



WRITERSTALK

Volume 25
Number 6
June 2017

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

JUNE SPEAKER PANEL: TRUTH AND FICTION

RECAP MAY SPEAKER ALEJANDRO ADAMS

Truth And Fiction

**SBW panel will discuss
where a writer's duty lies**

by Colin Seymour

Who can you believe anymore? Propaganda and “fake news” are widespread, and both halves of the political divide have walled themselves off from not only the other half's views, but also the other half's news.

That problem didn't seem like a crisis until 2016. But now many of us are distraught about the extent to which lies are eroding our lives.

After all, as writers, we want people to believe us. We want the record set straight. We want the crisis addressed now. Isn't it our job as writers to address it?

To that end, South Bay Writers hopes to examine the war on truth at our June 12 dinner meeting by staging a panel discussion among four writers whose knack for discerning truth has distinguished their careers.

Yet, at least two of the four are currently involved in fiction projects, so we're hoping this is a discussion that doesn't merely harp on political differences for the whole precious hour.

That isn't to say politics will get short shrift. Surely it's worth delving into why some of you may believe that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are the true leaders of ISIS, and that Hillary is maintaining a child porn ring at a Washington pizzeria. Others may believe reports that President Trump has some sort predilection for a kinky practice known as “golden showers.”

You'll notice that you didn't see those stories reported as fact in the mainstream media, presumably because they couldn't substantiate them.

The one prejudice with which the panel and I enter this discussion is that mainstream media, for all their faults, remain the most reliable sources of information widely available to seekers of news. The *San Jose Mercury News*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and KNTV (NBC-11) are all prominent on the panelists' resumes, as are the Hoover Institution, a Pulitzer Prize, and several award-winning documentaries.

Most of them will concede, however, that there's a difference between citing facts and getting at the more abstract concept of “the truth.”

Fiction can be a means of doing that. Yet one wonders if there will be an all-out assault on falsehood. Could that affect how fiction is perceived, or even what fiction means?

Answering those questions alone probably would fill our one-hour allotment at the SBW dinner meeting.

Streaming Series: Beyond the Conventional Screenplay

by Sayantika Mandal

At the May meeting of South Bay Writers Club at Harry's Hofbrau (attended by 49 members), Alejandro Adams gave insights on how to adapt your book into a screenplay, while catering to the demands of the changing industry. Adams teaches modern film history and film production at San Jose State University and his films include *Around the Bay*, *Canary* and *Babnik*.

According to Adams, conventional screenplay writing for feature films is passé. “This is the time for streaming,” he said. He emphasized the growing market of the series streaming on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and other media and how the screenwriters of these are the “new rockstars” of our times. With Hollywood becoming increasingly inaccessible to budding screenwriters, this is the way to both grab eyeballs and earn critical acclaim.

Adams discussed some of the basics of screenwriting, such as following the three-act structure. In screenwriting, the core of the story has to be distilled out and often characters, not necessary for the screen adaptation, have to be knocked out. “Don't do it alone,” Adams said, “if you are emotionally attached to your characters.”

Adams explained some of the tools that come in handy while pitching your screenplay to producers, such as “logline,” the two-line summary of your screenplay, and “treatment,” the brief description detailing the situation and characters.

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President's Two Cents

Pamela Oliver-Lyons
President, South Bay Writers



This Year's Backstory

New Yorker journalist Ariel Levy's May 2017 article "A Long Homecoming" in which she interviewed Elizabeth Stout, author of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction novel *Olive Kitteridge*, inspires me. I identify with Stout's displaced small town characters continually torn between staying or leaving. I am grateful for the kindness shown by

those who volunteered and stayed during this difficult SBW year.

Levy quotes Stout's character Lucy Barton in *Anything is Possible* who returns home after seventeen years: she tells her sister Vicky that she's been busy.

"Busy? Who isn't busy?" Vicky pushes her glasses up her nose. In a moment she added, "Hey, Lucy, is that what's called a truthful sentence? Didn't I just see you give a talk about truthful sentences?"

"A writer should write only what is true." ...

"Well I don't believe you. You didn't come here because you didn't want to."

The many layers Stout gives her characters come from her hometown experiences.

Truth can be such a cautionary tale. We began with an elected President, a Member-at-Large followed by a Secretary, all of whom tried but quit. The board and webmaster scrambled to get control of the social media/website passwords. Those who remained and later joined worked hard to put the pieces back together. Today the proposed bylaws will ask for an accounting by the exiting President.

How does the Club stand? First, we are on track for the 2017/2018 election with a full and competing slate of candidates coming from professional backgrounds. How about the finances? The May 8, 2016 SBW Board minutes reported assets (cash) of \$21,800.55. This year the Treasurer reported an end of April 2017 balance of \$20,889.43; this represents a \$911.12 loss of cash position from the previous year.

How do the membership numbers compare? (The SBW MRMS Chair cautions that annual numbers have seasonal influences so dates must match for true accuracy.) Our recordkeeping is not where it needs to be. However, I suggest we consider November 2013 membership of 169, which rose to 198 in July 2014, then dropped to 188 in August 2015, followed by a low of 157 in November 2016, before the recovery to 170 in May 2017, just to get a general sense of direction.

Recording meeting attendance started formally this May 2017. The figures from August to November showed 24 as low. I started recording attendance with January at 38, followed by February at 45, March at 30, April at 39, and May at 49.

For some members the big question is, which CWC club is the largest? According to the CWC Membership Tables and Statistics Report 7/01/2016 to 12/31/2016, #1 by a huge margin of more than 100 is Redwood; SBW is #2.

What did we do? We did the following and then some. Attended NorCal's Leadership Training Conference; were represented at NorCal and CWC meetings; received donations of money for website renewals; had a training seminar for grant writing; obtained free tickets for Italian Director/Writer Francesco Calogero's *Seconda Primavera* film screening; did B&N Eastridge BookFair fundraising; held all our meetings; published *WritersTalk* all year; enjoyed a great location at the Holiday Bash; settled on a board meeting location; revived TalkBooks, Twitter, and Constant Contact; approved a new logo and a budget for Marketing; put SBW's anthology back on track for publishing; completed a membership interest survey; updated SBW bylaws; and reached out to Cinequest and Camera Club. I believe the recent upturns in our overall numbers are a direct result of team and individual effort.

I started this year believing in kindness and respect as an ideal but ended with greater faith in the necessity of truth and authenticity. —WT

California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
www.southbaywriters.com

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Open Mic—Bill Baldwin
WABaldwin@aol.com
TalkShop (closed)—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. Renewal dues are \$45 for membership through June 30, 2018. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. New member, \$65. 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

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Deadline

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

Submissions

SBW encourages writers at all levels of expertise to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. All submissions should be sent to the above email address in the form of text or an attached MS Word file (sorry, no hard copy submissions can be accepted). 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, with separate instructions for placement in the submission if placement is important.

All submissions will be copyedited. Titles and headlines subject to change. Managing Editor reserves the right to selection.

Suggested word limits (less is more):

Member Achievement / News (200 words)

News Items (400 words)

In My Opinion (300 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

Creative Works

Short Fiction/Memoir (1800 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay/Nonfiction (1000 words)

Reprints

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.

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* cannot accept advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. Also, we cannot accept political advertising of any kind.

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Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Managing Editor



Writers Helping Writers

Writers helping writers: that's the number one reason to renew your membership in South Bay Writers. When you renew, your membership runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Writers helping writers: that's what we are about, aren't we? Do you share writing tips or good sources of information with others? When a new person comes to a dinner meeting, do you make him feel welcome? When South Bay Writers fails to meet your expectations, do you make positive suggestions to board members? If you want to see something changed, do you come to a board meeting or volunteer to help? When *WritersTalk* fails to meet your expectations, do you send a letter to the editor? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are on your way to being an asset to your colleagues and the club.

WritersTalk has been bringing you news from the trenches—the latest on the publishing world, notices of contests and conferences, ways our members promote their books. *WT* provides you a venue for short fiction, essays, and memoirs and helps you to prepare for contests. *WT* also devotes pages to poetry and encourages you to send articles, news or information of interest to writers. If you would like to see other topics, please send a note to the editor or send us a sample article.

Writers helping writers: you can make South Bay Writers stronger by helping with projects, and as a by-product, you'll have fun and build your network. South Bay Writers needs and wants YOU and your ideas and energy.

Writers helping writers: are you helping yourself? The best way to learn to write well is to write more at the same time that you help someone else to improve his/her writing. Participate actively in a critique group or a creative writing class, or with a faithful friend who shares your writing interest. You can find others with a common interest by networking at a South Bay Writers meeting.

Be sure to listen to what our candidates say they'll do, and please read the proposed bylaws mailed to you earlier; they are designed to make the club run more smoothly. Be sure to attend our June 12 meeting to cast your vote for 2017-18 SBW officers and to ratify our revised bylaws. — *WT*

Quote of the day:

In wine there is wisdom; in beer there is freedom; in water there is bacteria.

— Benjamin Franklin

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SBW Election June 12, 2017

BILL BALDWIN

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

At this point South Bay Writers needs a President with experience, a steady hand, and perspective.

I have served as branch President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. Beyond that, I helped organize our East of Eden conferences and the state CWC Asilomar conferences. I have served as CWC State Secretary and Treasurer. I'm dedicated, I know how to work with all kinds of people, and I don't panic in a crisis. I will make your success my top priority. Let's move forward together!



KELLY GOMEZ

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Kelly Gomez and I am running for Vice President. I have been a member of South Bay Writers for one year and have worked as an editor for *Writer's Talk*. I also held the position of interim VP from January through June 2017. I would love the opportunity to continue to work with SBW as a future VP. During my interim position, I collected a survey on the types of speakers that our members are interested in having. If elected, I would like to use that data to incorporate your ideas for speakers and workshop leaders. I also attended a meeting of the CWC Norcal group and would like to incorporate things that clubs around the area are doing, including a five-minute ice-breaker that includes writing about a universal topic of interest. If you have any other ideas for the year, please let me know. I would like to hear from you.



TRENTON MYERS

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

I am a detail driven individual who enjoys collaborating with peers to execute successful, pervasive campaigns. Having experience in invoicing (Quickbooks), purchase orders, and budgeting, I find that my skills are well matched for the SBW Treasurer role.

Also, currently managing promotional campaigns for Fortune 500 clients including Xilinx, Cisco, and Juniper, I am well versed in the effort necessary to yield successful programs. Through frequent collaboration with finance and branding teams, I constantly apply budgets, cut purchase orders, and pay invoices. I understand the stresses of project timelines as well as the appropriate changes needed in the face of deadlines.

With a knack for organization, a positive demeanor, and an unwavering work ethic, I am poised to excel as the Treasurer of South Bay Writers.



EDIE MATTHEWS

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Our monthly program should provide inspiration, information, a touch of humor – and an opportunity to network with other writers and to share your writing journeys.

In 1999 when I became VP and PR Chair, our attendance had dwindled and our treasury was barely solvent. I approached the job with gusto. I sought out dynamic speakers and invigorating workshop leaders. I helped create SBW's East of Eden Writing Conference, and I booked and coordinated four successful conferences. When I left VP to complete an MFA at SJSU, SBW was the largest branch of CWC with the biggest treasury.

I've hosted the SBW Summer BBQ every year, and my husband Jim sets up the sound system at the meetings. If given the opportunity, I'd like to help put the sparkle back in our club.



JAMAL KHAN

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

I grew up in San Jose and completed my K-12 education in its public schools, including Independence High School. Having participated in the Creative Writing Group at Harvard Law School, I know firsthand the crucial difference that the support of like-minded individuals can make in one's writing journey. I will work very hard to book accomplished speakers for our club meetings so members can benefit from their guidance and wisdom. I will make sure that speakers are booked well in advance and will submit their bios to the newsletter in a timely manner. I will continuously elicit feedback from members to ensure that speakers are meeting their expectations. I will attend all board meetings and will help with additional responsibilities as needed.



KAREN SUNDBACK

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

I am excited to be a candidate for secretary. In the past, I have served SBW in many ways, but the accomplishment that gives me the greatest pride is handling the *WritersTalk* Challenge. The *WT* Challenge is a writing contest. Accepted submissions to *WT* that fall within the genres of the contest are automatically entered into the contest. The judges for the *WT* Challenge are all insightful, funny, passionate, and a real kick to work with. I encourage you to give it a try.

I've served on two volunteer boards, PTA and the League of Women Voters, and have substituted as secretary many times.

My vision is simple: to take accurate meeting notes that will convince our membership of the wisdom and foresight of the new board.



CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

I am an enthusiastic and hardworking individual, having worked and thrived in environments where little direction was given. I am excited to tackle the project of optimizing the website, increasing links and traffic to it, as well as working on outreach with the various institutions and organizations in the area. An example being De Anza College, which has 5 other bay area writing groups (including the Central Coast Writers Branch, California Writers Club) listed as sources, but does not have SBW.

I am experienced at formal governing environments, having chaired the Marketing Committee of the De Anza Associate Student Body Senate several years back, where I voted on the spending of their \$1.2 million budget, as well as significantly increasing participation with the organization, transforming my committee alone from 2 people into 8 - 11 dedicated members.

Currently as the Marketing Manager for the leading solar distributor Renvu, I manage and optimize the website content to generate traffic, construct personalized outreach to customers, and manage all marketing and public relations operations.

I look forward to applying my skills towards the South Bay Writers Club's outreach as your Website Editor and to serving as a Member-at-Large on the SBW Board of Directors.



JANET PATEY

CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

I am honored to be nominated as a Member-at-Large to the South Bay Writers Club. I have just completed a workshop on grant writing and have contributed to writing a grant for a literacy program, and I will be focusing on chairing a grant writing committee for our club. It will be a challenge. I will need the support and any suggestions from the SBW membership to find a grant suitable for our club's needs.

I want you all to know I bring an open mind and positive attitude to the board.



May 8, 2017: Candidates for SBW Office 2017-18

Left to Right: Bill Baldwin, Janet Patey, Karen Sundback, Tatyana Grinenko, Edie Matthews, Kelly Gomez, Trenton Myers. (Jamal Khan was out of town.) — Photo by Carolyn Donnell



Jamal Khan in Press Briefing Room at the White House while completing a Presidential Management Fellowship.



RENEWAL TIME

Tie a string on your finger to remind yourself.

It's Time to Renew

Due to the quirks of the California Writers Club fiscal year, your membership in South Bay Writers expires on June 30, 2017. That means that, every current member of South Bay Writers needs to renew for 2017-18. Yes, even if you have a half-year membership because you joined in January or February or March or April.

To renew for 2017-2018, please pay \$45 by check written to South Bay Writers at the SBW meeting June 12 or pay \$45 online at southbaywriters.com. Do it now so you won't forget.

To sweeten the pot, a special prize will be awarded to a lucky SBW member who has renewed by 7 pm, June 12. — WT

June Speaker Panel

Continued from Page 1

I'll be your ringmaster, having previously moderated SBW panel discussions involving whether our club's published authors make any money; the disadvantages aged writers face in a youth-oriented business world; and what we writers can do to get publicity in newspapers.

The latter discussion brought a political controversy to the fore, a subject that was not germane to the topic of writers getting publicity, and I had to get firm-handed to keep us on track.

That may well be the case June 12, as we boost the already high energy level at Harry's Hofbrau. We'll all have to behave, and it won't be easy, truth be told.

Colin Seymour is a past president (2013–2015) and vice president (2010–2012) of South Bay Writers. —WT

JUNE PANELISTS

STEVE KETTMANN: The former *San Francisco Chronicle* sports writer, best known for covering the Oakland A's beat, now operates a writers retreat, the Wellstone Center in the Redwoods, above Soquel. Wellstone also does some publishing, preferably of books that "make you want to do something." Steve's book on baseball executive Sandy Alderson has been extremely successful, and he is working on a political novel.

CHARLEY LINDSEY: The former longtime copy chief of the *Mercury News*, who also was in charge of the *Merc's* stylebook, is the managing editor of the *Hoover Digest*, a quarterly public-policy journal, at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, where he recently marked his 10th anniversary. He has a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley. He is a native Californian and "a survivor of 12 years of Catholic school."

PETE CAREY: The recently retired reporter was at the *Mercury News* for 49 years and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1986 for his share of the three-writer report on the influx of huge chunks of money from the Philippines to the United States. He was variously the newspaper's aerospace writer, tech writer, projects reporter, investigative reporter and business reporter covering real estate and Valley tech companies. Pete is a graduate of UC Berkeley.

DANA NACHMAN : The former KNTV (NBC-11) news producer, who won three regional Emmys, has written and produced documentaries for more than a decade. Best known are her 2015 film *Batkid Begins* (Warner Bros.), and *Witch Hunt*, collaborating with Sean Penn, which premiered in Toronto in 2008. Dana's films have appeared on MSNBC and PBS. The native New Yorker is a guest journalism lecturer at Stanford. Her current film projects include a foray into fiction.



Steve Ketterman



Charley Lindsey



Pete Carey



Dana Nachman



May Speaker Alejandro Adams

—Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Recap: Alejandro Adams

Continued from Page 1

Adams also elaborated on using screenwriting software, how to protect your screenplays from plagiarism, and how to make your screenplay sell. He described the nuances of sophisticated screenwriting in examples from renowned movies such as *Casablanca*, *The Godfather*, *Rocky* and *Jaws*.

"You would rather show than tell," he said, as he described how subtlety can be brought by introducing a third character, conflating two scenes into one, and using the third character, instead of two characters in a direct face-off with each other.

Recent success stories such as *The Shallows*, *Search Party* and *Manchester by the Sea* were mentioned by Adams. While *The Shallows* was a Cinderella story as it became a feature film, the latter two are streaming series that won wide critical acclaim despite a very low budget.

Adams provided some useful advice for writers who want to make a film on their own: cast the right people to represent your characters on screen and get a good cinematographer who has insight on shots. He highlighted the significance of post-production works, the key to bringing professionalism into your film.

While answering questions from the audience, Adams provided tips on how to find an agent. As director of the Cinema Club, Adams invited us to participate in the upcoming season. The Club meets monthly at Camera 3 Entertainment, Downtown San Jose, every third Sunday with screenings at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Alejandro Adams can be reached at alejandroadams@gmail.com. —WT

South Bay Writers Club May 2017



Collage and Photos by Carolyn Donnell

View From the Board

by Trenton Myers, SBW Secretary

The May Board Meeting was held on May 2nd at Mariani's Inn & Restaurant in Santa Clara and was attended by President Pam Oliver Lyons, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Newsletter Chair Marjorie Johnson, Membership Chair Sally Milnor, Policy Chair Dave LaRoche, Hospitality Chair Carole Taub, Member-at-Large 1 Janet Patey, Member-at-Large 2 Carolyn Donnell, and guest Kymberlie Ingalls.

Website Redesign: The website redesign is in full force and is scheduled to be finished mid-June. Member Tatyana Grinenko has been appointed as the Web Editor and will work with John Barry on site maintenance hitherto.

B&N Eastridge Book Fair: After the SBW election, a Book Fair Chair will be appointed to solely focus on the booking and organizing of book fairs, including the Barnes & Noble Eastridge fair.

SBW Bylaws Revision: The Board-approved Bylaw revisions will be mailed out to members two weeks in advance to the next general meeting on June 12, wherein a member-wide vote will occur. Members are highly encouraged to read the revisions and be ready to discuss any concerns. All present members will be voting.

SBW Anthology: The SBW Anthology is under final review and members will be informed when the work is published. Members will also be encouraged to share the anthology with peers and passionate writers within the South Bay.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6th, 6:30-9:00pm at Mariani's Inn & Restaurant, 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara. — WT

Breaking news: Because of new rules at Barnes & Noble, we have had to cancel the SBW June 24 Book Fair event. A bummer for everyone involved.



June Member News

Staff

Marjorie Johnson's story, "The Aspirin Bottle," won third prize in the NLAPW (National League Pen Women) NorCal Writing Contest.

Sayantika Mandal has been accepted at the MFA in Writing Program of University in San Francisco for the Fiction genre. She will travel to India to get a student visa and likely to move to San Francisco towards the end of July.

Madeline McEwen-Asker has just signed a contract with Imajin [Qwickies] books, <http://www.imajinbooks.com/home/>, for her novelette, *Tied Up With Strings*.

Margie Yee Webb is the moderator for a Contestants Panel on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at the Annual Writers Mini-Conference at The Literary Stage during the San Mateo County Fair, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403. Held in collaboration with CWC SF Peninsula Branch, Literary Stage events are free with fair admission. See schedule at <http://cwc-peninsula.org/the-literary-stage/>

San Mateo County Fair Literary Division Contests, June, 2017:

Congratulations, South Bay Writers! Look at all these winners:

Sheena Arora, Personal Memoir: "A Distant Memory," Second Place;
Best Blog: "No More Political News," Third Place; Poetry, Free Form Poem: "My Dear Hanuman," Third Place

Kathy Boyd, Poetry, Structured Poem, Senior: "Water," Second Place;
Poetry, Structured Poem, Senior: "Limerick Challenge," HM

Penelope Anne Cole, Short Story, Mystery/Thriller Senior: "Night School," First Place

Carolyn Donnell, Short Story, General Fiction Senior: "Ticket to Freedom," HM;
Short Story, Science Fiction/Fantasy Senior: "It's a Fake!" Second Place

Jack A. Fitzenz, Genre Novelist First Chapter Contest: "Focus on Death," Third Place

Karen Franzenburg, Poetry, Free Form Poem, Senior: "Can We See the Light," Third Place

Karen Hartley, Lifestyle Memoir: "Matchbox Dreams," Third Place;
Poetry, Free Form Poem, Senior: "Recital: Three Dancing Fuchsias," HM

Marjorie Johnson, Personal Memoir: "Out for a Spin," HM

Ram Muthiah, Audiobook Contest: *Tell My Dad*, Third Place

Luanne Oleas, Short Story, General Fiction Senior: "Scaffolding Over Invisible Odds," First Place; Short Story, General Fiction Senior: "The Boy Who Hung the Moon," Second Place; Short Story Best of Show, "Scaffolding Over Invisible Odds"

David Strom, Audiobook Contest: *Super Holly Hansson in: The Intellecta-Rhapsody!*, First Place; Short Story, Science Fiction/Fantasy Senior: "Cal 'The Intellectual' Critbert in: The Lutfisk Door!" Third Place

Mimi Vaillancourt, Persuasive Essay: "Craven Media, Detached Public: We Have Met the Enemy and He is Us," HM

If we missed anyone from the Fair's list, please email newsletter@southbaywriters.com and we will list your result in Member News next month. What a pleasure to announce all of your good news! — WT

Bay Area Book Festival

June 3 - 4, 2017, 10 am - 6 pm; Downtown Berkeley, around Civic Center Park

Berkeley Branch is in charge of volunteers, who will sit at a booth to talk about CWC as well as being able to sell their own books. Email Tim Jollymore at tim_jollymore@yahoo.com. For more information, go to www.BayBookFest.org or contact Kymberlie Ingalls at berkeley.cwc@gmail.com

Ed: Keep this in mind for next year — an opportunity to sell books.

Critique and Coffee, Anyone?

by Dave LaRoche

I'd written nothing I cared to share and wondered how to make my work more vital—to have it sing those melodies that make my reader hum. I fumbled with my story line: improve the arc and sizzle up the scenes, I thought. But, lo, my good ideas didn't reach the page. I also felt a curiosity about creativeness—a need to find a place to dream and write who's other occupant would be my muse.

I attended countless workshops and felt the inspiration. It lasted for a week. I learned the craft: the rules my genre needed, but in the end could not cohere my thoughts into a fascinating read. I needed help—the absent threads that form a weave that makes the tapestry.

And then it dawned—an editor would coach me through my struggle. I looked around and priced a few—expensive. With that sized wad I'd be in Shangri-La, not printing out and balling paper. Again I sat alone and mystified. I want to write, I said, and had the time but little came that I would claim.

"A life's ambition," I'd heard say, described the needed motivation. I might be late; it didn't fit; it's more with me, "agreeable"—like benedicts mid-mornings, crab or ham with heaps of Hollandaise.

A known writer took my hand, metaphorically of course. She asked if I had joined a group that's dedicated to critique.

"No," I said, and asked her to explain. "A second set of eyes," she said, "a third and fourth or more, all telling you the trouble with your work and how they think your piece might be much better. It's free, you know. Of course, you'll need to offer your suggestions.

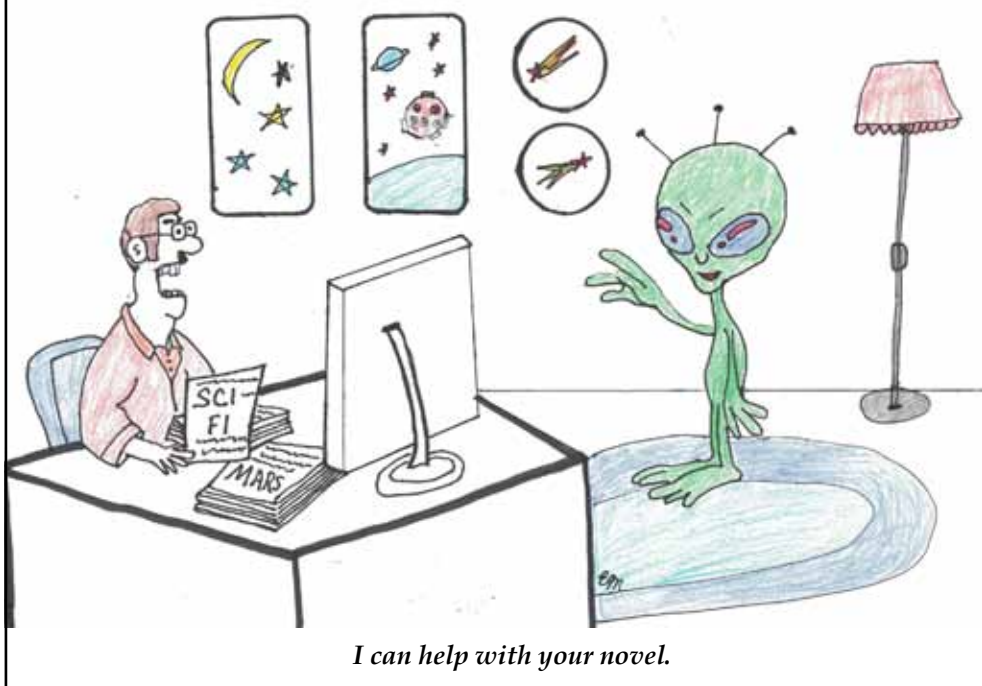
"You circulate your manuscripts ahead of meetings, allowing a review. Together later, coffee close, mark-ups are discussed in turn and observations made. You aren't obliged to change your stuff, these *are* suggestions. But sitting next to you reading are writers offering their view.

"Critique's a value not easily disposed. Most belonging to the group, in my view, would not do otherwise."

I asked her then, "How do I get started?" She told me South Bay Writers.

Off the Shelf

—Edie Matthews



Today I run a group we call Our Voices. We have an opening now. Should you have an interest, tap into your keyboard: dalaroche@comcast.net and I'll get you started. —WT

Why did I join South Bay Writers?

by Marjorie Johnson

When I retired from thirty years of teaching high school mathematics, I had 89 published and peer-reviewed mathematics articles under my belt, written while on the editorial board of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, an academic mathematics journal. I worked in that position as a volunteer.

However, I learned early on that my beloved mathematics projects could not be discussed over coffee with friends—their eyes would glaze over. I wanted to write something just for fun.

First, I took a creative writing class from SBW member Edie Matthews. I attended writing conferences and workshops and read books. Then I joined South Bay Writers to meet other writers and to learn everything I could about writing.

I learn something every time I come to a meeting of South Bay Writers, and I have made many friends here.

Also, while traveling on my writing journey, I attended various critique groups and learned enough about writing fiction that I have three published novels (written as Marjorie Bicknell Johnson) and have won writing contests with my short stories.

I now am moderator of the critique group Valley Writers, which meets at Valley Village Retirement Community on Monday afternoons. You could visit to learn about critique groups; this one is large, although there's always room for one more friend. You can always contact me at newsletter@southbaywriters.com

I bet you thought I was born knowing how to write the editorial piece for *WritersTalk*, which job I have had for six years. At first, I wondered what a math person could say that would be of value to real writers, but many members of SBW have told me they read my column every month.

Why did YOU join South Bay Writers? We will be featuring some of our members on our web page, and why they joined SBW will be a question we ask them. —WT

Meet Our Members

South Bay Writers Club



Our members are the lifeblood of our vibrant writing community. Meet our [South Bay Writers](#) and their [writing](#).

[Member Gallery](#) | [Member Biographies](#) | [Awards](#) | [Profiles](#) | [Interviews](#) | [Writing](#) | [Submit Your Biography](#)

Member Gallery



Kelly Gomez



Trenton Myers



Tatyana Grinenko



Chess Desalls



Carolyn Donnell



Robert Balmanno



Bill Baldwin



Carina S. Burns

Member Gallery: A Note from our SBW Web Designer

by John Byrne Barry

Editor's Note: We're redesigning the South Bay Writers website and we're hoping to feature our members more. Here's a note from the web designer about how to add your photo and profile to the site.

How Many of You Have Too Many Book Sales?

Do you have more visitors to your website than you want? Too many people reading your writing? Buying your books?

If you're like most of us, you want more visibility, not less. The South Bay Writers website can help.

We already have a member gallery, and member biographies, with links to author websites, Facebook, Goodreads, and so

on. But it's not complete or current.

We would love to feature all of our members in the member gallery, with a link to the member biographies. Or at least a healthy fraction of you.

You might want to look to see what others have done. If you look at Carolyn Donnell (bit.ly/carolyndonnell) or Valerie Frankel (bit.ly/valeriefrankel), you'll see that the bio can include website address and email, plus links to Facebook, Amazon, Goodreads, and so on, plus cover shots of your books, if applicable.

To get your bio in, send it, plus a headshot, to webmaster@southbaywriters.com. Or go to bit.ly/sbwbios.

Not only might this get you a few more readers, it helps the club, especially now when we are encouraging everyone to renew.

People join because they want to be part of a vibrant writing community. The website gives folks a chance to meet our

members online, and hopefully encourages them to join and meet you in person at SBW monthly meetings. — WT

Mom

A human punching bag
A human game of tag
A human fun and bounce
A human run and pounce
A human breakfast bar
A human playing car
A human rocking horse
A human read 'til hoarse
A human wavy float
A human safe lifeboat
A human snuggly chest
A human sleeping nest
A human gentle touch
A human loving much

She's Momma, Mommy, Mom
My mum
Mum's the word

— Penelope Anne Cole

Forgotten

I pedaled down Gold Street
It was evening
Commuters skidded to a half-halt
Then sped south on Catherine
But I kept on till the road transfigured
Till it became Elizabeth
Beyond which
The valley's rage is banned
I faced the salt ponds
My bike upon the guard rail
A calm enveloped me
Quiescence
It's puzzling how Alviso escapes
The madness of the Bay
How this shred of earth
Stays hidden
I can see Trump
Stomping down to its shores
Dredging the place
For a pittance of power
Today Alviso has slipped
The grip of the greedy
But they'll come for it
Those men of plunder
Speculators will rail against
"Archaic" policies
"Let us wed Alviso to commerce"
They'll say
For now, I'll observe shorebirds
In peacetime
Before war buries them
Oh Alviso
That you could stay forgotten

— Matt DeLaney

I Want to Forget

Remember when
typing one
letter at a time
was better
Mistakes erased
with whiteout
What a pain
Today computers
edit our mistakes
smart, they say
Too smart
Red lines and
green ones too
squelch creativity
put in words
never meant
Elephants remember
I want to forget

— Carolyn Donnell

Poetry Page



Hats

I love hats
always have
Vintage hats
Hats for when you want to dress
Hats for when your hair is a mess!
Hats for Sundays
Hats for fun days
Hats for everyday
Hats with veils
Hats with bows
Hats that bring back
memories of that someone who once
bestowed the gift of a hat on you
And Newsboy caps among them all
Hats for shopping
Sun Hats for playing
at the beach
Really expensive hats
in millinery shops elegant yet
completely out of reach
Hats for frilly events
Hats for nightclubs
and evenings spent
dancing and twirling
And oh, those Kentucky Derby hats!
Elegant picture hats
and the little lacey flower and bow hats
How you wish you could have one
Holding on to a hat in
the wind
Chasing your hat when
it escaped your head
No matter the danger in trying
to recapture that treasure
Hats, Hats, Hats
I love hats
always have
— Karen Hartley

Only Friends

Only friends
It's what we've said we'd be
I think we still mean it
or do we?
It's a funny business: Friendship
Friendship and maybe more
This growing closer thing
We never tell each other if or when
Or how our hearts have changed
Have we not
Felt a subtle shift in what's going on
between us
Green sprouts, breaking through
sandy soil
A warming of late-spring air
A blossoming in slow motion?
Perhaps we fear what seems always
to happen
The eventual downhill slide
The dreaded day of reckoning
The day of feeling hurt, the
wrenching pain
The used-up emptiness at the bottom
It's easier to be only friends
So let it be just that. And yet ...
This only life of mine is
So much better than the one
that owned me
Before you blipped my radar
Before you became number one on
my phone list
Before you were my last thought
at night
And first thought in the morning
Now, this moment, I remember furtive
touches on my hand
And secret hope hurtles about
in my mind
I didn't know that being only friends
Could have this kind of power over me

— Richard Allan Burns



Authors needed

by David Strom

One of the most famous Chinese children's book writers, Peng Yang, has published more than 100 books in three major series in China. Most of his children's books have sold more than a million copies. See <https://pystudio.wixsite.com/pengyang>

Under his IP brands, such as "Thumb Daddy in My Pocket," "Three Musketeers on Campus," and "Kung Fu Mickey Mouse," Peng Yang's studio is now one of the most popular children's book writing studios in Mainland China. His studio is looking for American writers to help expand his brands.

Studio representative Huiping Liao writes that, as of now, the studio is working on expanding its works from Mainland China. We are currently working on a cross-nation writing program. In this program, we are looking for writers and editors of children's books and nonfiction books to work closely with our agents in the following three areas:

1. We are looking for writers/editors to translate the existing Chinese books into English. You can directly work with the Chinese version (if you can read Chinese), or we will give you a translated version (such as from Google Translate) and you would copyedit that into a good English story. The current three series that we are looking to translate are school campus science fiction books and fantasy books including, *Thumb Daddy in My Pocket*, *Three Musketeers on Campus*, and *Kung Fu Mickey Mouse*.
2. We are looking for authors to expand the existing series. In each of these existing IP brands, we already have more than 30 books and we are looking to continue growing the existing series. If you are interested, please ask us for the outline, and based on the outline, send us your writing samples. If your work fits into the series, we will help translate and distribute your newly written books into the Chinese market. You will be contracting with our studio.
3. We are also looking for writers who can work on a series of children's nonfiction science based upon the existing series. For example, we will provide the theme and focus of our existing books and would like to ask you to collect related scientific information and write them in a fun way that children can understand. If you are interested, you may ask us for an existing book outline and related topics. We will provide you with a storyline and the scientific requirements and you can work on a few sample chapters.

If you are interested in any of the above projects, please contact me, or if you are an editor who is interested in helping us coordinate with writers, please let me know that as well.

As a writer or translator, if your writing samples fit into our series, we will discuss our contracts and writing and publishing plan in detail. Thanks!

Huiping Liao
huiping.h.liao@gmail.com

Calling all Sci-fi/Fantasy Writers!

by Valerie Frankel

There's a pile of conventions coming through town, and it's always good to hang out with other creators and build a network, whatever your level. So print those business cards! Memorial Day weekend is famously loaded each year: In San Mateo, there's Baycon for serious authors and artists, with many talks on craft and sometimes even a couple publishers (<http://baycon.org>).

This year, I'll be in San Jose instead for Clockwork Alchemy (all steampunk, at the airport Doubletree) and Anime (anime at SJ Convention Center) (<http://www.clockworkalchemy.com>). One ticket covers both conventions and the free shuttle between them, and they have a huge author track, especially at Clockwork. If you come by, make sure to see my talks!

Hydra Comic-Con is June 17-18 at the Santa Clara Convention Center...and I'd be open to sharing my artist alley table! <https://www.hydracomicon.com> (welcome to contact me at valerie@calithwain.com). It's new this year, so we'll have to see.

Last September, Santa Clara Library Comic-Con (yes, actually at the library) was more packed than I'd ever seen a library in my life. I haven't heard of its return, but I'm keeping an eye out. September is also San Francisco Comic-Con, if that's your style. Con-Volution (Oct 6-8 at the San Ramon Marriott, <http://www.con-volution.com>) is similar to Baycon—lots of writers and artists. There's even time to get on their panels.

The big announcement for sci-fi authors is that Worldcon is coming to SJ Convention Center on Aug 16-20, 2018. Sure, it's a while from now, but guess who's coming? Tor, Daw, Baen, and all the other sci-fi publishers. Also hundreds of authors and artists. Once again, there's time to get on panels and set up tables. Nonetheless, tickets are already on sale. <http://www.worldcon76.org>. Also, I know the organizers, and they're truly awesome. There hasn't been an opportunity for local SF writers this good since 2002, when Worldcon last came through.

So get writing—you have a bit over a year! —WT

Altered Books

by Judith Shernock

I have discovered an amazing subject that might interest you, too.

Just Google "Altered Books" and be amazed at what creative people do with their books.

Hummingbird

Hummingbird hovers –
only inches from my face.
Heavenly flower.

– Stephen C. Wetlesen

Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell
Contributing Editor

This month the emphasis is on screenwriting contests.

One of the resources that our May meeting speaker, Alejandro Adams, mentioned was BlueCat. You can find out more about them at <http://www.bluecatscreenplay.com/>. Currently their BlueCat Screenplay Competition is accepting submissions for its 2017 competition for features, shorts, and new this year, pilots. If you got your *Writers Talk* soon enough you might make the early June 1 deadline, but the final deadline is June 26.

- Feature Screenplay Winner \$10,000. Four Feature Finalists will receive \$1000 each.
- Short Script Winner \$5,000. Four Shorts Finalists will receive \$500 each.
- Pilot Winner \$5,000. Four Pilot Finalists will receive \$500 each.

Read more at <http://www.bluecatscreenplay.com/2017-call-for-entries-2/#KOVHMP03W8ujiqpG.99>

More screenwriting contest sites are listed below. Some have deadlines that are already past, but you can save the lists for future reference.

- **MovieBytes** lists their top 20 screenplay contest recommendations at <https://www.moviebytes.com/best-screenwriting-contests.cfm>. Listed alphabetically, they include competitions like the Austin Fest Screenplay Competition, a huge contest that's been around forever; BlueCat—see above; CineStory that offers mentorship as a part of the prize package; and many others including some of the ones in this list.
- **The Writers Store** contest site shows listings at <https://www.writersstore.com/writing-contests/>
- **Scriptapalooza** has a screenplay competition at <http://scriptapalooza.com/>. They also list a TV script contest, professional script analysis and a fellowship program.
- **Screencraft** lists diverse contests, fellowships, and a screenwriters residency program at <https://screencraft.org/screenwriting-contests/>
- **Shorescripts** offers ongoing recommendations and a 36 page Guide to Agents and Managers at <https://www.shorescripts.com/top-five-best-screenwriting-screenplay-contests-to-enter-in-2017/>
- **Good In A Room** lists their top recommendations at <https://goodinaroom.com/blog/screenwriting-contests/>
- **Zoetrope** has two contests. (1) Enter a 3 to 10 minute short film in the **Francis Coppola Director's Short Film Competition** for a chance to win a \$5,000 cash prize and have your film screened at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival! Guidelines at <https://www.zoetrope.com/coppolashorts/rules/> (2) **The Fifteenth Annual American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest** will open on June 1. See <https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/screenplays-2017/>

Don't forget the tried and true resources for other formats and others listed in previous issues of *Writers Talk*.

- *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>

The Writer Magazine lists markets where you can still get paid for your poems in 2017. <http://www.writermag.com/2017/04/06/paying-poetry-markets/>

If you hear of an interesting contest or market—or if you score—be sure to share with us at newsletter@southbaywriters.com —WT



The WT Challenge

What is it? Once a year in October, awards will be given to contributors to *WritersTalk*. You need take no special steps to enter this competition; if your piece in one of the designated genres is published in *WritersTalk*, you are a contestant in the Challenge. (Eligibility limited to members of South Bay Writers.)

Genres:

Fiction: 500 – 1800 words

Memoir: 500 – 1800 words

Essay/Nonfiction: 500 – 1000

Poetry: 20 – 200 words

Judging Periods: Work published in *WritersTalk* in 12 months preceding the October SBW general meeting. (2017 only: work published Jan. – Sept. 2017. Work published Oct. – Dec. 2017 goes into next judging period.)

Prizes: Two winners will be selected from each genre. First prizes, \$50 cash, 2 free entries into the next CWC *Literary Review*; second prizes, \$20 cash and one free entry into *Literary Review*.

Judging: Judging will be done by *WritersTalk* contributing editors and other club members. —WT



News from California Writers Club

Ads in CWC Bulletin

by Bob Isbill (760) 221-6367

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

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 for details and how to format your ad. -WT

You may advertise in the CWC Literary Review or The CWC Bulletin

Go to www.calwriters.org for details



Send information on conferences and other events of interest to writers to newsletter@southbaywriters.com for consideration for inclusion on this page. -WT

Book Passage Workshops

Book Passage in Corte Madera has amazing one day workshops, writing classes, and conferences. See www.bookpassage.com

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

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

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

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

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

Mount Diablo: 11:00 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com

Napa Valley: 7:00 second Wednesdays, venue is changing. napavalleywriters.net

North State: 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. northstatewriters.com

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

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

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

San Joaquin Valley Writers, 12:30 second Saturdays, University of Pacific community room

Tri-Valley: 2:00 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.org

Conferences

Cuesta College Central Coast Writers Conference

September 28 - 30, 2017

San Luis Obispo, California

Famous keynotes, workshops, panels, private critic sessions. Join us! Let us inspire you and make your writing lives extraordinary. Read more at www.centralcoast-writersconference.com Register now for the early bird discount.

Award winning keynotes:

- Academy Award winning writer, Tom Schulman of *Dead Poets Society*;
- Mary LoVerde, who has published four books in three languages and appeared four times on Oprah. www.maryloverde.com
- Author George Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. Named one of the "100 Most Influential People in The World" by *Time* Magazine.
- Jean Steel, *Happy People Win*, <https://happypeoplewin.com>

Go to <http://cuesta.edu/communityprograms/writers-conference/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2017				1	2 7:30p Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	3
				8	9	10
4 10A Our Voices	5 2p Valley Writers	6 6:30p SBW Board, Mariani's, Santa Clara	7			
11	12 2p Valley Writers 6:00p SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau	13	14	15 D e a d l i n e WritersTalk	16 7:30p Open mic SJ Rosegarden Library, 1580 Naglee Avenue	17
18 10A Our Voices	19 2p Valley Writers	20	21 7:30p Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo	22	23	24
25	26 2p Valley Writers	27	28	29	30	

Future Events:

SBW annual summer barbecue: Sunday, July 16

**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 June 6, 2017: 6PM dinner; Board meeting 6:30 - 9 PM, Mariani's Restaurant, 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara.

Open Mics

South Bay Writers Open Mic: Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. First Friday evenings, B&N Almaden. Third Friday evenings, Willow Glen Library or Rosegarden Library. 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 is on sabbatical. 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 or
*The CWC Bulletin***

Go to 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 Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, 7 PM Third Thursday, 408-808-3045 www.poetrycentersanjose.org

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

SBW Recommends ...

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



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

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers
June Regular Meeting**

6 pm, Monday, June 12, 2017

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

Truth and Fiction:

**A Panel of Journalists
Moderated by Colin Seymour**

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.