



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 23  
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February 2015

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

## Shelley Bates: February Speaker Revision makes precision

by Dave LaRoche

We write fast and loose on occasion — fifty thousand words in the month of NaNoWriMo. We're admonished to write quickly by our coaches, so ideas don't wander off when we pause for the better word or to get a fresh cup of coffee. Moreover, our minds work faster than our pens so we're quick to hurry and catch up. But fast writing, like fast anything else, breeds mistakes, and we are thankful there's a phase called revision.

I'm a bit of an organic writer — fully developing a character or two, and then letting them find their way through a plot. This has advantages, as lazy writing is fairly consistent with the rest of my advances. However, my characters sometimes exhibit nonchalance or a limp stupidity I've overlooked in development, and I find them in terrible situations. Fortunately, I can go back and revise.



Shelley Bates

Then there's Ms. Grammar who's loath to attend when first we need her. She's out to tea with the ladies or having a martini with that macaroni down the street. In her absence, our sentence structures collapse. We misspell, punctuate incorrectly, end with preps and start with dependents. In short, we will need to revise.

Writing is rewriting, we soon figure out. Revisions become half of the total time to finish. It's not glamorous. It's not inviting. It's a dreary prospect, the drudge of the process. But yes, there is hope.

Shelley Bates is a revision expert who makes revising fun and rewarding. She suggests revision is the path to acceptance. Edit, polish, shine, is her motto, and while each run through the manuscript becomes less; there are almost never too many. She "will take us through 'the rules,' what they're meant to accomplish, and how you can revise your work with or against the editors. We

will learn what to look for in our own work, and while pursuing self-publishing or a traditional agent or editor, our books will shine."

Whether typing search warrants and cataloguing evidence for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or editing marketing material for high-tech in Silicon Valley, Bates finds that everyone has a story. She has edited "collateral" for Apple, Symantec, and Hewlett-Packard and is currently copyediting for a growing list of independent authors. Shelley Bates holds an M.F.A. in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania, where she teaches as adjunct faculty. She won the 2005 RITA Award for Best Inspirational Novel of the Year from the Romance Writers of America and was a finalist the following year. She was a Christy Award finalist in 2009 and shortlisted three times for the American Christian Fiction Writers' Carol Award. She writes Amish women's fiction as Adina Senft and steampunk as Shelley Adina. When not writing, she can be found in her garden with her flock of rescued chickens.

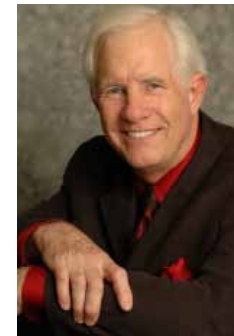
Join us on February 9th to hear this interesting woman talk sense about revision, and perhaps a bit about chickens. Could we learn the answer to which came first? — WT

JANUARY RECAP

## Pointers from Dan Poynter

by Victoria M. Johnson

Dan Poynter treated South Bay members and visitors to an information-packed presentation at the January 12, 2015 meeting at Harry's Hofbrau. Poynter, founder of Para Publishing, motivational speaker, and best-selling author of 133 books, had



Dan Poynter

a capacity crowd of writers eager to learn from his vast experience and knowledge. His talk covered many aspects of publishing from technology to marketing to finding readers to specific things writers can do to build their platform.

Poynter asked, "What's your favorite subject?" He wrote nine books on his favorite subject. He self-published his first book on skydiving because it was not a traditional book. He knew where to sell it and publishers didn't. By self-publishing he could make more money, control the quality, and get the book to his readers when he wanted. A traditional publisher would have taken a year or more to bring it to readers, and then they would have sold it in bookstores.

Poynter believes bookstores are a terrible place to sell books. He knew his "tribe" did not hang out in bookstores. Skydivers hung out at airports and skydiving events. They read skydiving magazines. These were the places where he successfully sold his books.

He asked us to find our tribe, the people

*Continued on Page 6*

# President's Palaver

by Colin Seymour  
President, South Bay Writers

## Champion your work with small gains, not expecting a knockout



Bearing 300 copies of the cover for my ebook, *The Kingpin Trio*, I launched the 130-mile round-trip drive to San Francisco one recent Saturday afternoon to distribute all 300 at a boxing event near Fisherman's Wharf that would be attended by about 1,000 likely candidates to read my book. It was a rigorous plan that would consume about seven hours.

If your ship is ever going to come in as a published writer these days, that's how you ought to behave to make it happen—as speaker Dan Poynter pointed out at our January meeting.

And yet I know of at least one talented person in South Bay Writers who has not adjusted to these new realities. He's still expecting a big-time agent or publisher to swoop through our club to troll for gems among us that she's sure to find—including his, which will make him an honest-to-gosh, royalties-collecting writer.

After all, he says, they always say they're looking for new talent, and yet they throw millions of dollars at the Sarah Palins and none at the far more worthy likes of us. They won't even read our stuff. What's the matter with these powers that be, and why can't the club attract them the way we should?

That's not how it works anymore, dude. For starters, there aren't that many powers-that-be. They'd have to work at Santa Claus pace to reach us all.

You have to toot your own horn, establish your own brand. You have to accumulate a following on Facebook and/or Twitter. You should have your own website and blog there about your writing. You should try to publish lots of little things and generate trickles of income from several products instead of depending on the big score.

I'm thinking small. The ebook is free, and if I can reach the 3,000-copies downloaded mark, I'll have reason to start charging money and reason to publish a hard-copy version. We talk about this sort of strategy all the time in SBW. It's not wise to ignore these discussions.

In fact, SBW was the impetus for my putting together *The Kingpin Trio*, subtitled *How Three Bay Area Champions Became the Class of Boxing*. Our Nina Amir, a Poynter disciple and an expert guide to the nonfiction landscape, knew I'd written about boxing on Examiner.com since 2008, and she said I might as well e-publish some sort of collection.

My Examiner.com blog had morphed into specializing in these three fighters, none of whom was fighting on that Fisherman's Wharf boxing card. But the No. 4 Bay Area fighter was headlining the card. It was the biggest card staged in the Bay Area in 2014, and I could roam the crowd distributing leaflets between bouts.

Alas, I never made it. It was an extremely Spare-the-Air kind of day, I developed a migraine, and I started nodding off on I-280, so I turned back. Thus I squandered the best means of promoting my book short of scoring a radio interview—or better yet, a TV interview on the Comcast station—not incongruous since I've twice appeared on that set.

In early 2015 I'll have more time to promote the book in less dramatic ways. I've already found that emailing individuals I know in the boxing community and touting the book at the bottom of my *Examiner* posts pays dividends almost every time. I'm now near 300 downloads just doing that.

That's how it works these days. There is no savior swooping in. We have to take our case to the people ourselves. —WT

California Writers Club  
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www.southbaywriters.com

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### 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 the Membership Chair, Sally Milnor, or sign up online at southbaywriters.com.



## WritersTalk

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

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### Submissions

Members of the South Bay Writers Club are encouraged to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. All submissions will be copyedited to uphold our publication standards. The Managing Editor decides which submissions to publish.

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Suggested word limits are not absolute; query the editor. Shorter submissions are given preference. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Send graphics separately as jpg files.

**Anything Goes—Almost** (300 words)

**News Items** (400 words)

**Letters to the Editor** (300 words)  
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

### Creative Works

Short Fiction (1500 words)  
Memoir (1200 words)  
Poetry (300 words)  
Essay (900 words)

**Member Achievement and News:** newsletter@southbaywriters.com

**Announcements and Advertisements**  
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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# Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
Managing Editor



## Preposterous Apostrophes

Do you enjoy the sound of “preposterous apostrophes” and its rich taste on your tongue?

Do you cringe when you see “it’s” used as a possessive?

Do you avert your eyes from the sign, “Avocado’s 3 for \$2?”

If each of your answers was a “yes,” you are well on your way to becoming a certified **apostrophile**, a lover of apostrophes and proper grammar. But, did you answer three “yes’s,” or “yeses,” or “yesses?” Using an apostrophe and an “s” to form the plural of a word or a letter, such as “There are two *f*’s in the word fulfill,” isn’t a hard and fast rule.

If you hesitated on the second question, cheer up. The most common apostrophe error, mixing up your itses, is also the easiest to correct. The rule is simple: if the word stands for “it is” or “it has,” then what you require is “it’s.”

The true apostrophile will chuckle while correcting the following:

- your 21 today
- its a meal in its’ self
- dicks in tray
- mens coat’s
- new members welcome drink
- pupil’s entrance

The examples listed above appear in Lynn Truss’s *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*. However, manuscripts in which the writer has misused its and it’s; were and we’re; they’re, their, and there; and who’s and whose have appeared in email addressed to *WritersTalk*. From whom, you ask? I remain mum to protect the guilty.

Whether or not you are a true apostrophile, we welcome your creative work here at *WritersTalk*. Keep sending us your short fiction, memoir, essay/article, or poem. Each piece used is automatically entered in the semiannual *WritersTalk* Challenge Contest (see page 13). Awards for the period ending with this issue of *WT* will be presented at the February SBW meeting. —WT

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## New Members

by Sally A. Milnor



Sally Milnor

I am very happy to introduce our Club's eleven newest members.

**Ronda Brigham** writes non-fiction. On her Membership Questionnaire, Ronda says: "I have had a book in my head for nearly twenty years, and I now have time to put pen to paper. I guess you could say I have been collecting mental data all this time. I recently met another author with a similar life story; and, after I told her my story, she said I had to write it. I have always been told at work that I have a good sense of words and can get my ideas on paper. It is time to see if I really can."

**Jeanne Carbone** writes fiction and nonfiction. Jeanne is the Managing Editor for *Times Community Newspapers*. In addition to her writing, she is interested in art, painting, hiking and aerobics.

**Alicia Clinton** found us online and is interested in writing short stories.

**Linda King** also joined us online. She's interested in writing nonfiction books.

**Robyn King** writes fiction, primarily urban, dark contemporary fantasy and fantasy-cyberpunk fiction. Robyn is a freelance writer for the pen-and-paper role-playing game "Shadowrun." She has had numerous pieces published in their various sourcebooks, and she has written a novel in the game universe that will be published next year. She is also working on her own urban fantasy series, which currently has five books. Robyn has been accepted into the Stanford online Certificate Program in Novel Writing and has completed the first course this quarter. When she is not writing, Robyn enjoys playing with her cats, reading, watching *Doctor Who*, playing role-playing games (pen-and-paper and online) and attending gaming conventions.

**Elinel Rabara** joined our Club at our January meeting. Elinel is interested in writing poetry.

**Kate Russell** writes fiction, nonfiction and poetry. On her Membership Questionnaire, Kate says: "I ran away with the circus when I was 13. After that, I drove

## View from the Board

by S. Halloran

Ten of us—President Colin Seymour, Vice-President Dave LaRoche, Treasurer Bill Baldwin, Secretary Sylvia Halloran, Newsletter Editor Marjorie Johnson, Membership Chair Sally Milnor, Publicity Chairman Kim Malanczuk, Hospitality Co-Chair Carole Taub, Member-at-Large Nader Khaghani and Carolyn Donnell met in Santa Clara Wednesday night, January 7, 2015.

- We spent some time redefining the purpose of the branch, so we can proceed as an incubator for writing talent as well as a gathering of accomplished authors. The new Talk Shop meetings as well as the Open Mics and SBW Underground should work toward those goals.
- The approach of the end of the officers' terms makes the board eager to find nominees for election, to be held in June. A proposed split of the Vice-Presidential duties will ease the workload and encourage board participation by more members. Contact any board member with your interest to serve on the Board.

*Moved: (Milnor/Malanczuk) to accept December minutes.* Passed, unanimous.

*Moved: (Baldwin/Milnor) to accept officers' reports.* Passed, unanimous.

*Moved: (Johnson/Baldwin) to accept committee reports.* Passed, unanimous. —WT

a goat cart for a year and a half and lived in an RV for five years, writing and traveling." She has self-published *Family Letters*, which she co-authored with Jo Halstead, Create Space (2011); *How to Train a Puppy*, Create Space (2012); and over 2,000 articles.

**Michael Shipp** is interested in writing novels and short stories. He has written a novel, *Locals Rule: A Surf Novel*, which is yet to be published. In addition to his writing, Michael is a commercial fisherman and a life-long surfer.

**Sandra Skolnik** joined us online and is interested in writing short stories.

**Libby Stanton** writes both fiction and nonfiction. On her Membership Questionnaire, Libby says: "I enjoy writing down things that inspire me. I started out with documenting family members for future generations, and then unexpectedly turned to children's stories because it was my granddaughter's first birthday."

**Vivian Zhou** also found us online. Vivian writes nonfiction articles that have appeared in the *Palo Alto Weekly*.

**To Our New Members:** We wish each of you a very warm welcome, and we hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment.

**And To All of Our South Bay Writers:** We appreciate your continuing presence and support. Thank you for helping to keep our Club flourishing!

—WT

## Member News

Collected by WT Staff

**Victoria M. Johnson's** flash nonfiction piece, "The Girls' Room," was published in *Anthology Three* by Push Pen Press. Also, along with several local authors, she participated in the Los Gatos Christmas Parade wearing a sandwich board of her book covers as part of the Village House of Books' parade entry, followed by a book signing at VHB.

Dr. **Audry L. Lynch** entered several books into Book Festival contests. That resulted in three Honorable Mention Awards: San Francisco Book Festival: *Steinbeck Remembered: Biography/Autobiography* category; Los Angeles Book Festival: *Ruben's Tales of the Amazon Jungle: Children's Book* category; and Hollywood Book Festival: *The Rebel Figure in America Literature and Film: John Steinbeck and James Dean: Biography/Autobiography* category. In addition, she was listed in "London Book Festival Winners 2014" under General Nonfiction for *The Development of Roy Simmonds as a Steinbeck Scholar*, and under Biography/Autobiography/Memoir for *The Rebel Figure in American Literature and Film: John Steinbeck and James Dean*. Her books can be viewed on Amazon.com.

**Maddy McEwen-Asker's** short story, "Marry in May and Rue the Day," was published in the January, 2015 edition of *Jack Hardway's Crime Magazine*.

—WT

# New! New! New!

## SBW Underground

by Bill Baldwin

The first meeting was announced for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 20, at a Denny's.

Are you interested in writing that is "out of the Mainstream?" Join us. Everyone is welcome.

We can't yet offer a definition of "Underground" or whether it's even underground or not, to call yourself underground. But, if you think writing is about more than just making money, this may be the place for you. If you hold integrity more important than popularity, give us a try.

If you take an interest in writers like the Beats (Kerouac, Ginsberg, Burroughs) or Henry Miller, Charles Bukowski, Malcolm Lowry, or J. D. Salinger, or an interest in music like Punk rockers, or in any number of people (Virginia Woolf?) who struggled with their own lives and art, trying to keep it real, drop by and give us your perspective.

Contact Bill Baldwin (WABaldwin@aol.com) for more information. — WT

## South Bay Writers Open Mics

by Bill Baldwin

South Bay Writers currently hosts two open mics a month: the First Friday at the Barnes and Noble in Almaden Plaza, and the Third Friday at the Willow Glen Library. Both begin at 7:30 pm. Each reader gets a ten-minute reading slot.

Drop by when you can — take the plunge!

Contact Bill Baldwin (WABaldwin@aol.com) for more information. — WT

## Opportunity Knocks

As Vice-President of South Bay Writers, YOU could choose the dinner speaker YOU want to hear. As a fringe benefit, YOU could become acquainted with people who are doing things in the world of writing. YOU could learn firsthand what's going on in publishing while YOU build your network.

SBW needs YOU and YOU need SBW.



by Kimberly Malanczuk

## SBW Board of Directors Apprenticeship Program

Are you an idea woman or man? Do you enjoy innovating and creating programs? Do you value leading and serving? Then join South Bay Writers' leadership team. Lead the club into the future, and obtain the experience, gratification, credentials, associations, visibility, and hobnobbing with professionals that will benefit your career — writing and otherwise.

South Bay Writers now offers an Apprenticeship Program for members interested in running for the Club's Board of Directors. Explore opportunities to lead our club and test drive a position before declaring your candidacy.

Run for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Member-at-Large.

To participate in the apprenticeship program, contact President Colin Seymour at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com).

### Critical Dates

Apprenticeship Program Orientation: Sunday, February 15

Declare Candidacy: Monday, May 11

Election 2015: Monday, June 8

## Membership Drive April through May

Dust off your phone books and search your smart phone contacts. South Bay Writers will sponsor a membership drive April through May 2015. For every new member that you bring into our club, you will enjoy one free meeting on us!

Everyone benefits! New members receive wisdom and knowledge from our insightful monthly and workshop speakers. Moreover, South Bay Writers obtains a fresh perspective on how best to serve our professional organization of writers.

For more information, contact membership chair Sally Milnor at [membership@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membership@southbaywriters.com).

## New TalkShop Writers Group

Need to vent your writing frustrations? Analyze writing challenges? Learn ways to improve?

TalkShop is a new writers group designed to discuss such topics as visualization, cadence, point of view, dialogue, writing challenges and tips, and so much more. Each meeting will be held the last Tuesday of every month and will feature a specific topic.

The next meeting will be held February 24, from 6 – 9 pm, at Carole Taub's home. You may contact Carole at [777777ps@gmail.com](mailto:777777ps@gmail.com). — WT

## Pointers from Poynter

*Continued from Page 1*

interested in our subject, and sell our books to them.

Poynter cautioned against general book promotion, "You're annoying people." Instead he advised us to target our marketing by promoting to our interest group. Then he asked, "What promotion are you cut out to do?" Since authors must promote themselves--publishers don't--we should make a list of all the things we can do to promote our book. Then decide what we can do ourselves and what we might contract out. Introverts can still promote from home! Poynter went on to suggest ways to get the word out for our book.

One interesting tip I hadn't heard before was how to get ourselves listed in wikipedia. He suggested looking someone up, such as Dan Poynter, and following the format in his profile to write up your own entry in this same format. After you write your profile you can submit it to wikipedia yourself, or submit it to his contact where you'll have a better chance of it being accepted: [AndyWDavis@yahoo.com](mailto:AndyWDavis@yahoo.com).

Several attendees asked questions including one about using YouTube to sell a book. Poynter said that YouTube is a visual forum so if you're book is visual then it may be a good fit. As an example he said the audiobook format is not a good fit for his skydiving book. His readers wouldn't buy it. Another attendee asked about the ideal book size. Poynter quickly answered 144 pages at 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" size. He explained that in the printing process 48 pages = 1 signature. And 3 signatures = 144 pages. When you add more pages, the cost goes up. The physical size is an 8 1/2" x 11" paper folded in half. Other sizes not only cost more, but they are more cumbersome to ship. Poynter ended the lively session by saying, "the most expensive part of publishing is making mistakes." He invited everyone to sign up to receive his free e-newsletter, *Publishing Poynters*, at: <http://mad.ly/signups/42313/join>

His Wikipedia profile is at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan\\_Poynter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Poynter) — WT



Dan Poynter played to a packed house.

—Photo by Dick Amyx



Carole Taub announced TalkShop.

—Photo by Dick Amyx

## So What's This "Underground" Business?

*by Bill Baldwin*

SBW folks have been walking up to me, flyer in hand, and asking "What's this SBW Underground thing all about?"

Some of us are more interested in expressing our thoughts and feelings than in commercial success. Oh, we'd love commercial success — but not at the cost of the betrayal of a personal vision. We feel a little uncomfortable becoming too popular. We admire pathfinders and visionaries.

And this carries plenty of precedents. Many past writers and artists have felt this way. Painters like Van Gogh, writers like Henry Miller, D. H. Lawrence, and the Beat Writers. Musicians like Charles Ives, Charlie Parker, and the Punk Rockers. Poets like Baudelaire, Rimbaud, and Whitman.

But pursuing an art that is "out of the Mainstream" presents its own challenges. When does "following your own vision" become mere fad and pretension?

Several South Bay Writers members have decided to get together and discuss these issues. We're still settling on a standard meeting time and place; we're inclining towards the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We've met twice at the Coffee Society in Cupertino and are planning to try out the Denny's on Saratoga Avenue.

We'd love some creative suggestions; so far we've discussed "Underground Art" in general, as well as this whole question of "what is pretentious?" That question came out of our discussion of the word "hipster": has the meaning of that word changed between, say, 1940 and the present? Is "Hipster" a positive or negative term?

Anyway, if your tastes veer "out of the mainstream" toward the visionary, the "hip" or the *"avant garde,"* contact me at [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com) to verify our next meeting location — then join our ongoing discussion! — WT

## We need editors

Industry professionals report the most common reason for rejection of a manuscript is "writing mechanics." They reason that, when a submission is filled with such errors, the writer had no clue as to what basic writing mechanics might be. Revision could be a time-intensive-and-costly proposition.

We all need editors. Who in South Bay Writers edits for hire?

*WritersTalk* invites SBW members who are editors to send a business card (or its PDF) for inclusion on Page 15, for the bargain price of \$10. — WT



## Board of Directors APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM Election 2015

Are you an idea woman or man? Do you enjoy innovating and creating programs? Do you value leading and serving? Then join *South Bay Writers'* leadership team. Lead the club into the future, and obtain the experience, gratification, credentials, associations, visibility, and hobnobbing with professionals that will benefit your career—writing and otherwise.

*South Bay Writers* now offers an Apprenticeship Program for members interested in running for the club's Board of Directors. Explore opportunities to lead our club and test drive a position before declaring your candidacy.

Contact President Colin Seymour at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) to sign up for the leadership apprenticeship program.

### CRITICAL DATES

Apprenticeship Program Orientation	<b>FEBRUARY 15, Sunday</b>
Declare Candidacy	<b>MAY 11, Monday</b>
Election 2015	<b>JUNE 8, Monday</b>

### POSITIONS

President	Treasurer
Vice President	Member-At-Large
Secretary	



## My Life as Member-at-Large

*by Nader Khaghani*

I believe in running for office and participating in the South Bay Writers Board for several reasons, including those stated below.

### It's our Club.

South Bay Writers, the South Bay Branch of California Writers Club, can be as effective and educational and as much fun as we all collectively make it. Really, there is no one else but we members to make our club an exciting place to learn and interact.

### Meet the members of the Board.

To join the board is a way to know the friendly people behind the faces who make each monthly meeting possible. You will find yourself among friends and you can add your voice and express your wants and needs to other board members.

### Stay in touch with Club members.

Part of the responsibility of each board member, particularly Member-At-Large, is to be in touch with members to learn what they are interested in and assist in guiding and directing the Board.

### Lend your expertise.

SBW Member-At-Large has no specific duty but lends his/her vision and expertise to the Board as necessary. —WT

## SBW Secretary The Inner Workings

*by Sylvia Halloran*

The secretary of South Bay Writers is the memory for the organization. As in all organizations, the secretary records the proceedings of monthly board meetings and can easily recall, by document or thought, what has transpired previously. The secretary produces minutes of the meetings and maintains archives. The archives are in good order and will be easy to transfer to a new secretary.

These secretarial functions require a high degree of logic and tolerance, including both the ability to be inquisitive and the ability to remain silent. The secretary needs to maintain interest in the goings-on of the club and concern for its success.

Although the club has other officers whose opinions predominate, the secretary sometimes serves as the voice of reason. A monthly column in the newsletter *WritersTalk*, "The View from the Board," offers an opportunity to share the progress and concerns of the governors, as well as a personal platform to enthuse and inform membership with the inner workings of their club.

These responsibilities don't take a lot of time, but need to be executed in a timely way. Standard format for minutes and *The View* streamlines the job.

Acting as secretary builds relationships with other board members and enables a deep understanding of the club. The primary benefit is the sense of accomplishment and order that good service provides. —WT

## A Short History of Haiku

by Judith Shernock

Japanese lyrical poetry was part of 7th Century Shinto ceremonies. The poems, known as "Waka," had thirty-one syllables divided into a 5-7-5-7-7 count. Two hundred years later this popular form developed into a word game. Two poets would compete in alternative sequences of 5-7-5 and 7-7 successions, called "Renga."

The form of Japanese poetry changed in the 15th and 16th Centuries, and Renga became known as Haiikai. It became an extremely popular pastime in the "Saki" houses where people sat around composing comical lyrics using the classical pattern.

In the 17th Century, Matsui Basho, the most famous of the Haiku poets, wrote a travelogue using "hokku." Although the English translation loses the syllable count, here's an example:

Lightning flash  
What I thought were faces  
Are plumes of grass.

Basho wrote more than 1,000 poems and trained 2,000 new poets. His book, *Narrow Roads to the Interior*, is considered Japan's most famous literary work.

Since then, the 5-7-5 triplet Haiku form has become the most popular in Japanese verse. Haiku is meant to evoke a mood, a train of thought, a group of pictures or an unlocking of emotions. A prime master of this is my favorite Japanese poet, Issa (1762-1826), who saw all of his five children die. In the dreadful despair that followed, his wife also passed away. Later, Issa remarried and his wife became pregnant, but the poet died before the child's birth.

Following are three of Issa's poems about his children, his "Dew Drops." The third refers to the basins used for a baby's first bath and at the washing of the body after death.

The dews disappear  
This world is dirty, and we have  
No business here.

This Dewdrop world  
A dewdrop world it is, and still  
Although it is.

From washing bowl  
To washing bowl my journey  
And just rigmarole.

On this same subject of the death of a child, the Japanese poetess Chijo (1703-1775) wrote of her son:

I wonder in what fields today  
He chases dragonfly in play  
My little boy who ran away.

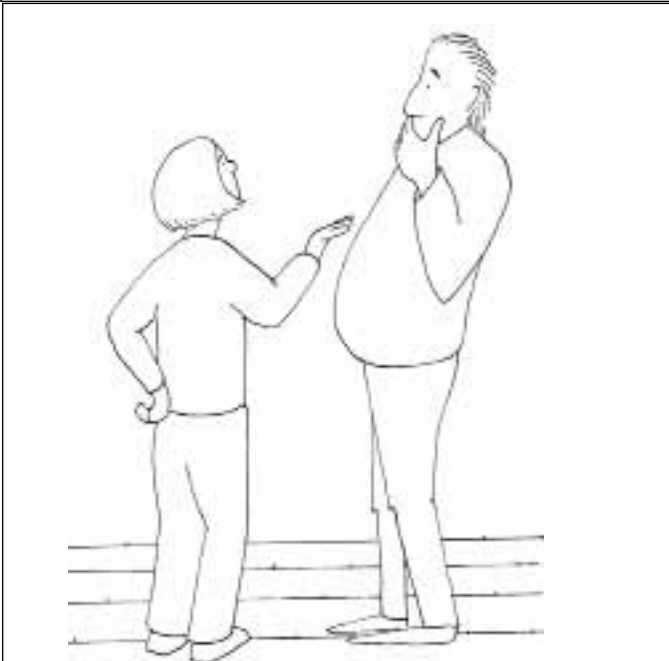
After World War II and the U. S. occupation of Japan, many American writers fell in love with Haiku. In the 1950s and '60s the form became extremely popular. Richard Wright wrote more than 4,000 Haiku. Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, great enthusiasts as well, brought Haiku to the American mainstream.

Today in Japan there are 500,000 practicing poets writing in this form. Haiku has become a cultural bridge between that country and the U.S. The American Haiku Archives houses the largest collection of Japanese poetry outside of Japan. Twenty-four English publications are devoted to it. The most well known are *Modern Haiku*, *Frogpond*, and *Mayfly*.

To those of our members who write in this ancient form, kudos for bringing us into that wonderful circle of verse that began so long ago in a land far away. — WT

### Shelf Life

— Maddie McEwen-Asker



*I'm having trouble with the first line.  
How about, I am an invincible man?*

## Insight Kindling: The Call to Search Everywhen

by Chess Desalls



I still can't believe I published a first book, let alone a second one. But here I am celebrating the release of *Insight Kindling*, the second installment of a young-adult time travel series.

Calla faces charges against her for changing the past. Her use of the Travel Glasses resulted in the creation of two writings that affected the lives of the inventor of the Travel Glasses and their prior owner. Now

Calla must explain her actions before the Time and Space Travel Agency. The hearing does not end well. The travel commissioner finds Calla guilty as charged and forces her to choose between two harsh penalties. Despite the risk of becoming lost, Calla accepts a dangerous travel mission to find her father. She soon discovers that she inherited a special travel talent, but will it be enough to protect her and her teammates before they complete their mission?

Available now for Kindle, Nook and iBooks. — WT



## Books to Read and Online Only Stories

by Linda M. Judd

You love to read and you look for a recommendation from Goodreads.com for your next book. You also love to write and develop a book on your computer or your mobile writing device using Wattpad.com. These Websites can help you to become more widely known and your work to be read by a larger audience.

In my love of using the computer to write, create graphics and just surf the net, I found and have joined these Websites. Wattpad is a popular online writing space used by new and well-known writers to launch new works; its members vote yearly on the Watty Awards. Goodreads introduces and recommends books to everyone and by everyone, with members voting yearly in the Goodreads Choice Awards.

Both sites are well supported by more than 30 million members each.

Eight years ago, in Toronto, Wattpad was an idea. It has grown into a community of currently 35 million members dedicated to writing, sharing and reading stories, online. I'm using Wattpad to write teaching material for my class.

When I finished my Wattpad fairytale, "Once Upon a ... Lily Pond," I added a cover image and clicked "Save and Publish" to put it online and make it viewable by the public. Once published, your viewing audience can add comments and vote on each part (chapter) of your work. Wattpad's online extras include statistics from Reads, Votes, and Followers; support of videos and graphics; writing clubs; and experienced users who provide writer support.

Famous writers on Wattpad have held contests in the past: the Freeze-Dried Fiction Contest with Margaret Atwood, the Nicholas Sparks Writing Contest, and the R. L. Stine Fill in the Fear Contest. The winning writers of the Website-wide 2014 Watty Awards will be announced in January.

Goodreads is a San Francisco based book-recommending Website. Here, you write book reviews, messages to friends, and announcements for discussion groups

## Off the Shelf

— Edie Matthews



*"All I know is, she was touring Stratford Upon Avon."*

and books you want to read. Add your published book(s) and Goodreads will update your regular account to an author's account, where promotional support for your work becomes available. Extras available to authors include free blog space, traffic driven to your book, giveaways and contests, support of videos, and a writing space to share excerpts of your book.

Winners of the 2014 Goodreads Choice Awards were announced in early January. Of the 30 million members, 3.3 million voted for this year's best reads in 20 categories. The famous names that I recognized were Amy Poehler, Best Humor; Diana Gabaldon, Best Romance; Anne Rice, Best Horror; and Steven King for Best Mystery & Thriller. The Debut Goodreads Author winner was Pierce Brown, a new novelist.

I am using these two online Websites plus a free publishing account on Issuu.com (85 million readers) to help with my Self-Publishing 101 class. At home, I designed my two-page fairytale into an eight-page, full color cover, 6" x 9" book and saved it as a PDF. Next, I uploaded it on Issuu.com. My published, two-page fairytale is listed on Goodreads with links pointing to both Wattpad and Issuu. On Issuu,

you'll see how my two-page online-only story looks as a book. Issuu.com tracks statistics and has commercial accounts.

Imagine what this exposure could do for your full-length novel with the support of your favorite writer's club behind you and a built-in audience through *WritersTalk*. These online sites can help you develop, publish, and promote your writing. These writer-supporting "social media" sites provide posts of your work at the click of a button to send to other social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. All you have to do is write the write and type the type. And you'll get those who read the read and buy the buy.

You can contact me at [lindyjudd@yahoo.com](mailto:lindyjudd@yahoo.com). — WT



Quotes on the Internet may not always be genuine.  
— Abraham Lincoln

## Drive with me

We're driving to Atlas Works  
Where Sam's a shipping clerk  
And I do the books,  
But don't give 'em a real good look.  
Just past Rudy's Mill, his old Chevy breaks down,  
At the top of Jackson Hill, right outside of town.  
The cylinder's shot through.  
We're stuck here for all we knew.  
So Sam pushes and we sort of flew,  
with quirky jerks to Atlas Works.  
  
Sam loves it and won't let the Junkman have it,  
And so shouldering it becomes his habit  
Through the snow, to the show, wherever we go.  
  
Come May, we rent St Stephens Church,  
And before the blossoming of the birch,  
Invite kith and kin to witness our wedding vows.  
I pledge to cherish him as much as love allows  
And as his wife to kill the rife in his lonely life.  
  
Then come our three young boys, our greatest blessing,  
But no matter how tightly I hold them, obsessing,  
The wind of time blows wild, just so,  
Now stand three men, where my three young boys were a  
moment ago.

As the years leave us, our children go too.  
When Sam pushes that old Chevy's stuck like glue.  
So we remain and what life gives us, we take.  
We gather our wrinkles, collect our aches,  
And bid farewell to youth's sweet embrace.  
But the day comes thus that good news finds us.  
On Sam's birthday, our boys buy us a brand new Chevy,  
An electric one that makes no noise or hardly any.  
As Sam pushes, the car jumps at his touch.  
It is good for Sam and for the family nonesuch.

— Karen Sundback

## Closing a Gap, This One (Poem Number 2,000)

A gap, an opening (Fill It) by a good count  
A gap, fill the break (Fill It) then you mount  
A gap, a space. A space to mount upon, agree?  
A gap, a part is missing, find the part to be  
  
A gap, an empty space, and the part to be, yes  
A gap is a period of time, to adjust, no guess  
A gap, a part of a distance, the answer is to gain  
A gap, is a volume to fill and fill again  
  
A gap, a certain place, set apart, but need closing  
A gap, a part available to everyone running  
A gap is a part counting, never loses it  
A gap, an area a specific area takes bit by bit  
  
A gap, we have to make use of IT, now  
(This one) must be closed, then 2,000, WOW  
I MADE IT!

— Clarence L. Hammonds

## Le Cœur

How strong is your heart?  
If someone painted your lips in poison  
filled your mouth to the brim with toxins  
would you speak only words with antidotes to them?  
  
How strong is your heart?  
If someone sewed shut your quivering eyelids  
replaced the kaleidoscope with debris and ashes  
would you resign yourself to those images for eternity?  
  
How strong is your heart?  
If someone palisaded every inch of your brain  
encaged your mind behind iron bars  
would you only let loose the thoughts that fit through?  
  
How strong is your heart?  
If someone transmuted all your nerves  
wired your muscles to move only one way  
would you give in to compulsion, be led down their path?  
  
How strong is your heart?  
If someone twisted your veins and arteries  
froze your bloodstream and stopped your pulse  
would you lie still and let yourself become a tomb?  
  
How strong is your heart?  
When they bring you to your knees  
change you to everything you loathe and despise  
Tell me, then, will you still hold on to that insurgency behind  
your ribs?

— Chelsea Cheng

## Poets: you're all invited

### Words Drawing Music

Words Drawing Music is an ongoing open mic opportunity at Works San Jose and it's at a time when SBW doesn't have one—second Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. They advertise a friendly environment where artists and others can enjoy inspirational poetry and music while exploring artistic creativity. They provide paper and drawing materials or you can bring your own (no paints please). An open mic is open to all! They invite all you artists, poets, musicians, and comedians to show your talents at Works, 365 South Market Street (downtown San José on the Market Street edge of the San José Convention Center).

Check ongoing events, flash fiction forum, open mic opportunities at Works on [www.workssanjose.org](http://www.workssanjose.org)

### Poetry readings

#### Poets@Play

Second Sundays, 1 – 4 pm  
Markham House History Park  
1650 Senter Rd., San Jose

#### Poetry Center San Jose

Willow Glen Library  
3rd Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.  
1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose

More information: [www.poetrycentersanjose.org/calendar](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org/calendar)

# February Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



Pat Bustamante  
Contributing Editor

## Feb: Airy or Fishy?

Winter sealed the fishpond one cold night,  
So unexpected. Now entombed, the fish might  
Be deep-bottled by dark ice  
To wait for healing or at least unsealing.  
Short month, please reel us some nice  
Sweet magic Spring's redealing.

— Pat Bustamante

Feb. is short for fibbing, a synonym for fiction?

Fiction is another word for telling untruths or, at least, disguising the true incident and the real people's names. I am a big fan of fiction because it does not slander or injure "real people" although sometimes it seems awfully easy to substitute a real person's name for that of a fictional character.

Therefore I too can say things about a certain person's misadventures that might get me sued if I used the real target's name. I can tell my memoirs to reveal many embarrassing incidents, but I will use fake names. No intention to harm, just a craving to pass along a "good story," at least in my opinion! My parents told tales about their elders and I try to remember as many as I can. When you have a family event — funny or sad or unusual — to memorialize, go for it!

Fiction can turn the impossible into the possible: some real science based, other stories impossible (but, why shouldn't Superman fly?). Pretending is not merely a property of childhood. It's an art to set the mood for scary, or for heart-rending, or for defining the most real-seeming monsters, aliens, angels, whatever piques interest these days. You can create your own universe with your own rules. Turn what was a tragedy into a last minute success or show a "villain" his/her "what-for." Let's improve this world. Get set — go! — WT



## Polly Wanna Paper

There once was a pirate named Quill,  
Whose parrot went over the hill.  
He'd have been quite upset  
At the loss of his pet  
If it weren't for the dry cleaning bill.

— E. Michael Lunsford



## Two Porch Chairs

The two porch chairs  
Are vacant now  
Late afternoon shadows  
Begin to fall  
Caressing them  
As if wrapping in a cloak of comfort  
the vestiges of those who  
had long ago sat there  
If you move in closer  
Perhaps you will  
catch a glimpse of  
Their stories embedded  
In the wood  
Stories of the good times  
when they danced and laughed  
Stories of the sad times  
when they shed tears  
and their hearts bled



## The Branch

Bluejay hovers  
Above a tree.  
Alights  
On a branch.  
What magnetism drew him,  
Told him,  
"This one  
Is yours?"  
Did the branch whisper,  
"Bluejay, I await."  
Were all others  
Silent,  
As they seesawed  
In the warm breeze?  
Thus we choose  
Our lovers.  
Unknown forces,  
Hidden, secret,  
Bid us come.  
We hear  
And alight.  
— Judith Shernock



And if you could ask the folks  
who had sat in those  
Two porch chairs  
so long ago  
To tell you their stories today  
What do you think they would say?  
— Karen Hartley



# Conferences, Workshops, Classes

Tri-Valley Writers Conference, San Francisco Writers Conference: see Page 14.

## Poets & Writers Conference, San Francisco

By Marjorie Johnson

On January 10, Audry Lynch and I attended the P&W Conference. Since not everyone in South Bay Writers was able to take advantage of this opportunity, here are my rough notes. Look into anything that seems interesting, using Google and visiting websites.

### Self-publishing

Self-publishing is waxing while traditional publishing is waning. The year 2014 saw 460,000 self-published books and eBooks, most of which came from Smashwords, CreateSpace, and Lulu. If you use CreateSpace, take advantage of your Amazon page. You can read about CreateSpace at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

### Social Media

Get active on social media: Instagram (visual book) and/or Facebook. You need a following for your book launch—but—caution: social media may not be your style; not every author belongs there. You need to blog or make entries frequently: what is there about your novel to write about every day? Use your time appropriately. You need to build relationships with people (not virtual friends); that is, network.

### Lit Camp Writing and Drinking Club

Writing is very isolating. Lit Camp Writing and Drinking Club from the Grotto, Berkeley, spends two hours writing in community—silently—followed by one hour socializing. See [litcampwriters.org](http://litcampwriters.org)

### Bay Area Book Festival

The Bay Area Book Festival is coming to Berkeley in June. Book Passages, Corte Madera, hosts genre conferences where you can mingle with editors, agents, and professional writers.

### Launch your book

Post reviews on Amazon. It's harder to get reviews for self-published books. You can give away portions of your book. Don't worry about your copyright: your enemy is obscurity, not piracy. The stigma associated with a self-published book, while lessened these days, still exists; if not edited, your book is not ready.

Choose your publisher carefully. Order a sample. Feel the paper; look at front and back covers.

### Query letters

Agents can tell whether to read or reject after reading one paragraph of a query letter. That goes for books as well. The hardest "sell" is a personal memoir written by an unknown author.

### Perfect Pitch Panel

How to approach editors and agents: Read the agent's web page so that you know his interests. Engage the agent in conversation; you want to make a human connection. Why are you writing this book?

The agent gets nervous when he gets a query letter littered with adjectives and adverbs. Start with something interesting and explicit. Pull a line out of your book.

### Edit

The best way to edit is to read aloud. Read poetry aloud and learn how to listen—poetry is an oral art. Read aloud to children. Read aloud to a critique group.

### Resources

Poets & Writers, at [pw.org](http://pw.org), features databases, literary journals, and where to submit poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction as well as contests.

I learn something everytime I attend a conference. I recommend that you try it. — WT

## Social Media For Authors And Poets

by Victoria M. Johnson

Saturday, Feb 7, 2015

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center

Social media has become a crucial element for authors and poets in promotion and branding, finding opportunities, and fundraising. But those new to social media may not understand what platforms are best for them and what they can do once they are up and running. Some don't understand the benefits of social media at all while others have opened accounts but don't know what they're doing there. This workshop will discuss a variety of social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube, websites and more!

FMI or to register: <http://www.lgsrecreation.org> — WT

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## Use SBW Open Mics: Prepare Book Tours

by Bill Baldwin

So you are terrified about public speaking? You're not alone. And yet, one way of promoting your book and your writing is to speak in public. If you feel you can't face that without a bit of preparation, you may want to invest some time in attending our South Bay Writer Open Mics. It's good practice for future appearances (for example, a book tour), and it's good publicity. People learn who you are and what you write—it builds name recognition.

It also helps you with editing your work, thereby improving your writing. Speaking for myself, I can say that when I read in public I am much more aware of the actual words I have set down on paper. Good passages sail along and delight me; not-so-good sections make me aware of what I need to change.

Open mic reading is a good way to meet other writers and network with them. This broadens your perspectives and encourages alternate approaches to your project; you see how other writers have tried something similar or different.

And I simply find open mics *fun*. Contact me at [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com) — WT

# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Carolyn Donnell  
Contributing Editor

Carolyn's column will return next month.

Here is an ongoing list of contests and other monetary opportunities. Be sure to check all deadlines and follow all rules.

- *Poets & Writers*: [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants)
- *Fan Story*: [fanstory.com/index1contest.jsp](http://fanstory.com/index1contest.jsp)
- *Writer Advice*: [writeradvice.com/markets.html](http://writeradvice.com/markets.html)
- *Funds For Writers*: [fundsforwriters.com/contests/](http://fundsforwriters.com/contests/)
- *Writer Magazine*: [writermag.com/writing-resources/](http://writermag.com/writing-resources/)
- *Writer's Digest*: [writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions](http://writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions)
- *Winning Writers*: [winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests](http://winningwriters.com/the-best-free-literary-contests)
- *10 Literary Journals That Pay Their Writers*: [publish.com/10-literary-journals-that-pay-their-writers/](http://publish.com/10-literary-journals-that-pay-their-writers/) — WT

## Good News from San Mateo County Fair Literary Contests Open January 23

by Bardi Rosman Koodrin

Member, CWC SF-Peninsula Branch

Go to <http://sanmateocountyfair.com/contests/departments/literary-arts> and check out all of the Literary Contests we're offering for 2015: new genre novel chapter and Publisher's Choice contests, blogs and audiobooks, and even a songwriting contest! We've expanded the Essay and Memoir divisions and added a new humorous Short Story class. Writers who incorporate our optional Carry the Light theme may win special ribbons (judges' discretion).

**This year's San Mateo County Fair dates: June 5 - 14.**

**Contest Deadline: April 1, 2015 at 11:59 pm.**

**New this year:** Writers also have the option of entering our free Lottery System to vie for a professional editor's critique of essay, memoir, and short story submissions. \$10 fee per entry; no limit. All submissions are electronic; register online to upload entries and also order copies of our annual *Carry the Light Anthology*. The Website will include how-to instructions. Also, you can contact Bardi Rosman Koodrin: [literary@smeventcenter.com](mailto:literary@smeventcenter.com) — WT

**Editor's note:** Don't miss this unique opportunity. The Literary Stage runs all week. They schedule workshops, speakers, and actors and present many cash prizes for contest entries. Last year, they had "The Running of the Poets," very cool. The San Mateo Literary Stage is better than a writers' conference! If you are a presenter, or if you have a submission that will appear in the anthology, you get tickets for free entry to the fair and for free parking. Check it out! Plan to enter and attend with a friend from SBW.

Last year, seven members of South Bay Writers had work appearing in the fair's anthology, and amongst them, captured six first prizes. In fact, Carolyn Donnell won three first prizes and an award for top exhibitor, with close competition from Jamie Miller.

Don't miss the San Mateo County Fair this June. It's the only county fair with a literary division in California, perhaps in the world. Besides that, it's FUN! — WT

## WRITERSTALK Challenge

### What is it?

Twice a year, in February and August, awards are 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.\*

### Genres

Fiction, 500 - 1500 words

Memoir, 500 - 1200 words

Essay/Nonfiction, 500 - 1200 words

Poetry/Haiku

### Judging Periods

January 16 through July 15

July 16 through January 15

### Prizes

One winner will be selected from each of the eligible genres. Each winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$40.

### Judging

Judging will be done by *WritersTalk* contributing editors and other Club members whom the contributing editors may ask to assist.

\* Eligibility for the *WritersTalk* Challenge is limited to members of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club. — WT

## Essay Contest: "April"

Marcella Simmons, Editor/Publisher

The April issue of *The Cahaba Literary Journal* will blossom into a beautiful butterfly about the last week of March 2015. To celebrate its debut, we are sponsoring an essay writing contest. All essays must be about April—it can be about your cat named April, your secret love named April, or something that happened in April. Go to <https://cahabariverliteraryjournal.wordpress.com/> for details. **Contest deadline extended to February 15. Check website.** — WT



## Directory of experts

*Do you have specialized knowledge that might help a writer bring authentic detail to a scene? Send a message to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) and we will add your listing to our directory of experts.*

### **Astronomy, History of Astronomy**

Bob Garfinkle [ragarf@earthlink.net](mailto:ragarf@earthlink.net)

### **Banking**

Pam Oliver-Lyons [polpap@prodigy.net](mailto:polpap@prodigy.net)

### **Curriculum Development**

June Chen [junech@gmail.com](mailto:junech@gmail.com)

### **Counseling/John Steinbeck**

Dr. Audry L. Lynch

[glynch0001@comcast.net](mailto:glynch0001@comcast.net)

### **Growing Great Characters from the Ground Up**

Martha Engber [martha@engber.com](mailto:martha@engber.com)

### **Internal Medicine/Addiction**

#### **Disorder/Psychology**

Dave Breithaupt [dlbmlb@comcast.net](mailto:dlbmlb@comcast.net)

### **Book Formatting**

Linda M. Judd [lindyjudd@yahoo.com](mailto:lindyjudd@yahoo.com)

### **Marketing and Management**

Suzy Paluzzi, MBA [jomarch06@yahoo.com](mailto:jomarch06@yahoo.com)

### **Mathematics/Fibonacci Sequence**

Marjorie Johnson [marjohnson@mac.com](mailto:marjohnson@mac.com)

### **Private Investigator/Police work/Crime**

M. J. Hahn [mirror3314@mypacks.net](mailto:mirror3314@mypacks.net)

### **Teaching and the Arts**

Betty Auchard [Btauchard@aol.com](mailto:Btauchard@aol.com)

### **Telecommunications Technology**

Allan Cobb [allancobb@computer.org](mailto:allancobb@computer.org)

### **Television Production**

Woody Horn 408-266-7040

## CWC around the bay

These are published meeting locations and times for other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you're thinking about attending one of their meetings, be sure to check the website first for details.

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

**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. [cwcmarinwriters.com](http://cwcmarinwriters.com)

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

**Mount Diablo:** 11:30 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. [mtdiablowriters.org](http://mtdiablowriters.org)

**Napa Valley:** 6:30 second Wednesdays, Napa River Inn. [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net)

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

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

**San Francisco/Peninsula:** 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. [sfpeninsulawriters.com](http://sfpeninsulawriters.com)

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

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## Ongoing critique groups

### **Our Voices**

Meets at Le Boulanger in the Pruneyard in Campbell every other Sunday 10 am. Genres: Fiction, nontechnical nonfiction, memoir. Contact: Dave LaRoche — [dalaroche@comcast.net](mailto:dalaroche@comcast.net)

### **Valley Writers**

Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center, Winchester Blvd. in Santa Clara, Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Contact: Marjorie Johnson at [marjoriej358@comcast.net](mailto:marjoriej358@comcast.net)

### **Emperor's Mystery Circle**

Meets at Emperor Norton's, 7508 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose, 1:30 pm., first Mondays. Mystery genre. Contact Pam Oliver-Lyons, [polpap@prodigy.net](mailto:polpap@prodigy.net)

### **Riders Do Right**

Meets at Vallco Shopping Center, second floor, Food Court near Burger King, Noon, second Thursdays. Any genre. Contact Pat Bustamante, [patatat@hotmail.com](mailto:patatat@hotmail.com)

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## Tri-Valley Writers Conference

### **Focus: Self-Publishing, Marketing, Craft**

Saturday, April 18, 2015, all day, at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Discount Prices for Early Bird Registration: Members, \$115; Nonmembers, \$140; Students, \$80

The Tri-Valley Writers Conference is a full day event on the art and business of writing for writers. Held Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 7:30am to 6:00pm, it will feature three tracks of speakers, events, writing contests, and networking opportunities for people who share a passion for writing. The event is organized by the Tri-Valley Writers Branch of the California Writers Club and sponsored by a grant from the Alameda County Arts Commission to promote and nurture our vibrant community of writers. Our speaker lineup includes authors, editors, marketing experts, and innovators in e-publishing. Visit [www.trivalleywriters.org](http://www.trivalleywriters.org) — WT

## San Francisco Writers Conference

The 2015 San Francisco Writers Conference will be held at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco, February 12 – 15. Hurry! Visit [sfwriters.org](http://sfwriters.org) — WT

## Your Critique Group

For consideration, send information to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

## Ongoing 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](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)



Be sure to check out all these opportunities available from California Writers Club and South Bay Writers.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00A Our Voices	<b>2</b> 1:30P Mystery Circle 2P Valley Writers	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30P SBW Board Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30P Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 2P Valley Writers 6:00P <b>SBW Dinner</b> <b>Harry's Hofbrau</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Noon Riders Do Right	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00A Our Voices Deadline: <i>WritersTalk</i> SBW Apprenticeship Orientation	<b>16</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30P Open mic Willow Glen Library 1157 Minnesota Ave	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 2P Valley Writers	<b>24</b> TalkShop 6 - 9 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>March Events:</b>  SBW Board March 4 SBW Dinner Meeting March 9		<h2>February 2015</h2>				

## Spring Housecleaning Half-price Sale



**Jaguar Princess**  
**The Last Maya Shaman**  
 Order on Amazon.com or contact

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson  
 marjohnson@mac.com  
 www.mrbicknelljohnson.com

### Ads 50% Off Special for SBW Members

Business card ad \$10. (SBW members only)

Advertise anything of interest to writers: editing services, books for sale, workshops not sponsored by CWC. Submit to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Invoice must be paid before ad runs.

Regular price: \$7 per column inch SBW members, \$10 per column inch nonmembers; \$21 business card members, \$30 nonmembers.

## February and March: Bags, Anthologies, Coffee Mugs – \$5 each

### CWC bags: Only \$10 each



Offered during our monthly meetings.  
Collect yours before supplies run out!

### South Bay Writers Anthology



\$10 at the meeting or at amazon.com

### South Bay Writers Coffee Mugs



\$10 each or three for \$20



## California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

P.O. Box 3254

Santa Clara, CA 95055

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

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers  
February Regular Meeting  
6 p.m. Monday, February 9**

Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

**Revision with  
Precision**

**Shelley Bates  
February Speaker**

**Come early – Meet a New Friend**

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

Regular dinner meetings are  
second Mondays 6 – 9 pm



### Harry's Hofbrau

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