



WRITERSTALK

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February 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

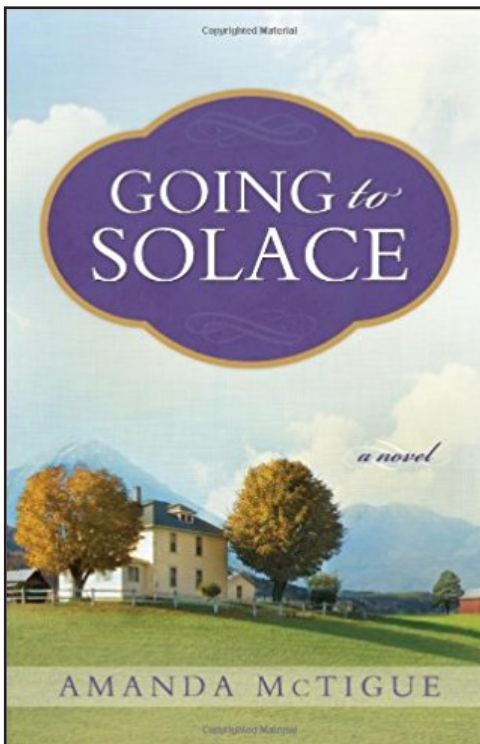
FEBRUARY SPEAKER: AMANDA MCTIGUE

RECAP: JANUARY SPEAKER

Writing Emotion: How Do You Catch a Cloud and Pin it Down? by Jamal Khan

Emotion is one of the most important, and most difficult, elements to capture in writing. You know you've succeeded when you feel it in the process of writing, and your readers tell you they've felt it too. Well-written, emotionally driven scenes allow readers to viscerally experience the story and bond with the characters. Although capturing emotion has been described as more art than science, Amanda McTigue will teach you several consistent principles, complete with examples, to help you make that magic happen.

Amanda McTigue writes for both the page and the stage. Her novel, *Going to Solace*, has become a book club favorite, and a commentator has noted, "What *The Help* did for the Deep South, *Solace* does for Appalachia." In addition to her work as a novelist, Amanda directs operas at Sonoma State University. Her works for the stage have been produced at Carnegie Hall and the Minnesota Opera, and through collaborations with Disney Entertainment and Paramount Entertainment. A short story from her upcoming collection has been nominated for a national award. Amanda will have so much wisdom to share with us at our February meeting.



Where: Harry's Hofbrau

390 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129

When: Monday, February 12 at 6 pm; Talk begins at 7:30 pm

Admission: \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers.

Includes \$10 credit for dinner.

Publishing Has Never Been Easier by Luanne Oleas

Have you wondered whether to be a freelance writer or set yourself up as your own small publisher? Recent changes in the tax code make that an important question. Ed Sams, owner/author of Yellow Tulip Press for 25 years, thinks a small publishing house works best. At the January 2018 dinner meeting, his basic theme stressed the importance of evolving with the times and tools in the ever-changing world of self-publishing. It was an opportunity to learn from a professional and avoid unnecessary mistakes.

Sams, a former English teacher, provided a description of 21st century books and readers.

- **Books:** There are now more eBooks than print books. He warned of the net neutrality changes and how they might affect access to personal websites.
- **Readers:** Readers are more passive because of the Internet with less imagination and shorter attention spans.

This change makes chapbooks, complete works at 30-60 pages, ideal. He suggested that those daunted by the commitment and length of a novel should try chapbooks or poetry chapbooks that run 16-20 pages. He also found graphics had become considered content.

To start his own publishing house, he needed a dedicated bank account, an address (postal box), and a business license, acquired for under \$50. He admitted that naming his business with a letter toward the end of the alphabet was a mistake.

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Between the Lines

Edie Matthews
President, South Bay Writers



Everyone Has a Story

At Mass last month, a retired priest filled in while our pastor was away. Spry and cherub-faced, he introduced himself by telling us about his childhood.

"I grew up on a farm in Iowa. I could milk a cow, kill a chicken, and grew up sharing a bathroom with twelve other people." He concluded, "Everyone has a story."

Isn't that the truth! His memories reminded me of my childhood growing up in Los Angeles.

I had three brothers, two younger, and one four years older. When my older brother attended school, I ruled the backyard. We played cowboys & Indians, Tarzan, Sheena—Queen of the Jungle, made spears from palm fronds, and decorated mud pies with flowers.

Westerns like *Gunsmoke*, *Maverick*, and *Rawhide* dominated the TV schedule. I especially loved the horses and learned their names: Silver, Scout, Trigger, Champion, Buttermilk (Are you kidding me!), Buckshot, Diablo, Loco, Joker, Joust, Phantom, Ringo, Target, etc.

Despite being economically strapped, we lived in a two-story Craftsman style house. A separate bungalow and large garage sat in the back corner of the lot, divided by a narrow path.

"Look Mommy!" I'd yell as I leaped from one roof to the other.

"I'm not looking," she'd reply.

Plants grew wild in the yard: jade, ferns, calla lilies, carnations, honeysuckle, a giant palm tree, a peach tree that produced two shades of gorgeous pink blossoms and uneatable green fruit, and fir trees (one year a poor substitute for a Christmas tree).

One summer, a spark flew up from our incinerator, starting a fire in the trunk of the palm tree. Like a scene from *The Birds*, pigeons sputtered and fluttered everywhere. The firetrucks arrived. All the neighbors gathered. It was like the circus came to town, and my house was the center ring. Since our home never seemed in danger, I didn't worry. I walked around like the ringleader. When a fireman told me to stay back, I said, "But I live here."

Our neighborhood enjoyed a cosmopolitan mixture: half Caucasians, the rest Mexicans, Asians, and a Black family who resided in a lovely home at the top of the hill.

Oodles of baby-boomer kids lived on the block. Groups of us jumped rope, played hopscotch, tag, kickball, or kick the can. On the rare occasion when no one was around, I'd traipse up to the courts (several small houses arranged around a central path or garden) to see if someone new had moved in.

People were always migrating to LA. One boy I met had a mother who displayed a menagerie of glass elephants, and gave her son candy bars for dessert. No one stayed in the courts very long.

A number of old ladies lived near us. The bond between young and old drew us together. They handed out cookies with a bit of wisdom.

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SBW Mission

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

Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Renewal dues are \$45 for membership through June 30, 2018. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. New member, \$65. Contact Membership Chair at a meeting or sign up online at southbaywriters.com or send a check to CWC-South Bay Writers, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

WritersTalk

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

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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. We cannot accept political advertising of any kind. *WritersTalk* does not accept unpaid advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. Advertise in CWC Bulletin or in the Literary Review. See Page 14.

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J. K. McDole Managing Editor



Humor in Romance: Cramping My Style

Writing romantic chemistry, for me, is sometimes almost as awkward as experiencing it firsthand. My so-called "single" years are behind me; the world of dating apps, exchanged numbers, and erstwhile partners is practically across the galaxy from where I am now. But when I sit down to write a romantic scene, those years come rushing back. Like oil in a bottle of unshaken salad dressing, the funny memories -- also the slightly embarrassing ones -- float straight to the top.

Picture this: a night in early February, and late winter snow powders the sidewalk of a main street restaurant. A couple rushes out the door arm in arm into the street. Their faces are warm, flushed from laughing. On the way to their car, they hold hands, squeezing fingers. "Baby," one of them sings, off-key and out-of-season, "it's co-o-old outside."

What should you know about this couple? They adore each other. Maybe this is their fourth date this week, maybe their first physical culmination after months of chatting online. The time frame doesn't matter; what's most important is that they're completely infatuated. One partner likens it to having a stomach full of butterflies. The other, who dislikes insects, calls it "being twitterpated."

(In the interest of accessible storytelling, let's say our lovebirds require no specification of gender. Names would help, though, so let's call the one singing "Jamie." The bug-hater, we'll go with "Reese.")

The sweethearts reach the apartment and snicker up the steps to a snowy front stoop. Jangling keys open a stubborn lock; they're stamping their feet, shivering, eager to get indoors.

Inside, they turn up the heat. Boots, sweaters, and coats are shed and strewn down the hallway that leads to the bedroom. They embrace in the dark, forgetting the light-switch. What they plan to do for the rest of the night doesn't require much illumination.

Reese and Jamie, Jamie and Reese. Two people sparked by the passion of a new and exciting relationship. We don't need to know their histories or what kind of baggage they've brought to the table. They live together in the ardent *now*, mapping each other's thoughts and bodies like the seams of a familiar blanket. They have assured themselves: There's nobody else like this. Combined, they are one of a kind.

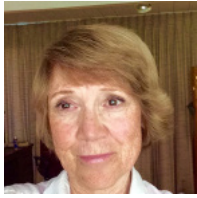
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View from the Board

by Karen Sundback



Karen Sundback
SBW Secretary

The January 2 meeting was held at President Edie Matthews' home. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

- **President's Message.** Edie declared the November workshop with Jordan Rosenfield a success, attracting one new member to the Club.
- **Newsletter.** J.K. McDole has successfully taken the reins as our *WritersTalk* editor with the January 2018 edition. Bill Baldwin praised the newsletter and led the board in applauding her accomplishment.
- **Meetup.** Trenton Myers suggested cutting expenses by more than half by subscribing to a less expensive version of Meetup. His motion was passed unanimously.
- **Website.** A note to our readers: if ever you misplace your hard copy of *WritersTalk*, our web editor, Tatyana Grinenko, keeps our website (www.southbay-writers.com/) current with the most up-to-date information. Check it out!

The next meeting of the SBW Board will be Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7 pm at the home of Edie Matthews. — WT

Member News

by Marjorie Johnson

Have you had writing successes and accomplishments lately? Want a little publicity and (a lot of) praise? Please share your good news in an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. — WT



South Bay Writers members John Jeng, Diana Richomme, and Betty Auchard enjoying a break before the speaker at our January 2018 meeting. Photo by Edie Matthews.

New Members

by Sally A. Milnor



Sally Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our three newest members:

Anna Koster heard about our Club from other members. Anna is an artist and an art teacher. On her membership questionnaire, she

said her interest in writing is fueled by her interest in art. She is retired from art museum communications, and her work has been published in *The Daily* (formerly *Palo Alto Daily* and part of the Bay Area News Group Regarding Arts.)

Anna's email address is annakosterart@gmail.com, and her web page is: annakoster.com.

Lori Krein heard about our Club online, and she writes poetry, fiction and non-fiction. On her membership questionnaire, she said that "writing is how I make sense of the world." Her self-published work, "Meditation in Manhattan," is available on Amazon and Kindle. Lori is a podcast host; and, in addition to her writing, she enjoys scuba diving and travel.

Lori's email address is lorikrein@gmail.com, and her web page is: lorikrein.com.

Larry Krumm joined us online, and he writes short stories. On his membership questionnaire, he said: "I have lots of stories in my head and would like to get them out. I find there is a big difference between having an idea and getting it on to paper so that someone else would want to read it and could enjoy it. I want to learn how to do it better."

In addition to his writing, Larry and his wife enjoy: travel, hiking, biking, backpacking, walking and nature.

To Our New Members: We wish you a warm welcome, and hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment. To all of our South Bay Writers: We appreciate and need your continuing presence and support. Thank you for helping to keep our Club flourishing. — WT

Publishing Has Never Been Easier

Continued from Page 1

Often at conferences, he found his booth relegated to the back row and other publishers occurred higher in alphabetical lists.

Running his own small press — started before there was much on the Internet — was an evolving saga of image acquisition, publishing tools, and publicity tactics. Beginning with the 1992 Fall River Murders chapbook about the Lizzie Borden axe murders, he used free, public domain photos. He publicized his book through conference venues like the Alternative Press Expo that evolved into ComicCon. It was meant for mostly comic books and “zines” (new magazines).

Images became more difficult to acquire, though stamps provided a copyright free source. By 1995, he was using clipart in his Orwellian Mother Goose chapbook. PageMaker and Adobe InDesign became his publishing tools. By 1999, he discovered he needed a website and found that polls promoted interaction with readers.

In 2006, he found poetry chapbooks were successful when he published *Hollywood Haiku*. By 2014, he was using Amazon’s CreateSpace to self-publish and learned how to promote his work on Twitter and Facebook. He found Facebook ads useful because they matched demographics and gave analytics about the number of visitors.

He stands by the Yellow Tulip Press mission statement: “There are no slaves, only a slave mentality.” Or, do what you love, and you’ll never work a day in your life.

— WT

Humor in Romance

Continued from Page 3

Then, a yelp. A thud -- one of them lets out a colorful curse word and “ow, my leg!” -- and all the excitement grinds to a halt. Click! One of them scuttles to the wall switch and flips it on. The lights come up on tangled sheets, strewn pillows, and a pair of undergarments dangling from the ceiling fan.

Reese, curled like a caterpillar, writhes half-undressed on the floor.

“What happened?” gasps Jamie.

“Cramp,” moans Reese.

A charley horse. Up until now, the night was almost magical; now, the fantasy dissipates. In spite of Reese’s pain, it’s impossible for Jamie not to laugh. “Should we stretch next time?”

They switch gears and settle down, trading in the scented massage oil for Tylenol and a heating pad. That sensual backrub they had planned? Totally abandoned. Instead Jamie smears Tiger Balm on Reese’s miserable sore calf.

“True love,” one of them says, before the other delivers a playful swat with a pillow.

Those memories really come back strong. It could be the passion, the fondness, or the unexpected turn of events. Maybe a combo of the three. Maybe it’s because a charley horse hurts for days afterward and you just can’t help but remember, “Hey, that was the date with so-and-so where I got the cramp.” That memory makes it a scene off which a story can build.

Mind you, I’m not saying this whole scene actually *happened* -- nor (if it did) that it occurred to any of these specifics. But there’s truth in it. Last year’s club speaker Rebecca Lawton aptly reminded us that when we bring the truth into our writing, that’s when we get power. Love, I think, is one of the greatest and most humbling powers of all. — WT

Everyone Has a Story

Continued from Page 2

Miss Helen lived next door. She was a soft-spoken old maid. Six-feet tall and hunched over, she enjoyed listening to the radio and wore a wide-brim hat while tending the garden.

Mrs. Curtis, a widow who outlived her two children, resided in a small yellow house across the street. She was obese and rarely wore her false teeth. She sounded like Gabby Hayes. The comfy rocking chair on her porch provided a panoramic view of the neighborhood. When our TV was on the blink and no funds to fix it, she would let all four of us watch hers.

There were more cats in the area than dogs, and we had our share. One orange tiger cat had a white strip of fur around its neck. My mother dubbed “her” Lord Ermine. I had a darling calico kitten with a Chaplin mustache named Patches. When it died, my mother gave me a Bible to console me.

Old Mrs. Figal provided a home for her felines in a dilapidated “teardrop” trailer. Across the alley from her dwelled Mrs. Dunn. She raised hundreds of parakeets on her screened-in back porch. These two women always eyed each other suspiciously. Someone nearby had a monkey. Occasionally, we’d spot it walking the telephone wires.

We built go-carts, roller skated, and biked everywhere. After picking up a free map from the gas station, I discovered Walt Disney’s studio wasn’t far away. Sunday afternoon, my younger brothers and I headed to Burbank. The gigantic fence didn’t deter us. We climbed an adjacent tree and discovered the Zorro set. Weekend security must have been lax, because no one stopped us from exploring the Old Pueblo.

Whether you use your experience to write a memoir or inspire scenes in your fiction, there’s no reason to ever have writer’s block. Best of all, once you begin reminiscing, the memories flow and require no research.

— WT

WritersTalk 2017 Challenge Awards

by Karen Sundback, Challenge Chair

We have winners! Eleven of them, to be precise. At the January 8 dinner meeting, we celebrated our award winners and the judges who chose them. These 13 judges, some of them shown below, have considered all poems, memoirs, short stories, and essays appearing in WritersTalk from January to September of last year, and through careful deliberation, have given us our winners for the WT 2017 Challenge.

The winners are listed below.

Poetry Winners*

Richard Allan Burns – “Daddy’s Chin”

Carolyn Donnell – “The Long Road Home”

Marjorie Johnson – “Life is a flutter by”

J. K. McDole – “For Amanda”

Cal Stevens – “Questions”

Essay Winners

1st place - Dave LaRoche – “Flowers for the Women”

2nd place - J. Shernock – “Damsel Not in Distress”

Memoir Winners

1st place - Richard A. Burns – “Aunt Chris & the Peanut Butter Thing”

2nd place - Betty Auchard – “Keeping fit at 86”

Fiction Winners

1st place - Penny Cole – “Night School”

2nd place - Jac Fitzen – “Heading Home”

**Five poets shared the top prize after judges couldn’t narrow the field down to one first place winner and one second. Poets are listed in alphabetical order.*



From left to right: Betty Auchard, Carolyn Donnell, Judy Shernock, Kathleen Gonzales (judge), Cal Stevens, Edie Matthews (judge), Richard Burns, Penny Cole, Dave Strom (judge), J. K. McDole, and Sally Milnor (judge)

Coming in March

Workshops for the South Bay Writers



Constance Hale

Dazzle an Agent: Secrets to “Wicked Good Prose”



March 24, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Harry's Hofbrau ~ San Jose

In a three-hour workshop, Constance Hale leads you through a series of hilarious exercises to perk up prose. Using evocative readings, hilarious challenges, and wacky contests, writers will stretch new muscles, disabuse themselves of bad habits, and duke it out in a war of words. We'll also talk about how to cultivate that most elusive of literary elements: the writer's voice. This session is perfect for writers of fiction, nonfiction, and memoir who want to take their prose to the next level. No grammar competency required, but a sense of humor is a must.

- Early bird: till February 28, CWC Member \$49. Nonmember \$59
- Till March 18th: CWC Member, \$59; Nonmember, \$67
- Student (18 – 25 with ID): \$29
- At the door: \$65 Member, \$69 Nonmember
- Includes continental breakfast & lunch (\$12 credit)

Name _____ Member ☐ Non-Member ☐
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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**REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SOUTHBAYWRITERS.COM OR send
check to CWC South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055**

South Bay Writers January 2018



Casanova

by Judith Shernock

As Valentine day approaches the good saint is brought to mind. This conjures up his opposite, the womanizing Casanova, the name synonymous with romantic encounters. If he lived today would he be reviled? How bad could he have been if our own San Francisco Palace of the Legion of Honor is, in February, holding a retrospective devoted to the man?

Giacomo Casanova was born in 1725 in Venice. In those years Venice was a city where young, wealthy European men came to sow their wild oats. Masked Balls, all night parties and gambling thrived and were much encouraged by city authorities raking in revenue from this tourist trade.

Giacomo was born into a theatrical family in which both parents traveled for work, their only son left behind to be raised by his Grandmother. When the boy was eight, his father died. A year later he was sent to a poorly run boarding school. Because of his many, justified complaints about the conditions, the reigning Abbe of the school, who was also his violin teacher, took the boy into his own home to live. At age eleven, the Abbe's younger sister Bettina, began to "fondle" him.

In spite of all these travails young Casanova's intellect thrived and at thirteen he entered the University of Padua from which he received a degree in Ecclesiastical Law at the age of seventeen. He had wanted to study Medicine but had to fulfill the wishes of his monetary benefactor, the Abbe. The young man was noted as saying, "There are more ways of Quackery in Medicine than there are in Law."

Giacomo didn't like the practice of Law and in his spare time began performing with his violin. At one concert he, by chance, saved the life of a wealthy nobleman. The fellow was so grateful that he took the twenty-one year old to live in his household and became his monetary patron. With money no longer a problem Casanova began gambling and womanizing. His licentiousness, sometimes operatic in its convolutions, was brought before the Venetian

court so he hightailed it to Parma before the trial. There he met the love of his life, Henrietta, who left him after three months. She put 500 Louis in his pocket. She told all who would listen, "that is my final evaluation of him." Casanova was not yet 25.

Returning to Venice he continued his amorous escapades and was finally jailed. He escaped and his book about the experience, *Story of My Flight*, was a huge success and translated into many European languages. Next stop was Paris. Looking for an "in" to that high society he began a new venture, a State Lottery. Quickly making a fortune he started a silk business which eventually failed. The women who worked in the factory were known as Casanova's harem.

The years passed as Giacomo moved from country to country, meeting Catherine the Great of Russia, the Royal family in England and Benjamin Franklin in Paris. When he needed money he translated books or wrote his own. His non-fiction, *Troubles in Poland*, was particularly successful and widely praised all over Europe. Finally he ended up working as a spy, first for the Inquisitor of Venice and then, for the Papal State. After writing a scathing satire of his spy work for that holy body he was forced from Italy and never allowed to return. Casanova ended his days as a librarian in a Bavarian castle. There he wrote his memoirs, in twelve volumes. The English version ran to 3,000 pages. He mentions 120 women, swearing that his most scandalous affairs were not recorded. Casanova died in 1797 at age seventy--three.

The Lothario's fame continued to grow down the years. Seventeen movies and seven biographies of Casanova exist today. Each a different mixed bag of wonder, disapproval and curiosity about his behavior and his brilliance.

If this man was born today would he have had the same predatory life?

Psychologically his behavior can be explained by early parental neglect and childhood molestation. He followed his parents' attraction to the glitz and glamour of fame and acting. That doesn't excuse the behavior but does give insight into its origins. To judge a person from two hundred fifty years ago by present day "Me Too" standards is a dangerous

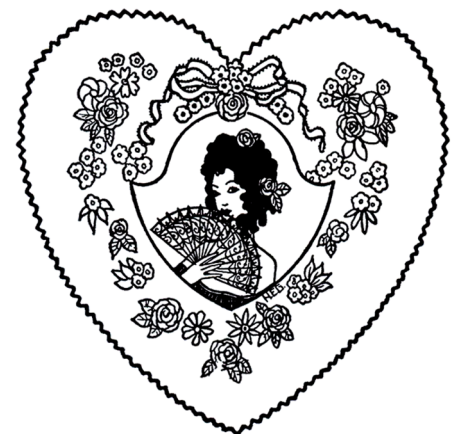


Portrait of Giacomo Casanova (1750-1755) by his brother Francesco Casanova
(Source: Wikipedia)

path to follow. We would need to do a staggering amount of research on those times and their moral criteria to attempt to accomplish such a goal.

So, like the wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood", let's look upon Casanova as a symbol of bad behavior and enjoy the Legion of Honor's show when it arrives. Sometimes, but not always, we just have to accept that certain bad boys are more interesting than the goody-two-shoes of their day.

— WT



Casanova: The Seduction of Europe will be featured at the Legion of Honor museum in San Francisco from February 10 to May 28 2018.

Be Mine, Valentine

by Marjorie Johnson

"Why him? Why Her? Why do we fall in love with one person and not another?" quoth CNN on my smart-phone.

Intrigued, I read on.

Dr. Helen Fisher, senior researcher at the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University and a biological anthropologist, approaches a choice of mate from the perspective of biology and chemistry. She asserts that four neural systems: dopamine, serotonin, testosterone, and estrogen, are regularly associated with a constellation of personality traits. She then devised a questionnaire to rate four primary temperament dimensions: Explorer, Builder, Director, and Negotiator.

I am a sucker for questionnaires that rate me in some way, so I downloaded The Fisher Temperament Inventory, easily available as a PDF from Google. We are all a combination of Fisher's four trait constellations, but we express some more than others.

Fisher uses fifty-six questions divided into four rating scales to choose your two most dominant traits. A person who is largely expressive of the dopamine and estrogen/oxytocin systems is an Explorer/Negotiator, for example.

Variations in the dopamine system have been linked with novelty, adventure seeking, impulsivity, energy, and enthusiasm. These men and women are also often intellectually curious, mentally flexible, and creative. Fisher called this style of thinking and behaving "curious/energetic" and dubbed them Explorers.

The suite of traits in the serotonin system include sociability, caution (harm avoidance), and more close friends. These people respect social norms and authority; follow rules; adhere to plans and habits; and exhibit self-control, figural and numeric creativity, and religiosity. Fisher designated this trait constellation as "cautious/social norm compliant" and dubbed such persons Builders.

As to choosing a mate, Explorers preferentially sought Explorers while



"It's about a city girl that falls for a farmer!"

Builders sought other Builders, while those within the other two groups, Directors and Negotiators (based upon testosterone/estrogen), chose their opposites.

Directors have enhanced visual-spatial perception and understand 'rule-based' systems from mechanics to computers, math, engineering or music. Negotiators exhibit contextual, holistic, and long-term thinking as well as linguistic skills, agreeableness, intuition, empathy, and nurturing.

However, academics don't agree on the role of personality in mate choice.

For a full description of these personality dimensions, see Helen Fisher's book, *Why Him? Why Her?* In "The Anatomy of Love," Fisher discusses how people fall in love and compares love and mating in other mammals and animals.

Compare the four personality-trait groups to Aristotle's Phlegmatic, Sanguine, Choleric, and Melancholic. The Personality Plus series by Florence Littauer explores these traits with more questionnaires to help us gain better understanding of ourselves and others.

Or study the Eysenck Trait Theory, with its own set of "personality rating

questionnaires" based upon three dimensions: introversion vs. extroversion, neuroticism vs. stability, and psychoticism vs. socialization.

Why explore love through personality? Duh—We need to understand our characters.

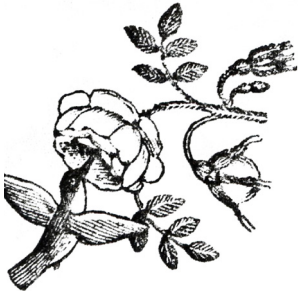
However, I expected a little more romance in "be mine." As to "Valentine," Saint Valentine is commemorated on February 14 and, since the High Middle Ages, has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. Saint Valentine of Terni was beheaded on February 14, 273 AD, in Rome, Italy. How did this morph into children giving each other valentine cards and candy?

"Be mine, Valentine." —WT



LOVE YOUR HOMELESS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

by Karen Franzenburg



She sits near the street light
Wrapped in the goodwill clothes of others
Signing to the Universe

In the cold chill of early evening rains
The pavement reflects the life she use to have
Alone she hopes for a new tomorrow



New Years Series

by Stephen C. Wetlesen

December 31, 2017 Haiku One Line, Seven Syllables

Hazy bright sun – hummingbird.
To Dave

New Year's Morning Haiku Monday, January 1, 2018

One Line, Seven Syllables
Distant sound of Woodpecker.

January 1, 2018 Supermoon One Line, Five Syllables

Japanese lantern.

January 4, 2018 Haiku One Line, Five Syllables

Hummingbird on twig.

January 6, 2018 Haiku One Line, Five Syllables

Rain beads flow on roof.

January 7, 2018 Haiku One Line, Five Syllables

Hummingbird fog dance.

January 11, 2018 Haiku One Line, Five Syllables

Vapor wisps off fence.

A splash from a curbside puddle hits her face
Left by the too busy to care
The all involved sheltered in their comfortable warm cars

Pretending not to see her
She becomes invisible
They stare void of compassion

She is not their sister in this life journey
Red lights flash and windows come down
A hand reaches out and hers opens

Her prayers are answered
She has enough money
For a meal tonight

Three Friends

by Karen Hartley

We are a celebration: friendship
We are like a patchwork quilt:
three friends
A fabric woven of our hearts:
sharing the most important
things in our lives

We are a celebration: three friends
A trinity of love and caring
Blessed by and with each other

We've always been a celebration:
And even though this parting
is meant to be
When we three friends
meet again
We will surely smile



Report from Guatemala

by Marjorie Johnson

In my novel *Lost Jade of the Maya*, the setting is so important that it almost becomes a character in the story. Chanla Pesh, an archaeologist and a descendant of a Maya king, searches for the sources of jade in Guatemala. (Grammar note: the word Mayan refers only to the languages spoken by the Maya. When I write the correct “ancient Maya jade” or “Maya king,” our trusty SBW grammar gurus will cringe. Also, the correct name of the town involved is Antigua Guatemala — no comma.)

Every museum displaying Maya artifacts also shows many jade pieces, but for many years no one knew where the Maya found their jade. When their Spanish conquerors had asked for the location of the jade mines, the Maya always answered “no hay,” there are none. Any source for pre-Columbian jade was lost for 450 years from the arrival of the Spanish until the first jade boulder was discovered in the Motagua Valley in Guatemala.

Jade is not mined in the same way as gold, by blasting and tunneling in. It is found in the river like gold nuggets or as outcroppings. Jade is extremely tough, heavy, and hard, but blasting shatters it. Jadeite, the hardest and highest quality of the stones called jade, is found only in Guatemala, Siberia, and Burma. Most museum pieces are not jadeite but other green stones. However, jadeite Maya artifacts come from at least six different sites, known because each jade piece has a unique chemical signature.

Jay and Mary Lou Ridinger, two archaeologists from the United States, found jade in 1975 in the Motagua River Valley in Guatemala. Locating jade and getting it out of an isolated and roadless valley are difficult where everything moves on mules and people’s backs. They learned to work jade, and Mary Lou founded the Jade Factory store in Antigua. This is only one source of jade; where are the others?

After I read *Stone of Kings: In Search of the Lost Jade of the Maya* by Gerard Helferich, I had to go to Guatemala and I had to write my novel, *Lost Jade of the Maya*.

Antigua Guatemala, once the Spanish colonial capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala, is a city in the central highlands. Famous for its well-preserved Spanish Baroque-influenced architecture as well as a number of ruins of colonial churches, Antigua has been designated a UNESCO Heritage Site. I chose Antigua as the setting for my novel, and going to Antigua was on my bucket list.

I used information from books, Google searches, and stories from other travelers to create the setting. In a novel like mine, historical, geographical, and geological information has to be accurate. I was thrilled to “recognize” nearly everything I saw in Antigua and Guatemala City and in their museums. As an aside, the Museo Popul Vuh even had a likeness of Maximón sitting there smoking a cigarette; if you don’t know about Max, look him up with Google. My daughter Jan and I visited the real Jade Factory as well, and it was just as portrayed in my book. —WT



The bearded screech owl (*Otus brachyotus*), native to Guatemala
(Source: periodpaper.com)

Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell

Are you looking for contests or other places to submit your work? Here you go!



Join our FaceBook group - South Bay Writers Club and keep up with contests. Members can post their on findings to the group as well.

www.facebook.com/groups/5486894361/

Here are a few new contests found on Facebook.

- **\$2,000 Desert Writing Prize** - Freedom With Writing
- **2018 STAR AWARD FOR PUBLISHED WOMEN'S FICTION** - Women's Fiction Writers Association's post
- **Graywolf Nonfiction Prize** - Poets & Writers
- **American poets prizes** - The Academy of American Poets
- **\$2,100 Writing Contest for Personal Essays** - Freedom With Writing
- **Ink & Nebula:** Now Seeking Submissions - Authors Publish

Don't forget about these from last month's Writers Talk - deadlines have not yet passed.

- **SPR (Self-Publishing Review) Book Awards 2017.**
Deadline: March 1!

www.selfpublishingreview.com/spr-book-awards-2017/

- **Writer's Digest (2)**

www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions

- **Winning Writers North Street Book Prize**

Self-published books. Opens Feb. 15

www.winningwriters.com/our-contests

- **Ingram Spark and NaNoWriMo.**

tinyurl.com/ya5hmj9l

Continued on page 13

- **WNBA Women's National Book Association**

www.wnba-books.org/contest/

- **Children's & Young Adult Book Awards**

www.clcawards.org/CLC_Award_Guidelines.html

Websites with contest listings

(also available on Facebook)

- **Poets & Writers**

www.pw.org/grants

- **The Writer Magazine**

www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/

- **The Write Life**

www.thewritelife.com/writing-contests/

- **National Association of Memoir Writers**

www.namw.org/

- **Freedom With Writing**

www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/

- **Authors Publish**

subscribe at www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/

- **WOW! Women On Writing**

www.wow-womenonwriting.com/

- **Women's Fiction Writers Association**

www.womensfictionwriters.org/Contests

– WT

Conferences and Events

by Margie Yee Webb

San Francisco Writers Conference

February 15-18, 2018, San Francisco CA.
PLUS Master Classes are offered on
February 15 and February 19

www.sfwriters.org

Authors on the Move!

March 10, 2018, Sacramento CA

www.saclibraryfoundation.org/authors-on-the-move/

"Sacramento's Premier Literary Event –
Save the Date!"

Continued on page 14

UPCOMING:

2018 San Francisco Writers Conference

Presidents Day Weekend–Feb. 15-18

at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill

The mission of the **San Francisco Writers Conference** is to build bridges to better tomorrows for writers connected to the conference by:

- Giving writers the information and inspiration they need to
 - write and sell their books
 - make them successful
 - reach their literary and financial goals
- Providing a forum for writers, agents, publishers, and writers organizations
- Helping writers build the networks they need by creating a community of writers online and off . . .

Because the **California Writers Club's** mission statement mirrors that of the SFWC, we are able to reach out to many of the same writers who are seeking help, support and encouragement in their writing by providing them with information about our Club.

This is the CWC's seventh year at the conference as an exhibitor and each year our booth improves. This year, we're featuring our eye-catching banner, a Tri-Fold Display of some of our member authors' book covers, our redesigned CWC brochures and, of course, **YOU**.

To volunteer for this year's conference, contact **Tim Jollymore** from the Berkeley Branch at: tim_jollymore@yahoo.com.

Remember, we are sharing our writing stories, our connections through the CWC, our understanding of the CWC and meeting new friends.



Register online at sfwriters.org

News from the 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

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 Round Table Pizza, 37408 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

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

Mendocino Coast: 6:00 third Thursdays, 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

Wanted: Information on Conferences

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

Conferences and Events

Continued from Page 13

WordPress Bootcamp:

Creating a WordPress Website and How to Use It with Linda Lee

March 10, 2018, San Francisco CA

www.milibrary.org/events/wordpress-bootcamp-creating-wordpress-website-and-how-use-it-mar-10-2018

sfwriters.org/mil-classes

Poetry Workshop at Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

June 23-30, 2018, Squaw Valley CA

www.communityofwriters.org/workshops/poetry-workshop/

March 28, 2018 (11:59 PM, PST) is the deadline for receipt of application/submission for The Poetry Workshop.

Writers Workshops at Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

March 28, 2018 (11:59 PM, PST)

Deadline for receipt of application/submission for The Writers Workshops in Fiction, Nonfiction and Memoir (July 8-15, 2018), Squaw Valley CA

www.communityofwriters.org/workshops/writers-workshops/

WNBA SF Pitch-O-Rama

March 31, 2018, San Francisco CA

Women's National Book Association—San Francisco Chapter

Pitch-O-Rama: Meet the Agents and Editors. Pitch-O-Rama delivers the 4 Ps that lead to publication: Polish, Pitch, Promote, Participate.

www.wnba-sfchapter.org/pitch-o-rama-2018/

The Character of Plot with David Corbett

April 14, 2018, San Francisco CA

www.milibrary.org/events/character-plot-apr-14-2018

sfwriters.org/mil-classes

Pen to Published 2018 Redwood Writers Conference

April 21, 2018, Santa Rosa CA

"Join your fellow writers along your path to publishing success at the 10th Redwood Writers Pen to Published Conference."

www.redwoodwriters.org/2018-conference/

The Belize Writers' Conference, (Fiction, Nonfiction and Memoir)

April 23-28, 2018, Ak'bol Yoga Retreat on Ambergris Caye, Belize

www.joeygarcia.com/events/

Bay Area Book Festival

April 28-29, 2018, Berkeley CA

www.baybookfest.org/

—WT

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose | 3 |
| 4 | 5 2P Valley Writers | 6 7P Well-RED at Works 7P Board Meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 10A Our Voices 1P Poets@Play, Markham House | 12 2P Valley Writers 6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau | 13 | 14 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo | 15 7P Third Thursday, Po- etry Center DEADLINE: WritersTalk Submission | 16 7:30P Open mic Wil- low Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave | 17 |
| 18 | 19 2P Valley Writers | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 10A Our Voices | 26 2P Valley Writers | 27 | 28 | February 2018 | | |

Future Events:

SBW Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7 pm
Edie Matthews' home
February: SBW Dinner Meeting on February 12, 2018

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

Ongoing Events

Critique Groups

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

Valley Writers: Meets at Valley Village Retirement Community, Winchester at Dolores, 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 on Tuesday, 7 PM, in the week preceding the dinner meeting. Contact Edie Matthews for more information on how you can attend at pres@southbaywriters.com.

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

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

**Add your discussion group
here!**

**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. www.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.poetrycentersanjose.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

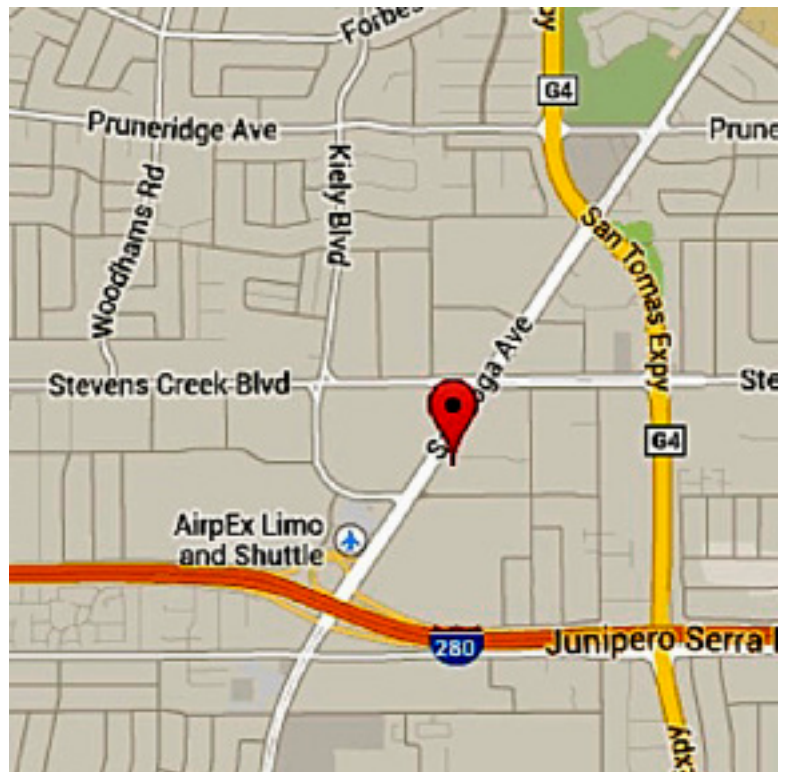
**South Bay Writers
Regular Dinner Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Monday February 12, 2018
Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose**

**Writing Emotion: How Do
You Catch a Cloud and Pin it
Down?**

**Amanda McTigue
February 2018 Speaker**

Please send contributions and submissions for *WritersTalk* by or on the 15th of the month!

Regular dinner meetings are second Mondays 6 – 9 PM of every month except July, December, and workshop months



Harry's Hofbrau

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