long periods of time, but occasionally flying away probably in search of food. After a few weeks we saw two small beaks emerging from the nest when the parent was away. We watched the nest for several weeks, but evidently while we were not paying attention, all three birds left.

Several weeks later, we saw a hummingbird again investigating our patio. It flew back and forth between our several hanging ornaments for several days. Then one

day we saw this bird, which we assumed was the same bird as before, sitting on the old nest. This time we watched the evolving drama more closely. Once in a while the bird left the nest for short periods of time. When she was off the nest some time later we saw two tiny beaks again appearing above the margin of the nest. Then we saw repeated episodes of the mother sitting on the nest, flying off, and returning to feed the young. This went on for several weeks. Then one day, we observed one of the young climbing up onto the edge of the nest. For us this activity was more exciting.

During these episodes, this young one repeatedly exercised its wings at an incredible speed. As the youngster became more capable, it jumped up and down. Then one day it flew up to another segment of the same ornament an inch or two higher than the nest. Later in that day, the young one flew about two feet onto another hanging ornament. In the meantime, the second young bird stayed either in the nest or perched itself on the edge, occasionally vibrating its wings.

Later, when it was about dusk, we saw that both youngsters were back in the nest. The next morning when we looked out, there was only one young bird in sight. It was sitting upright in the nest, and while we were watching, its mother flew in to feed it. The young one still acted tentative, but it finally did climb onto the edge of the nest and occasionally vibrated its wings.

Shelf Life —Maddie McEwen

## Homophones: bear vs. bare



Later, in the middle of the day, the nest was empty. All the previous occupants were gone. Where they had gone nobody knows, but apparently they were programmed by nature to continue life elsewhere.

We were sad to see them leave. They provided us much joy. But now, all we can do is to hope that in this overly urbanized valley those hummingbirds we observed will find other inviting ornaments they will be able to call home. —WT

# Aunt Chris and the Peanut Butter Thing

by Richard Allan Burns

One day in 1952--this was when I was about eight years old--Bill, Bob, and I had walked back from school and we were putting our stuff away in the bedroom. We heard a high scream from the kitchen, followed by Aunt Chris busting into the room, shouting, "Who the hell got into the brand new peanut butter?" Her face was red, all contorted in anger, and it scared me.

Bill stepped back. "Not me," he said.

We both looked over at Bob. He was slack jawed, looking puzzled. "Hey, don't look at me," he said.

"Oh, then, it's the usual story with you three." Aunt Chris was beside herself. "Once again, nobody did it."

I protested my innocence, and immediately wished I hadn't.

"Well, I sure as hell didn't do it," she yelled, her face getting redder. "And y'all know damn good and well, Uncle Fred didn't do it."

I pictured myself escaping out the window, and police grabbing me by the collar. Instead, I unconsciously inched closer to my bed and stumbled over my trumpet case.

Her eyes were little beads, her scrunched lips chillingly dangerous.

"Oh, then you walked in your sleep, is that it, Dick?"

She strode over to the closet and lifted a belt off the wall hook and contemplated the leather. "And Bob's over there, so damn innocent."

She seemed to reconsider and put the belt back on the hook, looked at each one of us in turn, shaking her head, and, finally, sighed in disgust. "Not brave enough to be honest, huh? Well, one of y'all better do some confessing, and do it right now."

We sometimes laughed in our room at her North Carolina way of talking, but we weren't laughing now.

Bill looked around, all bewildered-like. I'm sure Bob thought it would blow over soon, but that seemed less and less likely. Maybe she was in the throes of one her migraine headaches again.

Continued on Page 10



# Formatting Your Manuscript 101

by Marjorie Johnson

To format a submission for *WritersTalk*, open Word or Text and just start typing, using the program's default settings. At the end of each paragraph, hit the ENTER/RETURN key. The cursor will automatically move to start the next line of text, thus starting the next paragraph. When you've finished, correct your typing errors and save the document. Attach the Word doc or Text doc to an email and send it to *WritersTalk* using this address: newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

## Do not ...

- Hit the ENTER/RETURN key at the end of a line of text on your screen (unless you are writing a poem). That's a habit left over from the dark ages, when we had typewriters.
- Hit the TAB key to indent a line of text. Doing so forces the editor to delete every tab you set. Take care, lest the WT Editor send a *genii* to disable your TAB key. Instead, set the paragraph indent in the formatting palette.
- Press the spacebar repeatedly to indent the first line of text in a paragraph or to make it "look nice."
- Use more than one font. Use only the software's default font until you know what font is required by your targeted audience.
- Use colors.
- Use page breaks or section breaks or columns.
- Insert graphics or table. Instead, please send a jpg or PDF.
- Use headers or footers or insert page numbers.
- Use the SHIFT + ENTER option.

The techniques listed above may make your work look cool to you, but the WT Editor's computer will growl. Too loud a growl, and the manuscript will retreat in fear and hide in the TRASH.

## Do ...

- Set up the right master-slave relationship with your computer. More about that at the end of this article.
- Learn how to set the paragraph indent. This simple change will make your work much easier. You can hit ENTER/RETURN **once** at the end of a paragraph—no more using the TAB key or hitting the spacebar repeatedly until you lose count.
- Put your full name on the byline. If your email is abcxyz@yahoo.com, the editor won't know who you are.
- Before hitting SEND, read your submission once more. Give it a thorough pass and cast out any typos that may have snuck in. Double-check that word count.

## What about poetry?

Just type it left justified. Use ENTER/RETURN after each line and hit ENTER/RETURN an extra time after each stanza.

If you want the poem to be centered, the WT Editor can center the whole thing. Please, do not make it "look nice" by typing a string of spaces, and do not use any page breaks.

## Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



"A book! A BOOK! My KINGDOM for a BOOK!!!"

## Special problems:

If you work in something other than Word or Text, then send a PDF to WT. A PDF document can usually be translated to Word—if you used "plain vanilla" text: no special characters, tabs, extra spaces, graphics or tables.

## What about submitting to an agent or an editor?

Read the submission guidelines for your particular agent/editor or publication. Guidelines vary; many ask for Times New Roman 12-font, double-spaced. You can use SELECT ALL and change to the required font.

Of course, clean up your copy before sending it anywhere. If your manuscript has multiple typos, ragged paragraph indents, or fancy fonts in its title, you look like an amateur.

If the agent/editor asks for paper copies, use clean white paper. Colored paper makes your manuscript stand out all right—in the slush pile.

## What about the promised master-slave relationship?

Learn how to format documents with your word processor. You need to know how to set paragraph indents and margins; how to center a line; how to set single or double spaced lines. Once set up, your computer lets you write quickly and effortlessly.

## How to learn all this?

You could take a class or go to "Help" within your word processing program. Better yet, borrow someone's grandchild: they learn keyboarding in school these days, and they will be thrilled to teach you how.

If you would like to look at a properly formatted manuscript or query letter, go to *Writer's Digest* books. For example, *Writer's Market Deluxe Edition 2017* has current information on markets as well as formatting examples. You can look at a past copy of *Writer's Market* at the library—formatting information changes slowly. — WT

## SBW TalkBooks Interview

### David F. Snider, *Stars in the Deep: Destiny*

The SBW TalkBooks group interviewed David F. Snider about his sci-fi novel, *Stars in the Deep: Destiny*, at its live author event at Santa Clara Library in March 2016.

#### Book Description:

When the NAVCOM Computer takes the ECS *Destiny* irretrievably off course, the crew and colonists on board must find an alternative world to colonize to save the one-way mission from catastrophic failure. Woven into the story are themes of love, hope, forgiveness and restoration, and human spirituality .

#### Q: What inspired you to write the story?

A: As a kid I was a crazy sci-fi nut. Space colonization has always interested me. It is something we, as a race, must accomplish, if for no other reason than to “see what’s out there.”

#### Q: Who are your favorite sci-fi authors and influences?

A: To name a few: Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Andre (Alice) Norton, Piers Anthony, and Frank Herbert. I like books that are about world building.

#### Q: How did you go about producing and publishing *Stars in the Deep*? Was the MS submitted to agents?

A: The production process was long and arduous. I started writing the book in 2009. I finished the long process of rewriting in 2012, but I never thought I’d have so much trouble getting it looked at. After a year of trite replies of “sorry, we aren’t looking for this kind of thing right now...” from countless agents, I decided to try self-publishing. In 2013, I released the first edition through CreateSpace.

#### Q: Why did you invent a language based upon Sanskrit for your group of native inhabitants?

A: The ancient language Sanskrit, an everyday language in India

long ago, was used for early religious writings. I wanted to create something that seemed alien with an element of believability.

#### Q: Was it difficult for you to create a bad character?

A: It was hard putting myself in that role. I need to identify with my characters, and I feel sorry for my villains.

#### Q: What was the most surprising thing you learned in creating your books?

A: I was surprised that sitting down and writing a story could absorb you so much. I created characters as I went along, and they grew on me.

#### Q: What’s your writing process?

A: I tried to write using the traditional outlining process, but I found that, for me, it flows better and I have more fun free writing to create all the characters.

#### Q: What do you think makes a good story?

A: I need to like the characters, and the story needs to feel real.

**Author Bio, David Snider:** “I am, after all, somewhat the normal average kind of person, though a few might beg to differ. I was born and raised in San Jose and attended college in Santa Cruz. I have been married for thirty-five years and have five children. The greatest love in my life, next to my God and my Wife, is Music. I began piano when I was five, switched to the accordion at six. I play, sing, read, write, arrange, and conduct music. Music has been the air I breathe for nearly my whole life.”

Connect with David on Goodreads at [http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7157769.David\\_F\\_Snider](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7157769.David_F_Snider); his website is <http://www.starsinthedeep-destiny.com>

The complete interview appears on Chess Desalls’ blog, <https://chessdesalls.wordpress.com/2016/04/11/talkbooks-interview-with-david-f-snider/> – WT

## Aunt Chris and the Peanutbutter *Continued from Page 8*

“Come in here, you little brats,” she yelled, and she stormed out toward the pantry.

“Did you do it?” I asked Bob. He shook his head.

I didn’t like the way this was playing out, not at all. I had been looking forward to playing a little catch with Bill, outside.

The pantry door was open when we got there. The top was removed from the peanut butter jar Aunt Chris was holding. I was the first one there, and she pushed my head down to look.

“Which one of you spoiled boys did this?” she screamed, and she pushed me back, and, gripping Bob’s shoulder hard, pulled him near.

“I didn’t do it,” he said, “cross my heart.”

Bill was behind Bob, denying he had anything to do with it.

This was a dilemma. I knew it wasn’t me, so it had to be Bob or Bill. It didn’t sound like Bob was lying, but that didn’t mean much. Bill was more straight-laced, but I still had no idea who did it.

“I suppose Dick, here, was hungry last night,” Aunt Chris said, waving the jar at me.

Looking at it, there was the normal little finishing swirl of peanut butter on the shiny flat surface, but just off to the side of it, there was a deep, rounded trench caused by someone’s finger, someone who broke the no-peanut-butter-tasting rule, someone who vastly underestimated how it would affect Aunt Chris.

“Stop acting like some sweet angel, Dick, ‘cause you ain’t. You’re no better than your damn brothers. Fess up, this minute, whoever is guilty!”

No one was about to admit to it. She set the jar down hard on the breadboard.

“Damn you stupid delinquents. Keep y’all’s filthy fingers out of the damn peanut butter, do y’all hear me?”

We heard her, all right. Even though she fed us grits and corn fritters and turnip greens, her voice was piercing and definitely southern. We were San Fernando Valley kids. She and Uncle Fred, our new foster parents for that year, were recent transplants from Hickory, North Carolina. It was their idea to call them Aunt and Uncle. She didn’t have Hollywood English down too well, but she could swear like a San Diego sailor.

“That’s it, damn it, just keep standing there like dummies. I might as well be talking to a damn post.”

*To be continued in March*



### New Year's Evening

Crescent meets Venus  
Bright love kisses mystery  
Yet both desolate

### Dark Predawn

I lift my bed sheets  
Blue green static spark flashes  
Transient lightshow  
– Stephen C. Wetlesen

Stephen C. Wetlesen –  
Cameraless photographer  
Film is obsolete



South Bay Writers Bookmarks  
Created by Pamela Oliver Lyons

### Feb: Fire Alarm

What if your deadline  
Is for sure, end of a month.  
Then don't choose February, fine  
Valentine poems; "Done-th"  
Best, I could, slogans, a sign  
Of a procrastinating author.  
Give me 31 days or don't bother.

– Pat Bustamante

## Poetry Page

### Fill My Heart

Let your words dance across the page  
Touch my soul  
Touch my heart  
Touch my mind  
Wrap me in a moment of time

Let it make me feel  
The Kiss  
Of Life  
Of Love  
Of heart songs

Let me long for the love that is spoken  
In your sweet words  
Let me saturate my senses  
In the pallet of your love song  
Let me for a brief moment  
Feel I am the only one

Allow me to caress your poetry  
Clinging to the beautiful binding  
Laced in narrow gold rims and velum

The passion of life contained

Let me dream  
Take me briefly  
Fill My Heart

Dear Poet

– Karen Franzenburg

### It is yours to finish

Hear this, it is yours to finish, but I cannot  
Hear this, it is yours to finish, but I forgot  
Hear this, it is yours to finish. You have to  
Hear this, it is yours to finish, so yours too  
It is yours to say. I am with, a completion  
It is yours to say. I am with, determination  
It is yours to say. I am with, no hesitation  
It is yours to say. I am with, no visitation  
I'll finish my job just wait, not long to wait  
I'll finish my job just wait, not be very late  
I'll finish my job just wait, so I am also due  
I'll finish my job just wait, so you will too  
It is yours to finish, what you began to do  
It is yours to finish, what you began yes you  
Beginning is usually easy, but to end is a yet  
Beginning is usually easy, but end some forget

– Clarence L. Hammonds  
Poem number 2867



Salsa by Karen Hartley

### Salsa

(Corrected with apologies from WT)

The salsa dance is fast  
You swing, you sway  
you turn, you twirl

Joyous, happy and the  
rhythm moves your soul  
you step forward and back  
then tap

The motion is smooth  
soon you move  
as if born to it

You become the rhythm  
you feel the wind as  
you sway and swing  
the salsa dance brings  
you joy and you  
don't want to  
stop

It's fun, it's happy  
you rejoice and  
you lose yourself in the  
colors of it

You move and the music  
guides your feet  
you're happy and you keep  
going and going  
around and around  
swirling, twirling

Soon the music slows  
calming you as you begin  
to know that soon the song  
and dance will end

Finally all the colors blend  
as if in unison  
then you regain your breath  
feeling points of soft white light

– Karen Hartley

### WT Poetry Submissions note:

Poets, please do not use a page break.  
Let the poem flow onto the second  
page naturally. The page following  
a page break sometimes can be lost.

# Tweets, Links, and Tips

by Michael Lunsford

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

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

Most have an optional weekly theme, typically announced the night before. (To find the theme for #MuseMon, do a Twitter search for "#MuseMon Theme" on Sunday night.) Some sites, like #SlapDashSat, are open-ended with no weekly theme.

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

2. **Follow South Bay Writers on Twitter.** SBW's username is @SouthBayWriters.

3. **Goodreads:** Books written by South Bay Writers authors appear on the club's www.Goodreads.com bookshelf. (Avoid a long URL by going to the home page for southbaywriters.com and clicking on the GR icon. On Goodreads, SBW is the South Bay Writers Group. The cumbersome URL is <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/160947-south-bay-writers-talkbooks>)

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

## 5. February deadlines:

- 2/6: Association of Illustrators World Illustration Awards: Entry fee for this listing: \$33 per Single Entry, \$60 per Multiple Entry. The awards are open to many categories of illustration including books, children's books, and editorial. Winners featured in an exhibition, publication, and special promotion.
- 2/20: Past-Year Memoir Contest: Enter your 16-word memoir that reflects on 2016. Winner receives a free class of his choice from Gotham Writers. Register at Gotham Writers to enter.
- 2/23: #PBPitch: Open to picture books. Pitch your picture book via Twitter using the hashtag #PBPitch between 8am and 8pm EST.
- 2/24: Pitch Madness: Submit a 35-word pitch and the first 250 words of your completed manuscript. A team of readers chooses the top 60 entries to move onto coaching and an agent round.

## 6. Upcoming deadlines:

- 3/23: #Pitmad: Open to all genres. Pitch your manuscript via Twitter using the hashtag #Pitmad between 8am and 8pm EDT. Pitch only 3 times per project.
- 4/1: Scholastic Graphix Contest: Open to Graphic Novels for kids; U.S. residents only. Up to 5 winners will receive an offer to publish their work with Scholastic and a \$15,000 advance.
- 6/8: #Pitmad: Open to all genres. Pitch your manuscript via Twitter using the hashtag #Pitmad between 8am and 8pm EDT. Pitch only 3 times per project.

7. **Websites for agent and querying info:** Are you ready to send out queries to agents? Don't hit SEND before checking out these websites.

- Agent Query: <http://AgentQuery.com>
- Query Shark: <http://queryshark.blogspot.ca/>
- Query Tracker: <http://querytracker.com>
- AAR database: <http://aaronline.org>
- Absolute Write message boards: <http://www.absolutewrite.com/forums/>
- Publishers Marketplace: <http://publishersmarketplace.com/> – WT

# San Mateo County Fair 2017 Literary Arts Contests

by Kim Schultz,

San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Assistant

You are now able to enter your 2017 Literary Fair submissions. Why wait? Visit the San Mateo County Fair website <https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts> to upload your pieces! Click on the "Enter Online" link on the right-hand side of the webpage to enter.

If you have any questions about how to enter, click on the "How to Enter Online Guide" on the right-hand side of the webpage. Don't forget to read **all** of the contest rules before uploading your pieces. See the San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Contest Book at [https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2017/literary\\_17.pdf](https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2017/literary_17.pdf).

Don't worry if you do not have your pieces ready to upload. You have until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017. Don't worry about making last minute changes to your submitted pieces. As long as the title remains the same, you can go in and upload the latest version!

Good luck everyone! We'll see you at the 2017 Fair, June 10 - 18! – WT

# Writing Residencies

by Donna McCrohan Rosenthal,  
CWC P/R Director

The visionary 1888 Center has launched a residency exclusively for Californians, and they've asked us to get the word out to our own California Writers. Surely this is right up our alley.

These are "three two-week residencies in the mountains of Lake Arrowhead where the creative environment will nurture your craft and help carry on the tradition of the California voice. Finished work will be included in 1888's *The Cost of Paper* anthology." Submissions will consist of a CV or narrative bio, a statement of intent, and a writing sample. The submission period: 01/01/17 through 02/28/17; \$25 entry fee. Three residencies from April 1 through May 15. All applications must be submitted through "Submittable" at <http://1888.center/cwr/> (which see for further details) after January 1. – WT

# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

**Facebook:** We post many contests and calls for submissions on our Facebook group. Are you on Facebook? If you are, but are not in our Facebook group (and you are a member of South Bay Writers Club) you can ask to join. The group name is South Bay Writers Club. The actual URL is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5486894361/>

Some other Facebook groups/pages that list upcoming contests and submission requests include

- Freedom With Writing: Lists contests, submissions, and other opportunities <https://www.facebook.com/freedomwithwriting/?fref=ts>
- Writers Post Call For Submissions. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/58414389316/>
- New Millennium Writings <https://www.facebook.com/NewMillenniumWritings/?fref=ts>
- A Path To Publishing <https://www.facebook.com/groups/apathhtopublishing/>
- Self Publishing Review <https://www.facebook.com/selfpublishingreview/>
- Sand Hill Review Press <https://www.facebook.com/Sand-Hill-Review-Press-193511644070296/>
- Mused Literary Review <https://www.facebook.com/MusedLiteraryReview/>
- Up The Staircase Quarterly <https://www.facebook.com/upthestaircasequarterly/>
- Pushpen Press <https://www.facebook.com/pushpenpress/>
- Friesen Press <https://www.facebook.com/friesenpress/>
- Fiction Silicon Valley <https://www.facebook.com/fictionsv>

A few other contests and calls for submissions include

- 2017 SIBA Summer Indie Book Awards. Books must be either small press or independently published between September 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017. See <http://us10.campaign-archive1.com/?u=72fc031b1b7e97c79d53f8ca5&id=0b7ca9a881>
- The Book Designer website page: Book Awards for Self-Published Authors includes awards such as BookLife, Cipa Evvy, and Independent Press awards. Check it out at <https://www.thebookdesigner.com/book-awards/>
- *The Sun Magazine* publishes essays, interviews, fiction, and poetry. They pay from \$300 to \$2,000 for essays and interviews, \$300 to \$1,500 for fiction, and \$100 to \$200 for poetry. Guidelines at [http://thesunmagazine.org/about/submission\\_guidelines/writing](http://thesunmagazine.org/about/submission_guidelines/writing)
- For something different, try the Winning Writers Wergle-flomp humor poetry contest. See their contests at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

Don't forget the tried and true resources:

- *Poets & Writers*, <http://www.pw.org/grants>
- *The Writer Magazine*, <http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests>
- *Writer's Digest*, <http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions>.

Good luck, and be sure to tell us when you score. — WT

# Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop

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

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

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

# Redwood Writers Fan Fiction Contest Launch: January 2017

by Margie Yee Webb

The **Redwood Writers 2017 Fan Fiction Contest** launches in January and is open to all CWC members.

Fan fiction is fiction written by fans of a TV series, movie, book, etc., using existing characters and situations to develop new plots. The contest launch is January 8, 2017 with deadline February 19, 2017. Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be presented at the Redwood Writers meeting on April 9, 2017.

Details at <http://redwoodwriters.org/contests/> — WT

# IAHF Memoir Writing Workshops

by Pamela Oliver Lyons

Last spring the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF) ran a series of memoir writing workshops over a three-month period. They want to repeat again this year.

They paid \$100 per workshop and had four presenters from South Bay Writers. They need one more teacher for this project, someone in SBW with a memoir writer/teaching background. — WT

# News from California Writers Club

## Advertising in *The CWC Bulletin*

by Bob Isbill

Want to increase your visibility? Sell your service? Promote your book? Increase speaker engagements? Pump up your web traffic? Or just send a greeting?

Each issue of *The CWC Bulletin*, published three times a year, reaches 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 21 CWC branches throughout the state and is published on [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org)

Now we are accepting writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices. See [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org).

All ads submitted must be self-edited and print-ready: published as received. We reserve the right to decline material deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

All ads must be emailed as a jpg file to [advertisingcwc@gmail.com](mailto:advertisingcwc@gmail.com). In addition, a physical copy of your ad must be enclosed with the postal mailed payment. Please include your return address, email address, and telephone contact number. Double-check that you have followed the directions on [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org).

Deadlines: Feb. 28 for the March issue; July 28 for August; Oct. 28 for November.

Space is limited. Appropriate ads will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A copy of *The Bulletin* will be emailed to advertisers upon publication. Please include your preferred email address. Questions? Call Bob Isbill at (760) 221-6367.

Checks or money orders for submitted ads must be made payable to CWC Central Treasury and mailed to HDCWC, The Bulletin Marketing Department, 20258 Hwy 18 STE 430 PMB 281, Apple Valley, CA 92307 – 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, Sequoia Yacht Club, Redwood City: check website <http://cwc-peninsula.org/>

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

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## Conferences

### Tri-Valley Writers Conference

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

Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton

Focus on craft, marketing, and self-publishing. Network with authors, marketers, and innovators who share a passion for writing. Speaker line-up includes authors, marketing experts, an editor and an agent, and innovators in e-publishing.

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

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

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

### San Francisco Writers Conference

Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, February 16 – 19, 2017

[www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org)

This is our biggest local conference--your chance to meet an agent and take in-depth classes of interest to writers. Free events, including Jon Agee Children's books session. More than 100 presenters--authors, editors, publishers & literary agents from New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco Bay Area.

2017 San Francisco Writing Contest is NOW accepting entries.

Yes, it's expensive, but you get what you pay for. Substantial early discounts and special room rates. Attend with a friend and split cost of hotel room.

For event/class details and online registration, contest rules, and subscription to SFWC Newsletter, go to [www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org) today. – WT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	4
5	6 2P Valley Writers	7 SBW Board meets Check website	8	9	10	11
12 10A Our Voices	13 2P Valley Writers <b>6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau</b>	14	15 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo	16 <b>Deadline WritersTalk was yesterday</b>	17 7:30P Open mic Wil- low Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	18
19	20 2P Valley Writers	21	22	23 7 P TalkBooks, Santa Clara City Library, Homestead Road, Sycamore Room	24	25
26 10A Our Voices	27 2P Valley Writers	28	<b>February 2017</b>			

**Future Events:**  
 SBW Board meets Tuesday, March 7: TBA  
 SBW Dinner Meeting, Monday, March 13, Harry's

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

## 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 Feb. 7, 2017: 6:30 PM dinner; Board meeting 7 - 9 PM, Tony and Alba's Pizza and Pasta, Winchester Shopping Plaza, 3137 Stevens Creek, San Jose.

### 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 Open Mic:** Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30 PM at Reach and Teach, 144 West 25th Ave., San Mateo

### Ongoing discussion groups

**TalkShop:** Group is full.

**SBW TalkBooks:** discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. TalkBooks resumed in January. Contact newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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

### You may advertise in the CWC Literary Review.

Go to [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) for details.

### 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](http://www.pcsj.org)

### SBW Recommends ...

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



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

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers  
February Regular Meeting**

**6 pm, Monday, February 13**

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

**From Writing  
Onward  
Into Editing**

**Tanya Egan Gibson**

*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.