



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 25  
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January 2017

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

JANUARY SPEAKER

## On Poetry!

by Pamela Oliver Lyons

At the Willow Glen Library on December 15, the Poetry Center of San José presented their Annual Christmas Poetry Open Mic event. There was great affection as Poet Nils Peterson read and sang with friends and strangers, alike, celebrating a nostalgic holiday program. Surely everyone already knows Nils as one of the founders of the Poetry Center, or as the first Poet Laureate of Santa Clara County 2009 – 2011, or as Professor Emeritus of San Jose State University, or as the author of *Walk to the Center of Things*, the first of the Caesura Edition series, or from his numerous publications including a Pushcart Prize nominee.



Nils Peterson

Photo from Leslie Hoffman

Still some may ask, “Who’s Nils Peterson?”

One way to find out is to read what people write.

“I had been a latecomer to poetry appreciation. My first poetry class was taken at a retirement center during my first summer in my new home. Nils Peterson came to teach a short three week class.

RECAP 2016 JINGLE BASH

## December 2016 Holiday Party

by Kelly Gomez

On December 3, South Bay Writers hosted a party in the hills of Portola Valley. Although windy at first, the roads up into the mountains gave way to a beautiful view. The air was cool and crisp, and as each guest arrived, he or she journeyed to the back porch of the house to take a look at the Bay Area landscape. Members greeted each other upon arrival with a smile and cheer of goodwill. The most common *hors d'oeuvres* consisted of fancy cheeses and water crackers. There were also trays of mixed nuts and sweet-and-salty Chex mix in the kitchen area. After a few hours of small talk, everyone gathered around the kitchen to select dinner in a buffet line. There was an assortment of fried chicken, hushpuppies, deli sandwiches, sautéed vegetables and chow mein, lasagna, and Caesar salad, to say the least. In the dining room, guests sat around large round tables fitted with candles and Poinsettias as centerpieces. Conversations ranged from discussions on publishing legalities, computer programming, and teaching, to international education. If one were quiet enough, a musical instrument could be heard in the other room—a viola playing the classics. While new members introduced themselves to old ones, dessert soon replaced the array of empty dinner plates.

It was a chocolate lover’s heaven. Two types of chocolate cake were presented, along with homemade chocolate cookies, Christmas cookies, cream puffs, and a delicious assortment of icing-filled ginger cookies. It’s safe to say that most guests opted for both cake and cookies.

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*Continued on Page 6*

# President's Two Cents

Pamela Oliver-Lyons  
President, South Bay Writers



## The Truest Sentence

*"All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know."* — Ernest Hemingway

Most consider January to be a beginning of a new year. It is not. The SBW year runs from the end of June 2016 to the first of July 2017. This has been a year like no other. As Bob Dylan says, "It's the process that's important." SBW's year begins with membership and ends with writing.

SBW has five membership categories: Active, Associate, Supporting, Dual/Joint and Student. Among these Active has two options: author of a published novel/book or the publishing of three articles, poems, stories or other written work. "Published" can be either self or traditionally published. The Supporting category reaches out to all professions in writing related fields such as librarians, editors, publishers, and literary agents. The prestige awarded to these outlying writing fields has been drastically altered this year.

Consider this year's prize winners.

The prestigious Hitchens Prize, \$50,000 awarded to "an author or journalist whose work reflects a commitment to free expression and inquiry, a range of depth of intellect and a willingness to pursue truth without regard to personal or professional consequence," went to Marty Baron, Editor of the *Washington Post*. He was portrayed as the editor character in the 2015 crime drama film, *Spotlight*. Upon being notified, he was surprised to have received this "writers" award and stated that he has managed writers but did not consider himself as a writer of the caliber usually honored.

Christopher Hitchens, the man in whose memory the award is named, can best be described as having been a contrarian, "the man who left the left," a journalist (*The Nation* and *Vanity Fair*), and only later an author. If he were in our club his membership category might be Supporting. The power of the Supporting category cannot be underestimated. All of our membership categories are designed to create a diverse and supportive writing club.

Another gold standard is the Pulitzer Prizes of Journalism (14 offered in journalism alone). The 2017 Contest remains open until January 25, 2017. There is no stated criteria. This year's Editorial Writing Award (\$10,000) went to John Hackworth and Brain Gleason of the Sun Newspapers in Fort Pierce, FL for a series of editorials demanding truth about a local crime and resulting in an effective change.

Perhaps the biggest bombshell for 2016 was Bob Dylan's Nobel Prize for Literature (\$900,000), which caused a profound questioning of what is literature? The Swedish Academy awarded him the prize "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American Song tradition." (nobelprize.org) Professor Horace Engdahl's presentation speech explained, "When someone seizes upon a simple, overlooked form, discounted as art in the higher sense, and makes it mutate ... Each time this occurs, our idea of literature changes." (nobelprize.org)

What are the common denominators between these awardees? The winners all used writing rooted within their local experiences to change lives. What does this mean for South Bay Writers? We need to recruit for membership in all our available categories. Who can tell where the truest sentences will come from in 2017? — WT

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
www.southbaywriters.com

— o —

### SBW Officers

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### SBW Events

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin  
WABaldwin@aol.com  
TalkShop (filled)—Carole Taub  
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 \$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

### 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

**Circulation:** 200

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Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Tweak Your Elevator Pitch: The 27/9/3 Twit-Pitch

Ever wonder about the sound bites that bombard you on television and appear as annoying pop-up ads when you surf the Web? Advertisers make a science out of writing sound bites. Writers can apply that sound-bite science to the elevator pitch.

The "elevator pitch" is that succinct and persuasive sales pitch an author could deliver to an agent trapped next to him in an elevator for the trip between floors, 30 seconds to 2 minutes. Today, that's way too long.

It seems that today's attention span is only 8 seconds. That's less than that of a goldfish, which is 9 seconds – the time needed to read aloud a 140-character Tweet. "Ditch your elevator pitch and create your Twit-Pitch," advises Janice Celeste on huffingtonpost.com. (*WT* advises you to tweak your pitch, not ditch it. Be prepared to say more if you fire someone's attention.)

"The 27/9/3 key message grid is a great format for creating three concise sound-bite-length messages," according to Jeremy Porter, Jeremy Porter Communications.

The average length of a sound bite in print media is 27 words; the average duration of a sound bite in the broadcast media is 9 seconds; and 3 is the average number of messages in a sound bite as delivered in both print and broadcast media.

The most important of the 3 messages come first and last; people don't remember the middle message. Here's an example from Jeremy Porter. "Our fish are dangerously close to extinction. This is because almost all of the ocean is unprotected. We're not too late – we can turn this around."

So how about making a sound-bite message to answer the ubiquitous question, "What is your novel/book about?" At a minimum, your pitch should summarize your story, indicate your genre, and hook listeners and potential readers. You have to cram all that into a few precious sentences. One way is to borrow "27/9/3" from the advertising world.

Cover no more than 3 subjects, in no more than 9 seconds, with a maximum of 27 words. Start by choosing 3 topics. You can take 1 plot thread, 1 character, and 1 setting, or some other combination, but no matter what you do, you get only 3 subjects. The limit of 9 seconds is much easier. If you follow the 3 points and the 27 words, the pitch should be easy to deliver in 9 seconds.

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# Letter to the Editor: Jingle Bash

Dear Editor: Regarding our holiday party.

First: thank you, Christine, for opening your lovely home to South Bay Writers, so that together we could socialize and celebrate the season—worrysome so few attended. I also thank Xavier for his vibrant violin innovations, but again, so few to listen. Where were the “we” I expected.

While I held visions of felicity recalled from previous holiday parties, knew what to bring, the limit to spend for the battle of gifts, and what time to arrive—the location was virtually secret. One needed to send an email via the website, so as to identify oneself as a bona fide member and thus qualified to receive the location. Assuming the message passed through the website link (mine did not) and the implied membership declaration could be verified, the reply, should it come (mine didn't), promised to reveal the requested location. (A protracted ordeal that failed for me several times.)

In the past, our turnout at these parties matched, to great extent, our members meeting attendance—somewhere beyond the vicinity of fifty. And, in the past, the inviting announcement was similar to this year's, with one important addition. We easily knew where the party was to be held. In fact, throughout the past in this club, event locations have been clearly and frequently announced to members.

Now, the non-associated are not invited—not that we're antisocial, more that we can't afford them and thus want to limit the news. We've done that successfully in the past with Constant Contact, which casts our warm invitation, location included, to members only. We've redacted the location on the digital version of *WritersTalk*, obviating the possibility that those, who dig levels down through the digital pile and seek out this tidbit of info, will not be able to crash. And, we refrained from Internet posting. But the “where” of these events always appeared in the paper version of WT sufficiently early to plan an attendance (mine arrived the afternoon before), and of course we all read our emails. Not once—and here's the biggie. Not once since memory allows, has any disruption arrived to disturb our festivities or blow up the house of the host.

Sooo, as we proceed toward the next SBW parties, may I suggest that we notify invitees in a manner suited to our goals—a large and reflective sampling of members and members' guests.

Thanks for reading,  
David L. LaRoche

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## The Perfect Stocking Stuffer: 1/2 Year of Membership

Are you looking for the perfect stocking stuffer for a fellow writer this year? Take advantage of South Bay Writers' discounted six-month membership for \$42.50 for the period January 1 through June 30, 2017. Give a writer the opportunity to test-drive Silicon Valley's premier writing group.

South Bay Writers membership has its benefits:

- Network with fellow writers and authors and get inspired and motivated!
- Learn from industry experts during SBW's monthly Speaker Series
- Receive discounts on workshops with writing and publishing experts
- Receive \$5 discounts on monthly meetings
- Publish your work in SBW's *WritersTalk* newsletter
- Submit your work for consideration to California Writers Club's glossy magazine, *Literary Review*
- Attend private, member-only events, including the July summer barbecue and December's Jingle Bash
- Participate in SBW's TalkShop, TalkBooks, and Open Mic
- Participate in club leadership at the local, regional, or state level

This discount is available to non-members and (lapsed) renewing members. Use PayPal to pay online at southbaywriters.com. Alternatively, you may pay by check to: CWC South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055. — WT

## Member News

**Dr. Jac Fitzenz** was featured in an article in San Jose's *The Villager* newspaper, November 25, 2016: “Dr Jac Fitzenz, a Villages resident, recently published his 14th book and second novel, *Undaunted Lovers: A Tale of Forbidden Love*.”

**Margie Yee Webb** announces that she is the Contest Chair for the **Redwood Writers 2017 Fan Fiction Contest** open to all California Writers Club members. Fan fiction is fiction written by fans of a TV series, movie, or book using existing characters and situations to develop new plots. See details in Contests and Markets on page 14. — WT

## The 27/9/3 Twit-Pitch

*Continued from Page 3*

You have a 27-word cap to your pitch. You can split this into several sentences or write one complicated one. What's important is that it sounds good, that you remember it, and that you obey the 27/9/3 rules.

You need to practice, practice, practice. Once you write your pitch, read it aloud until it's smooth; then memorize it. Tell your family. Tell your friends. Tell your loveable dog.

As an example, for *Lost Jade of the Maya* by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson:

*Chanla Pesh searches for ancient Mayan treasures in Guatemala. Crime lords demand a piece of the action. For protection, Pesh has only her jade jaguar shaman's talisman.*

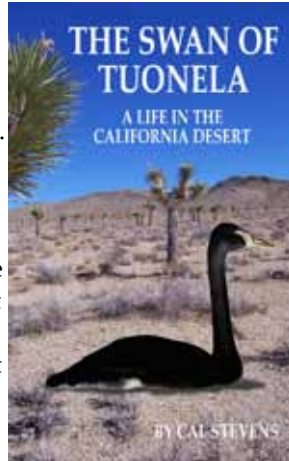
The idea for this editorial came from C. R. Rowenson, CWC East Sierra Branch, who said, “Go forth and hone your pitch. Leave people reeling from the condensed awesomeness of your story.” — WT

## *The Swan of Tuonela: A Life in the California Desert*

by Calvin Stevens

This book is the story of a man who was born and lived most of his life in the desert of Eastern California. In this work, I have rendered as accurately and plausibly as possible the most memorable adventures of this fictional man. Some of the chapters are based on actual events, whereas others have been invented. Each episode is almost a short story in itself.

The main character and the other people whose stories are followed in this novel lived in a rarefied culture, and most were very individualistic. They were no less ambitious and intelligent than those who lived in the great cities, but their lives were very different, and in some ways more interesting. Available on Amazon and Kindle. —WT



## *American Family*

by Catherine Marshall-Smith

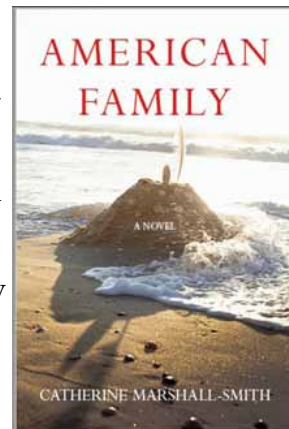
*How much would you be willing to sacrifice in order to have and raise your child?*

Richard and Michael are celebrating their three years of sobriety by moving in to Michael's bungalow in Manhattan Beach, California. While Michael is at work, Richard impulsively makes a phone call to his ten-year-old daughter who is in the custody of her mom's parents in Oregon. Richard knows he should have discussed this with Michael but they did talk about connecting with Brady when the time was right. They just hadn't identified when that time would be. Richard, on this day, at this hour, with boxes of his belongings in chaos around him, decided now is the right time.

In making this phone call he starts the juggernaut of family law that threatens to destroy all that is good in his life. Things get worse as the couple learns that both Brady and her grandparents, who have been her parents for five years since her mother's death, are fundamentalist Christians. Both parties lawyer up only to find that the lawyers have their own agendas that supersede the needs of this family.

Events move smoothly in court for Richard and Michael until the grandparents' attorneys suggest and magnify the possibility that Brady witnessed a questionable sexual situation while in Richard's custody. Brady is whisked back to Oregon and the men have to decide how much they are willing to endure to get her back.

To be published June 2017. Website at <http://catherinemarshallsmith.com/> —WT



## TalkBooks Resumes

Harli Rabow is the new chair for SBW TalkBooks, a discussion group focusing on books written by SBW members. TalkBooks will meet at the Sycamore Room, Santa Clara Library, 2635 Homestead Road, on the last Thursday of the month, resuming January 26, 2017, with author Kymberlie Ingalls and her book, *Bridges*.

SBW authors' books appear on Goodreads. To visit our books, just click Goodreads on the 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

## Letter to the Editor: Re President's Two Cents

I would like to clarify the Pres2cents change made to the December article, "For our purposes literary fiction is ... a subset of a nondescript category ..."

I believe this needs to have a response.

Please consider: "Literary fiction is considered by some to be a genre but by others to be its own unique category." All our classics are placed in the time honored category of literary fiction. The *New York Times* usually has on an average two literary fiction novels in each top ten list published. The criteria range varies due to the nature of the literary and stands as the traditionally published category of exceptional writing with a ground breaking purpose emerging over time if not instantly. It is this aspect of innovation which sets the literary category apart. The innovation might be the subject of the novel set in history, the writing itself or both. The constant is a standard of excellence being met overall. On the other hand, like all popular genres, the literary work shares in having similarities as to certain set criteria. However one of the "criteria" for literary fiction is its groundbreaking out of the mold nature, which defies categorization.

Experts point out that popular fiction follows formulas and profits are seen immediately in the market, while initial profit for literary fiction often languishes. Instead, literary fiction earns more than popular genre fiction but over the long range of centuries of classic reading. Literary authors seldom can fully benefit from the profits from their books.

Literary fiction is not a "subset of the nondescript" and I apologize to those who took exception to this phrase.

Pam Oliver-Lyons  
President, South Bay Writers

## January Words of Wisdom

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.





## South Bay Writers Christmas 2016



Jiongle Bash Collage by Carolyn Donnell using photos by Karen Franzenburg (top row) and Dave LaRoche

### SBW January Speaker Nils Peterson

*Continued from Page 1*

It turned out to be “not my grandmother’s” poetry appreciation experience. It rocked. I was hooked on poetry.”

— Pamela Oliver Lyons

Joseph Stroud wrote, “Nils Peterson is a poet who sets the world before us — tangible and mysterious with almost effortless craft and a superbly tuned ear for the music of language. He reveals the luminous within everyday events of our lives. To use Sappho’s words, ‘He is an artisan of the keen, clear song.’”

Join us and hear Poet Laureate Emeritus Nils Peterson at South Bay Writers’ first meeting of 2017 at Harry’s Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose, on Monday, January 9 at 6:00pm. — WT

### Nils Peterson Rocks!

He’s teaching a class at The Poetry Center in San Jose in January. See Page 11.

### 2016 Holiday Bash

*Continued from Page 1*

After some time, guests filed into the living room at the announcement of the White Elephant Gift Exchange. It was a hilarious scene. Because nobody thought to count each member as he or she arrived, the numbers of the game ran from one to forty. Every time a number was called that didn’t match a player, everyone looked up in confusion until someone hastily shouted, “We don’t have that number. Next!” There were a few items of interest, which resulted in the stealing of some precious goods. The Star Trek collector’s stamps were quite a commodity, and its steals maxed out right away. Two different people opened up a duplicate gift, and then teased each other about trading. One very practical gift was unwrapped: a solar-powered flashlight, to prevent one’s self from getting lost in the woods at night. Some members took a more creative approach with their gifting ideas; they wrapped up the books they had published and planted them in the gift pile for an unsuspecting player to

discover. When packages were opened, looks were exchanged with eyebrows raised and knowing smiles.

As the evening came to a close, guests stood up and one by one collected their husbands and wives. The members with a long drive ahead of them ventured out first. The night owls, who had the most energy, continued conversations full of laughter in the kitchen, while folks who had an earlier bedtime made their way to the exit. The party became quieter as each member opened a heavy wooden door and disappeared into the night.

A big THANK YOU to our hostess Christine, who so graciously invited South Bay Writers to her lovely home. — WT

### Breaking News

The next scheduled B&N Book Fair Fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, March 12th, 11:30am – 5:00pm. Wearing o’ the Green!



## South Bay Writers Event Barnes & Noble Eastridge Dec. 10, 2016



Collage by Carolyn Donnell  
Photo lower left and upper right by Chess Desalls. Other photos by Carolyn Donnell.

### Barnes & Noble Showcases SBW Children's Authors

by Kim Malanzcuk

Barnes & Noble-Eastridge Mall invited South Bay Writers (SBW) to participate in its Children's Author Showcase and Book Fair on Saturday, December 10.

Shoppers met featured authors and SBW members E. Ardell, *The Fourth Piece*; Marjorie Bicknell Johnson, *Lost Jade of the Maya*; Penelope Anne Cole, *Magical Matthew*; Chess Desalls, *Travel Glasses*; and Judith Shernock, *Sammi the Seahorse*.

Barnes & Noble hosts events to raise author awareness and help raise funds for nonprofits. SBW will earn a percentage of net proceeds made using the club's Barnes & Noble voucher and identification number either in-store or online.

SBW will participate in more great Barnes & Noble author events in 2017. Stay tuned for future event details. — WT

### The Figures Are In

"... your organization brought in \$809.36. You will get a check for 10% of that or \$80.93. This number does not include any online sales."

Michael Koller, Manager,  
Barnes & Noble, Eastridge

### Writers meet Readers at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Dec 4

Local Lit /Writers Meet Readers @ King

On Sunday, December 4, twenty-six local writers met with the public at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, San Jose. They shared tales of inspiration and the writing process and discussed publishing, both indie and traditional. Learn about this annual event at [https://events.sjpl.org/event/local\\_lit\\_writers\\_meet\\_readers\\_king](https://events.sjpl.org/event/local_lit_writers_meet_readers_king)

Amongst the featured authors were two members of SBW, Betty Auchard and Robyn King. SBW member Kathy Boyd also attended; she was the one who alerted WT to this event.

Who knows? You could be a featured author at the MLK Library in December 2017. File away the date and apply next year. — WT



Betty Auchard and Kathy Boyd on Dec. 4  
—photo from Betty Auchard

## Ma and Pa

by Penelope Anne Cole

Mary and John watched their usual five p.m. game show until the smoke alarm blared. They followed the burnt smell and shuffled to the kitchen stove. Their one-pot supper had blackened.

"Another meal down the tubes," John said, with a sigh. He dumped the smoking mess into the trash can.

"You could've watched it same as me," Mary said, eyes sparking, close to tears or just anger—hard to tell which.

"But I was watching the show," John said, in a plaintive tone.

"As was I," Mary snapped back. She turned in the small space and opened the old fridge. A half carton of eggs emerged with her.

"We'll have eggs—if we can keep them from burning." She pulled out a small frying pan.

"But what about breakfast? There's no more bread." John looked around the bare space.

Mary took a deep breath, as if counting, then punctuated each word. "I expect something will turn up." She cracked the eggs into the greased pan.

"We could walk downtown, to the church. They have that lunch at eleven." John knew she would frown. Mary didn't like to be beholden to others.

"You know Ellie goes sometimes at the end of the month," he added.

Mary focused on the nearly-done eggs. It wasn't just the food at church, which wasn't bad. They didn't have "going to town" clothes. She looked down at her worn dress. Then she took the eggs off the stove and carefully divided them onto mismatched plates.

John carried the plates to the metal tray tables in front of the TV. Another game show was on. Though his eyes were cloudy and missed a lot, he had seen Mary look down at her old dress when she wiped her hands on the ragged kitchen towel. Then she joined him on the sofa.

"I'll help you with the wash," John said, his rough hand warm on hers.

Mary's small smile acknowledged his offer. They ate without talking. — WT

## 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.

Four tiers of ads are being offered:

- **Business card size (2"x 3.5") ads: \$35.** Appear in index section of *The Bulletin*.
- **Index card size (3"x 5") ads: \$60.** Interspersed throughout *The Bulletin*.
- **5"x 7" ads, \$90: placed at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.**
- **5"x 7" Special Display Ad: include your bio, photo, and book cover. Just \$90.**

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: see [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org).

Deadline: February 28 for the March issue; July 28 for August; and October 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 along with your ad submission. Questions? Call Bob Isbill at (760) 221-6367.

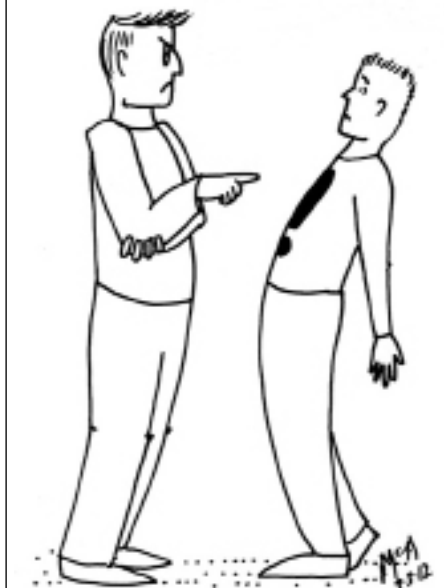
Checks or money orders for submitted ads must be made payable to CWC Central Treasury and mailed to HDCWC, The Bulletin Marketing Department, 20258 Hwy 18 STE 430 PMB 281, Apple Valley, CA 92307 — WT



## Commas rule

Universal rule for commas, hyphens, and en dashes: When in doubt, leave them out.

## Shelf Life — Maddie McEwen



So, you're the guy!!!!!!



# Editors At Play

## It's its — or is it?

by Andrea Galvacs

If its is not it's  
And it's is not its  
Then its is its

## Grammar Nazi's list

by Carolyn Donnell

Grammarians hate it when we confuse our pronouns or homonyms. Here are the ones most frequently abused.

They're — They are

Their — It belongs to them

There — A place

Then — A point in time

Than — A method of comparison

To — Indicates motion

Too — Also or excessively

Two — The number 2

We're — We are

Were — Past tense of are

Where — A place

Who's — Who is

Whose — Possessive form of who

You're — You are

Your — It belongs to you

This sentence unscrambles they're, their, and there: They're taking their kids to the beach; once there, they'll spread zinc oxide on all those little noses.

And here are words to comfort the grammar Nazi: "They're, their, there." — WT

## Save the Apostrophe

In March 2013, Henry Chu of the *Los Angeles Times* reported, "To grammarians' delight, officials in southwest England who had considered expunging apostrophes from street signs threw out the idea." Just the idea of omitting little squiggly marks on signs reading "Kings Crescent" or "St Pauls Square" ignited a grammatical tempest in a teapot.

However, such a policy would avoid mistakes such as sales on "Tomato's." To sum up, if you want some dinner you can eat your son's; without the apostrophe it's cannibalism. — WT

## Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



This is Edward. He's here to help edit your book.

## To Lie or to Lay: That's the Question

by Carolyn Donnell

Take this quiz to check your knowledge of grammar. Is the usage of "lie" or "lay" correct or incorrect? (Answers to quiz appear on page 13.)

1. *As I Lay Dying* — William Faulkner title (a.k.a. Sally Dang)
2. "As I lie dying" — from a Bayne MacGregor poem
3. *Lay, Lady, Lay* — Bob Dylan song
4. *Lay Down Your Weary Tune* — Bob Dylan song
5. *Lay Down, Little Doggies* — Woody Guthrie song
6. *When I Lay My Burden Down* — Mississippi Fred McDowell
7. "Come and lay down by my side" — Kris Kristofferson
8. "Lay it soft against my skin" — Kris Kristofferson
9. *Lay down, Sally* — Eric Clapton song
10. "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep." — WT

## A Plan for the Improvement of English Spelling

by Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

For example, in Year 1 that useless letter "c" would be dropped to be replaced either by "k" or "s", and likewise "x" would no longer be part of the alphabet. The only kase in which "c" would be retained would be the "ch" formation, which will be dealt with later. Year 2 might reform "w" spelling, so that "which" and "one" would take the same konsonant, wile Year 3 might well abolish "y" replasing it with "i" and Iear 4 might fiks the "g/j" anomali wonse and for all. Jenerally, then, the improvement would kontinue iear bai iear with Iear 5 doing awai with useless double konsonants, and Iears 6-12 or so modifaiing vowlz and the rimeining voist and unvoist konsonants. Bai Iear 15 or sou, it wud fainali bi posibl tu meik ius ov thi ridandant letez "c", "y" and "x" -- bai now jast a memori in the maindz ov ould doderez -- tu riplais "ch", "sh", and "th" rispektivli. Fainali, xen, aafte sam 20 iers ov orxogrefkl riform, wi wud hev a lojikl, kohirnt speling in ius xrewawt xe Ingliy-spiking werld. — WT

# Block: A Mixed Allegory

by Chess Desalls

Moll smirked at the archway of teeth above her. Fangs and incisors stuck out from scarlet lips, beneath a sign that said: *Find Your Own Fun House*.

"Are you sure you want to do this, Henry? It costs two tickets."

The gentlemen next to her laughed. He pulled four tickets from his pocket and divided them in half. "Sure, unless you're scared."

Moll dropped a paper plate in the trashcan and licked the dusting of powdered sugar from her fingertips. She pointedly dropped her tickets in the slot and stepped through the entrance. Henry chuckled and followed.

The ground beneath them squished and wobbled. Each lifting of their feet made a soft sucking sound.

Moll looked down and wrinkled her nose. "A tongue, nice."

The fleshy path ended at a crossroads. A sign pointed in opposite directions: *Abandoned Alley* to the left and *Writer's Block* to the right.

Moll grabbed Henry's hand and pulled him with her to the right.

The path stabilized into one more solid. An asphalt road absorbed the impact of their steps as they passed beneath a banner with *Writer's Block* written in a font that was red and curvy.

A street took form, lined with houses on both sides. Moll smiled as she read the mailboxes they passed, recognizing the names of her favorite authors.

The road ended at a wall painted like the rest of the street, except that the road stretched upward. With the same sidewalks, houses, and mailboxes on each side.

Before the bend in the road was a sign. An arrow pointed upward and connected to an arrow to the left. Moll pressed her fingertip to the third arrow and traced it down, to where it reached a fourth arrow that pointed to the right.

"This leads back to the arrow that goes up," muttered Moll. "We can't get anywhere with this—it defies gravity. It's impossible."

She tilted her head back, squinting as she followed the dashes in the middle of the road. Where there was once a ceiling of blue skies, the road bent back again, above her, with the same sidewalks, houses, and mailboxes on each side.

Her heartbeat thudded in her ears.

She whipped her head around.

The passage they'd come through was blocked by a wall with a road bending upward, and with the same sidewalks, and houses, and mailboxes—

Moll screamed.

She beat her fists against the wall. "We're boxed in!"

Henry rubbed his hands along his upper arms. His face had taken on a gluey hue.

Shadows of icy wind weaved their way back and forth along the road. The chattering of teeth bounced from wall, to wall, to wall, to ceiling, to wall.

*Inside*, a voice whispered. *Inside. Stay inside. Think. Inside.*

"Inside what?" Moll whimpered.

*Inside...*

"The box?"

*Yes. Inside. Stay with us. Inside the box.*

"No! Henry, get us out of here!"

Her companion's lips pinched at the edges. A glow reached his cheeks at the same time his eyes flickered with understanding. He reached inside his back pocket and pulled out a notebook and pen.

"What are you doing?"

Henry pressed pen to paper, slowly at first. And then swiped at its pages. The pen warmed as his outpouring of words raced against the clock.

Moll's lips quavered. "Henry? What are you doing?"

"I'm finding my own fun."

"What we need to *find*, Henry, is a way *out*."

*Nooooo. Stay... Inside...*

Henry closed the notebook and slipped it back inside his pocket. "Take a closer look at the wall."

Moll frowned, her fists still pounding. "It's the same."

Whispers of laughter called out to her. *Same. Stay... Same.*

"Look with more than your eyes, Moll."

She opened her fists and smoothed her hands across the painted road. Her eyes widened when she hit a bump, a raised edge along the sidewalk. She poked at the wall, searching further with her fingertips, following the lines of paint.

*Stay...*

She pressed a foot inside a rung carved in the sidewalk. "A ladder—built into the wall?"

The whispers choked and fizzled until they were gone.

With a sideward glance at Henry, she said, "How didn't I see this before?"

"Keep going," he said, following behind her as they climbed.

The top of the wall widened into a ledge that bent to another road.

Moll turned and looked down at *Writer's Block*, her hands shaking.

"How did you do it, Henry?"

"*Find Your Own Fun House*," he said, repeating the sign at the mouth of the attraction. "We couldn't defeat the Block until we reached outside." — WT



Santa Clara Fall

Painting by Carolyn Donnell

### Autumn Eddy

From a Chopin Nocturne

Liquid jewels descend  
 Gently flowing brook  
 Autumn leaves  
 Drifting down  
 Two red  
 Three orange  
 Yellow here and there  
 Swirling  
 Floating  
 Caress the water together  
 Moving  
 Downstream  
 Together

– Carolyn Donnell

### The Long Road Home

Inspired by Cesar Vallejo's *Black Stone*  
Lying on a *White Stone*

May I rest in a field of bluebonnets on a sunny day.  
 I can already remember the mockingbird's song.  
 I will lie in Texas. I won't mind any more.  
 On a Thursday, like today, in springtime

It should be a Thursday  
 For that is the day I write these words.  
 I have seen my mind in a saddened mood  
 And feel myself today on an island, alone.

They will say Carolyn is dead.  
 They put her away.  
 She was never good enough.  
 Kept her down with their unkind words.

My witnesses: the flower strewn fields  
 A blue Texas sky  
 The purple-hued thunderstorms  
 And the long road home.

– Carolyn Donnell



# Poetry Page

## Poetic Art for Life Drawing

Transposition.  
 Synesthesia.  
 Haikupainting.

Wordphotos.  
 Motionless Butoh.  
 Human Sculptures.

Thought as camera.  
 – Stephen C. Wetlesen



Salsa by Karen Hartley

### Salsa

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

– Karen Hartley

## January Climate Change

The dry and the wet,  
 Why can't BOTH we get?  
 A wishing-well, that's for water;  
 No "desert-wish-list" unless: "Please be hotter."  
 I never wish that.

I'd wish for a "balance," say;  
 What I'd beg for is drops of rain today!

– Pat Bustamante

## Haiku Paintings

Bright gold leaves linger,  
 deep autumn elongated.  
 Christmas music plays.

Brief haiku moment.  
 Bright sunlit leaves dance in breeze.  
 My autistic sight.

Haiku are paintings.  
 Yet never forget firestorms.  
 Our dragon awoke.

Moonlight glitter frost.  
 Pines and firs need no glow lights.  
 God illuminates.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

## December Observances

Dark clouds fill the sky  
 Blowers mar the morning peace  
 Wishing for the sun

Blood pressure rises  
 Il Volo begins to sing  
 Angels' wings cool brows

– Carolyn Donnell

## Poetry Center San Jose presents:

Sophomore Survey of English Literature with Nils Peterson, Poet Laureate Emeritus, four Saturdays, January 14 through February 4, 2017, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Markham House at History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose. – WT

# San Mateo County Fair 2017 Literary Arts Contests

by Kim Schultz,

San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Assistant

Happy Holidays 2016 San Mateo County Fair Entrants!  
Great news! The San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Contest Book is now online. You can find it at <https://sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts>.

Within the next week or two, you will also have the opportunity to upload your 2017 Fair entries! So, keep a look out on the Literary Arts webpage of the San Mateo County Fair website for the link to upload your work! Don't forget to read over the state and local rules before submitting your entries! Rules can be found in the Contest Book and on the Literary Arts webpage! The deadline to enter your work is Monday, April 3, 2017. Good luck! – WT

## Redwood Writers Fan Fiction Contest Launches 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 a deadline of February 19, 2017. Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be presented at the Redwood Writers meeting on April 9, 2017. For details, see <http://redwoodwriters.org/contests/>. – WT

## Short Story Competition from UK

Hampshire Cultural Trust

Taking this Jane Austen quotation as the story title, writers are encouraged to respond in 2017 words or fewer: *"Selfishness must always be forgiven you know, because there is no hope of a cure."*

Open to writers aged 16 and older, across the world. First Prize £1000; Second, £500. Judges David Constantine and Claire Fuller. Closing date 28 February 2017. Hosted by Hampshire Cultural Trust in partnership with Jane Austen's House Museum to mark Jane Austen 200. Details and how to submit stories: [www.janeausten200.co.uk/competitions](http://www.janeausten200.co.uk/competitions) – WT



Spread your writer's wings and soar in 2017.  
Happy New Year. – WT

## Organizing a critique group

by Marjorie Johnson (reprinted by popular demand)

Organizing a critique group isn't easy, but it's doable.

While you are writing a whole month with NaNoWriMo, take the opportunity to meet some people. Come December, you will have a common problem: editing and taming those rough 50,000 words.

Get acquainted over coffee with two or three people. See if they'd like to try meeting to discuss mutual works in progress, a chapter at a time. Then agree to a time and a place and discuss the ground rules.

As writers, we tend to be protective of our work and to be sensitive about what we write. The idea of a group of people finding fault with our novel, short story, or memoir is scary. But when we slave over a piece, we often lose perspective. Reading our pieces aloud to someone else is the one best thing we can do toward editing it. Readers' feedback will help authors find direction and check if their pieces are communicating.

As an example, one critique group of four people met every other week at 6 p.m. Each member hosted a meeting on a rotating schedule with a potluck light meal. They got down to business at 7:00 and tried to finish by 9:00.

Because of time constraints, they limited the piece to be presented to 2,500 words, emailed to the others a week in advance. Each member printed the piece, read it thoroughly, and redlined any grammar, punctuation, or sentence structure corrections, which were **not gone over** at the meeting. They wrote comments and suggestions on the back of the last page and gave the redlined copy to the author **after the discussion**. When each author finished reading his/her piece aloud, each member in turn offered comments that focused on plot, character development, believability, emotional impact, and so on.

Since the goal of the group is to encourage the author and help improve his or her skills, **negative comments must be presented in a positive manner**.

Compatibility is one of the most important components of a critique group. Each member must be sincere, open minded, and receptive. Authors who read **must not comment or defend** their work during the discussion; a simple "thank you" will suffice, and the author can choose which comments "work" for his manuscript later.

Try it—you'll like it. – WT

## AuthorsPreview.com

by Alan Wills, Member, CWC San Fernando Valley

It is my pleasure to announce [www.AuthorPreview.com](http://www.AuthorPreview.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 around the world.

**Note:** This item came to WritersTalk as a press release and is not vetted by WT or by SBW. If AuthorsPreview.com interests you, check it out with care, the same way that you check out any new presence on the Web. This article has not been given "– WT," the WritersTalk stamp of approval.

# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

I have found what appears to be a great new source for contests and submissions. Please note that South Bay Writers and *WritersTalk* have not vetted these sites. Check them out carefully, the same way that you always check out a new website. See details at <http://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/p/free-contests.html> Here are a few with deadlines in January 2017.

## Fiction:

- Tony Hillerman Prize. Sponsored by St. Martin's Press. Debut mystery novel set in Southwest.
- James White Award. Non-professional authors; previously unpublished science fiction stories
- Jerry Jazz Musician Fiction Contest.

## Poetry:

- Lee Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award.
- College Undergraduate Poetry and Florence Kahn Memorial Award
- 14th Michael E. DeBakey Medical Student Poetry Awards

## Nonfiction:

- Orwell Prize. Political writing published in 2016; must have a clear British link.
- The Ellen Meloy Fund for Desert Writers was established in 2005 to honor the memory of Ellen Meloy.
- Nuff Said Publishing's annual Speculative Writing Contest to Promote Diversity (SWCPD).

## Translations:

- French-American Foundation Translation Prizes. Fiction/Nonfiction from French to English.
- Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize. Outstanding literary translation from German into English

Here's a **second new source** for contests and submissions: [www.writeradvice.com/markets](http://www.writeradvice.com/markets)

And a **final contest**: The Women's National Book Association Annual Writing Contest is celebrating emerging writers. Deadline: January 15. Categories: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction/Memoir, and Poetry. Simultaneous submissions and previously published work accepted. See guidelines and submit at <https://wnba.submittable.com/submit>

## Funds for Writers:

FundsforWriters.com is an online resource for writers with a focus on markets, competitions, awards, grants, publishers, agents, and jobs. Grants cover from a simple conference fee or a six-month retreat to write and get away from it all. Some pay for specifically designed projects and others exercise your ability to match writing with a social cause. The markets section in the newsletters lists freelance markets and contract jobs. You can even look for permanent jobs in the newsletters.

Some contests from FundsforWriters.com with January deadlines include "Who can you trust?" Contest for spy stories; Women's National Book Association; "Don't talk to me about love" Contest for love poetry; Autumn House Rising Writers Contest for poetry books; The Fiction Desk Ghost Story Competition; and the Emerging Playwright Award. See more at <http://fundsforwriters.com/about-ffw/>

As always, please tell us your experiences — good or bad — with the new sites. And crow about it 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

**Quiz answers from page 9**  
Only 3, 5, 7, and 9 are incorrect.

## 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

## Winter Courses at DeAnza

by Lita Kurth

At De Anza College (enrolling now) "*Editing red wheelbarrow national edition*" can be done online as EWRT 65A, 65AX, or 65B or 65C (If you took it once, you may be able to take it again with a different letter.)

Also EWRT 41 poetry writing is Tue/Thur 1:30. Ken Weisner teaches both and he's great.

Then, Flash Fiction Forum, coming up January 11th, is soliciting work of 500 – 700 words. Can be non-rhyming narrative poetry, creative nonfiction, or fiction. We like dialogue, lively events, in-depth characters, humor, and drama.

Slower work with very long lines is beautiful in its own way but doesn't seem to work as well in our venue.

<http://www.flashfictionforum.com/submissions/> — 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

## Shelf Life –Maddie McEwen



Angela Agent read the query but stopped at "Dear Sirs."

**Guess what? Agents come to writers' conferences.**

# 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

### 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

### 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. 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 2P Valley Writers	3 SBW Board meets Tues., Jan. 3, 2017 Grill 57, Los Gatos Check website	4	5	6 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	7 1:30P WT Editors Powwow
8	9 2P Valley Writers 6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau	10	11	12	13	14
15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i> 10A Our Voices	16 2P Valley Writers	17	18 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo	19	20 7:30P Open mic Wil- low Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	21
22	23 2P Valley Writers	24	25	26 7 P TalkBooks, Santa Clara City Library, Homestead Road, Sycamore Room	27	28
29 10A Our Voices	30 2P Valley Writers	31	<b>January 2017</b>			

**Future Flashes:**

SBW Board meeets Tuesday, February 7: TBA

SBW Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM Monday, February 13, Harry's Hofbrau

## 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 Jan 3, 2017: 6:30 PM dinner; Board meeting 7 - 9 PM, Grill 57, 57 Los Gatos-Sunnyvale Road, Los Gatos.

## You send it. We calendar it.

### 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 will resume 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](http://poetrycentersanjose.org)

**Poetry Center San Jose:** Meets at Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, Third Thursdays, 7 PM. [poetrycentersanjose.org](http://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](mailto: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  
January Regular Meeting**

**6 pm, Monday, January 9**

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

## On Poetry!

**Nils Peterson  
Poet Laureate Emeritus**

## Poetry Rocks!

*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.