



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 26  
Number 03  
March 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

MARCH WORKSHOP: CONSTANCE HALE

## Dazzle an Agent: Secrets to Wicked Good Prose

by Jamal Khan

Literary agents have piles of submitted manuscripts that they must dig through at a frenetic pace. How can you make your work stand out from the filler? In our upcoming workshop, you will learn how to take your prose to the next level. Stretch new muscles, disabuse bad habits, and duke it out in a war of words. Cultivate that most elusive of literary elements: the writer's voice. Through a series of in-depth exercises, learn the key steps to perk up your work. This workshop is perfect for writers of fiction, nonfiction, and memoir.

Your workshop instructor, Constance Hale, has a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Princeton University and a masters degree from the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. She served as the copy chief at *Wired* magazine, and now edits for *Harvard Business Press*. Her writing has appeared in newspapers from the *Los Angeles Times* to the *Miami Herald*, as well as in magazines like *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Afar*, and *Smithsonian*.

Constance is a founder of The Prose Doctors, an editors collective, where she works one-on-one with many published writers.



**Where:** Harry's Hofbrau

390 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129

**When:** Saturday March 24

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

**Admission:** Early bird until February 28: CWC Member \$49; Nonmember \$59; Regular until March 18th: CWC Member \$59; Nonmember \$67; Student (18-25 with ID): \$29; At the door: CWC Member \$65; Nonmember \$69

Includes continental breakfast and \$12 credit for lunch.

Register online at

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

OR send check to

CWC South Bay Writers

PO Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER RECAP:  
AMANDA MCTIGUE

## Opening Emotions

by Marjorie Johnson

"You can't write emotions." Amanda McTigue, petite, redheaded, and vibrant, crossed out "Writing" in the title of her talk and replaced it with "Opening" Emotions.

Energy crackled through the room at Harry's Hofbrau on February 12. She had her audience hooked.

Amanda's well-choreographed Power Point presentation began with a quote from *The Sound of Music* (written by Roger Hammerstein): "How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?"

If you write, "It was sad," no emotion is conveyed to the reader. She read an emotionally rich passage from *Winnie the Pooh* in which Piglet pops Eeyore's balloon. The audience supplied what emotions were conveyed in that short passage.

Amanda sees problems in writing as opportunities.

- "Too Little" emotional content — blah, hollow, empty, disconnected: slow down and go deeper.
- "Too Much" emotional content — over the top, over-dramatic, saccharine, slapstick: you've got material so slow down and get real.
- "It's off, it's wrong:" this is your fast pass to getting the authorial voice right.
- Cliché — tired, familiar, hackneyed: this is where we all begin.

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# Between the Lines

Edie Matthews  
President, South Bay Writers



## Location! Location! Location!

So, you'd like to write, but you're not sure where to begin. Why not follow the adage: "Write what you know"? Still stuck? In that case, start with location. Where did you grow up? In an apartment, a house, a farm? In the country or the city? Don't worry about the characters, they'll show up—begin with description. Many successful writers like Eudora Welty, Ron Hansen, and James Joyce made a career of writing about what they knew best—their childhood surroundings.

"I could do that," was my first reaction to reading Eudora Welty's story, "The Country Store." Set in her neighborhood in Jackson, Mississippi, she wrote:

"It was a block down our street toward the capitol and a half a block further, around the corner, toward the cemetery I knew even the sidewalk to it as well as I knew my own skin.

"Shelves climbed to high reach all the way around, set out with not too much of any one thing but a lot of things—lard, molasses, vinegar, starch, matches, kerosene, Octagon soap ..."

Now we've all shopped in stores. I distinctly remember the small markets that dotted Temple Street in Los Angeles—like the Chinese grocery and the jar of penny candies wrapped in edible rice paper. Or on a larger scale, I could guide readers through the Central Market downtown.

"Inside a cavernous building, shoppers bustle below neon signs, perusing dozens of stalls, stocked with fresh produce direct from the fields and orchards. Oranges, pears, papayas were displayed like a military corps. A juice bar rounded the corner where patrons swiveled on seats deciding between apple or apricot nectar, served by a man older than Rip Van Winkle."

See what I mean about characters popping up?

Ron Hansen's first published work was a story collection named after his home state, Nebraska. One story anthologized in many college literature books is pure description.

"July in town is a gray highway and a Ford hay truck spraying by, the hay sailing like a yellow ribbon caught in the mouth of a prancing dog ..."

Though James Joyce lived most of his adult life on the continent, his fictional world never left Ireland (*Dubliners*, *Finnegans Wake*, *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*).

"The tram passed. They drove off towards the Loop Line bridge, her rich gloved hand on the steel grip. Flicker, flicker: the laceflare of her hat in the sun: flicker, flick."

Joyce once declared that if Dublin "one day suddenly disappeared from the Earth it could be reconstructed out of my book [*Ulysses*]".

Perhaps, in the perspective of a child—you have plenty of leisure time to observe and study details. I recall the wallpaper my mother put up in the front room. She'd bought leftover rolls on sale but ran out—to finish, she was unable to match the pattern precisely, and placed two houses next to each other.

*Continued on Page 5*

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
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### SBW Events

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin  
[WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

### SBW Mission

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

### Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Renewal dues are \$45 for membership through June 30, 2018. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. New member, \$65. Contact Membership Chair at a meeting or sign up online at [southbaywriters.com](http://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

email: newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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J. K. McDole

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Kelly Gomez

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Sayantika Mandal

Sally Milnor

Karen Sundback

### 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.

**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com

**Circulation:** 200

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## J. K. McDole Managing Editor



## March Comes In Like a Lyon

April is National Poetry Month. I invite you to write and submit poems for feature in our next issue!

Every spring, I get nostalgic about my first poetry class taken in my junior year of college: Craft of Poetry with Dr. Richard Lyons. Dr. Lyons was from Boston, Massachusetts; I used to wonder how he wound up in the polite, sweaty confines of a rural Southern university, but I never asked. Unlike the rest of the faculty, he edited with a brisk and abrasive style.

"You will write garbage poems," he said at the beginning of the semester. "If you submit something to this class that's garbage, that's where I'll put it."

He was right. We wrote bad poems. I received my first submission completely peppered with red ink. "It's too sentimental," he complained at the next class' circle critique. "You're spewing out too much imagery and holding back the real emotion."

I was surprised. What did he mean, too much imagery? Was that not the point of poems: to paint a visual, emotional picture and showcase creative skill?

"It has to connect," he said the following week. "It has to be accessible to your reader. Your joy, your anger, your pain and suffering -- all of that means nothing if we don't get what you're trying to say."

Irritated, I buckled down. I started writing more and more; soon I was jotting down verses in-between classes. I began to read more poetry: Keats, Woolf, Neruda, and Nash. I devoured Stanley Plumly and Richard Siken. There wasn't enough Sandra Cisneros in the world to truly leave me content; I wanted more.

My poetry got better. I saw fewer red marks; my work no longer got tossed in the bin. Soon we were sizing each other up across the critique table, Dr. Lyons and myself, swatting suggestions back and forth. I began to feel like a peer.

At the end of the semester, he called me into his office. He had submitted some of my poems to a literary festival in Louisiana, where they had placed for a prize. He smiled at me as he handed over the manila folder containing my submissions.

"You did it," he said. "You connected. These, I won't be putting in the trash."

"Thanks," I said. "Inspiring class, Dr. Lyons. After all, you know what they say."

"What's that?" he asked.

"It's called a garbage can," I said dryly, "not a garbage cannot." — WT

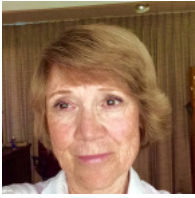
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# View from the Board

by Karen Sundback



Karen Sundback  
SBW Secretary

The February 6 meeting was held at President Edie Matthews' home. The secretary was unable to attend. This summary is based on Marjorie Johnson's notes.

- **President's Message.** No dinner meeting in March. President Edie Matthews declared the March 24 workshop with Constance Hale "Dazzle an Agent: Secrets to Wicked Good Prose" will take the place of the regular meeting.
- **Newsletter.** Board has voted to continue the WritersTalk Challenge. No leader has been nominated as of yet.
- **Web editor/publicity:** Website visits have jumped higher than expected. Visits to the website are up by 62.33% from December 2017 to January 2018.
- **Website.** A note to our readers: if ever you misplace your hard copy of WritersTalk, our web editor, Tatyana Grinenko, keeps our website ([southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com)) current with the most up-to-date information. Check it out!

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

## Member News

by Marjorie Johnson

We applaud and celebrate your writing successes.

To have your writing accomplishments appear here, submit them by email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) or in actual writing on a piece of paper at the registration desk at any regular meeting of South Bay Writers. Examples of newsworthy accomplishments: story or poem published; book published; book signing; contest won; invited as a speaker; interviewed for television or newspaper; play produced. In addition, when your book is



WritersTalk Challenge Award winners Dave LaRoche and Marjorie Johnson, receiving their awards at the February dinner meeting on February 12, 2018.

published, you can submit a thumbnail of the book's cover and a paragraph describing the book to *WritersTalk*.

Karen Franzenburg and Judith Shernock were honored by the local chapter of the National League of American Pen Women at their February 3, 2018 Celebrity Luncheon. Both Karen and Judith have been published in *WritersTalk* many times. Karen's poem "Ode to Cecil" won the WritersTalk Critics' Award in 2016 among other honors, she has many published poems, and her photographs have won first place prizes from the Campbell Art League. Judith has won awards from the WritersTalk Challenge and has written numerous poems and essays for *WritersTalk*, including "Why OR-7 Left Oregon," a fictionalized account of the migration patterns of wolves; her book *Sammy the Seahorse* is an award-winning children's book. Both Karen and Judith have "scored" at the San Mateo County Fair — see information on how to submit to that venue on the WT Contest page.

On February 12, Penelope Cole wrote, "By this time next month, all of my Magical books, a five book children's series for ages 5 - 8, will be published in Spanish: *Mateo Magico*; *Mia Magica*;

*Mia Magica va a la Escuela*; *Max Magico y Mickey Magico*; and *Max Magico y Mickey Magico y la gran Sopresa*.

Alfred Jan moderated the Think Tank on February 17 at the CWC San Francisco Peninsula Branch. His topic: "Writing Criticism of Art and Books."

On February 12, David Strom reported, "My unpublished short story, "Kittygirl vs. the Fiendish Brain Freezer," made the quarter-finals in ScreenCraft's Cinematic Short Story 2017 Contest. They wanted a short story, not a script, with special cinematic potential. I guess "Kittygirl" has that. Yay! Out of 1400 contestants, I am in the top 350 or so. I submitted my story in December. In February, they will pick the five finalists. The top prize is about \$1000 and introductions to agents, publishers, and genies who can grant three wishes. Will I be one of the finalists? 5 out of 350? I wish. But I got a prize already: by paying a little extra upon submission, I got professional feedback. I love that. Makes me feel like an author."

You can find more of Dave's work at his website: [davemstrom.wordpress.com](http://davemstrom.wordpress.com). — WT

## Opening Emotions

*Continued from Page 1*

"Diagnoses" included...

- Your readers are ahead of you? You may be wallowing in your experience, not creating theirs.
- Your readers are behind you? You may be summarizing without creating the experience for the reader.
- Difficult material? You must help the reader enter and stick with your work.
- What feelings are they reading for? You may be writing for a genre with a narrow band of emotional experience. Readers are always reading for feelings.

The speaker ran over her time while discussing strategies for treatment of these problems, but the audience wouldn't let her go. Needless to say, her talk was well received. Thank you, Amanda. — WT

## Announcements

From our Cupertino Poet Laureate, Kaecey McCormick:

### COFFEE SHOP CREATIVITY CIRCLE

The CSCC provides the opportunity to join with others who share a love of words. It serves as a venue to exchange poetry, songs, any creative writing, and any creative endeavors. Each month a different theme will be explored before opening the circle to sharing from participants.

When: First Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (March - 3/6)

Where: Starbucks (Stevens Creek & Pasadena – by the Post Office), 21731 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Contact: Please email Cupertino Poet Laureate Kaecey McCormick ([poetlaureate@cupertino.org](mailto:poetlaureate@cupertino.org)) for more information and to RSVP!

### LUNCH HOUR LANGUAGE ARTISTS

*Workshop Series 1: Focus on Form!*

Join us in the four-part series as we explore the physical aspect of poetry – FORM! The Lunch Hour Language Artists workshop will experiment and play with a different form each meeting (see below). No previous poetry or writing experience necessary! Attend one, some, or all of the meetings in the series. Please register on the Cupertino Library site ([sccl.org](http://sccl.org)) or email Cupertino Poet Laureate Kaecey McCormick ([poetlaureate@cupertino.org](mailto:poetlaureate@cupertino.org)) to reserve a seat.

When:

Session 2 (Thursday March 1, 12:00 – 1:30 pm): Oh, sure ... Erasure!

Session 3 (Thursday March 15, 12:00 – 1:30 pm): The Modern Sonnet

Session 4 (Thursday March 29, 12:00 – 1:30 pm) 1, 2, 3, 4 ... Cinquain!

Who: Adults, REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Where: Cupertino Library, Story Room (10800 Torre Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014) — WT

## Location! Location! Location!

*Continued from Page 2*

Indelibly ingrained, these memories of childhood locations can be keys, waiting to open the door of creativity and lead us into a good story. — WT

## A Report From The Top

### Our Central Board Rep's Report from the CWC Central Board "Summit"

*by Bill Baldwin*

Instead of holding a regular CWC Central Board meeting, as we have been doing in January (and July), on January 28th we held a special Long Range Planning Summit with the officers and a few committee chairs.

Attending were: Joyce Krieg (President), Donna McCrohan Rosenthal (VP), Bill Baldwin (Treasurer), and Elizabeth Tuck (Secretary). Also: David George, Robert Isbill, Jeanette Fratto, and Kim Edwards. Sharon Svitak and Scott Evans were invited but unable to attend.

Since this was not an official Board meeting, we did not conduct any formal business (no motions).

Much of the discussion was high-level.

A major question: What is the club? What is its purpose? What do people (both within and outside CWC) think it is? (i.e., what is its image?). What do we want it to be?

Another major question: What is the relationship between the central board, the branches, and individual members?

These questions led to more specific questions: What can the central board do for its members (or the branches)? Is the club a professional organization? What demographics are we targeting (retirees, professional writers/editors/journalists)? What is our relationship to the wider community (city, state, colleges)?

"Rome wasn't built in a day" — and neither was the California Writers Club! If you have opinions on these questions, or have hopes/suggestions for the club that you would like to share, please contact Bill Baldwin at [wabaldwin@aol.com](mailto:wabaldwin@aol.com). — WT

APRIL IS

## NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Submit a poem to the April issue of *WritersTalk* and be a part of the celebration!

## WRITERSTALK CHALLENGE

2018

This contest will continue for 2018. Details to come in the April issue of *WritersTalk*. Stay tuned!

## 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

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](http://WWW.SOUTHBAYWRITERS.COM) OR send  
check to CWC South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055**



# San Mateo County Fair 2018

by Carolyn Donnell

It's that time again. The 2018 San Mateo County Fair - Literary Arts Division - sponsored by the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) - will run from Saturday June 9 through Saturday 16.

The deadline for all literary arts entries is Monday, April 2, 11:59 pm. Entrants are encouraged to enter early to avoid any last minute issues.

We have been told that there will be no printed anthology this year. However, all writers have the option to have their work available on the Fair website (in the Author Archive section). Also, the Fair will do a special tribute to all the winners in the Fair newsletter.

Be sure to read over the contest rules as some have changed!

New contests added this year:

- **DIVISION 330 - IN THE SPIRIT OF NOVELMANIA: MY TICKET TO CRAZY TOWN FIRST PERSON NARRATIVE FICTION CONTEST**
- **DIVISION 331 - SPIES WITH BENEFITS THRILLER/ESPIONAGE/ADVENTURE NOVEL OPENING CHAPTER CONTEST**
- **DIVISION 334 - FLASH FICTION CONTEST**
- **DIVISION 338 - "WHAT REMAINS UNSAID" SPEAKING OUT CONTEST**
- **DIVISION 339 - SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?**
- **DIVISION 341 - STORIES FOR CHILDREN CONTEST**

Enter online at [www.sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts](http://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts) and select Online Entry in the right hand column under Entry For Literary Arts.

See the contest book at:

[www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2018/exhibits/literary\\_18.pdf](http://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/pdf/2018/exhibits/literary_18.pdf).



— WT

# Matthews-Baldwin Award 2018

by Marjorie Johnson

Named for two long-time driving forces of our club, Edie Matthews and Bill Baldwin, the Matthews-Baldwin award is given to a South Bay Writer in recognition of exemplary service to the branch. In 2018, we honor Carolyn Donnell.

Carolyn Donnell has photographed SBW events for more than 10 years. She is and has been a contributing editor for *WritersTalk* since 2007. Currently, she rounds up an amazing list of contests every month as well as writing recap articles, preparing the monthly meeting photo collage, submitting occasional poems and stories, and proofreading every issue. She also volunteers to help with club projects. Every month, without reminder, Carolyn updates the *WritersTalk* cumulative index on the SBW webpage.

Past recipients:

2016: Frank Johnson and Jim Matthews

2015: Dave LaRoche

2014: Kim Malanczuk

2011: Richard Burns

2010: Betty Auchard

2009: Dick Amyx

2008: Cathy Bauer

Carolyn is pictured below. Congratulations, Carolyn! — WT



# The Wearin' of the Green

by Judith Shernock

What do you know about Ireland?

Perhaps that in 1864 there was a potato blight. Starvation and disease followed. A million people died and two million emigrated to the United States.

Most of us also think of it as the homeland of St. Patrick, the man the world will celebrate on March seventeenth. Though the potato famine is factual, Patrick, never canonized officially as a saint, was born in England in 385 AD. When he was sixteen he was kidnapped by pirates and sold as a slave to an Irish farmer. He worked as a shepherd (some say swineherd) for six years before escaping and returning to England on a ship sent by his wealthy parents to Ireland's shores.

Deciding he would become a priest, Patrick studied in famous seminaries throughout Europe before returning to Ireland to convert the "pagans" to Catholicism. In the fifth century, and for many years previously, Ireland was populated by Celts and Druids. They did not take kindly to the idea of conversion. We have a bit of Druid poesy from those days:

"Across the sea will come adze head,  
craze in the head,

His cloak with hole for head, his stick  
bent in the head.

He will chant impieties from a table in  
the front of his house;

And the people will answer:"so be it, so  
be it."

Patrick persisted in his task of conversion, using the ubiquitous shamrock (clover), to explain the holy trinity of three entities in one body. Today he is portrayed, in stained glass church windows, holding a cross in one hand and a shamrock in the other. This symbol remains even today. There is a custom of putting the three-leafed plant at the bottom of a cup of whiskey or ale. If after the liquor has gone down the gullet and the shamrock still remains, pick it up and throw it over your shoulder for a year's worth of good luck.

Was the symbolic Irish green color also related to the shamrock? I'm afraid not. The color green only became part of Irish lore twelve hundred years after Patrick's demise in 461 AD. In 1646 a flag for the Catholic Confederacy was created with a green Lyre as its central symbol. Since orange was the symbol of the Irish Protestants (House of Orange), green, incidentally the color of the shamrock, was chosen to represent the Catholics of Ireland.

In 1798 a rebellion was launched against the Protestant English rulers of the country by the Irish Catholics. Songs and chants were written on the subject of Irish bravery and fight for freedom. Their haunting melodies spread quickly but didn't help defeat the British. The first official St Patrick's day celebration was held in 1903 when the Gaelic League of Ireland decided to hold parades of men walking with rifles as a symbol of their frustration with British rule. The first official Irish parade wasn't till 1996. In 2000 it was made into a four-day celebration. Countries all over the globe celebrate the holiday. Perhaps the most surprising one of all is Russia where every major city holds a military parade followed by a liquor fueled carnival. In 2017 the Russian Orthodox church added St. Patrick's Day to its official calendar of celebratory events.

The holiday has become so popular that the Guinness Beer Company has lobbied to make it an official United States national holiday. As yet they have not succeeded.

By the way, Patrick never chased the snakes out of Ireland as is commonly asserted. Snakes never lived on Irish soil. Many naturalists have investigated the issue. This allegorical tale is about Druids, not snakes and was created years after the saint's passing.

Have all your illusions been shattered? Drink up and make sure to wear green on March seventeenth. Your corn beef will still be delicious. —WT

# Irish Pub Singing

by Luanne Oleas

True story. When my husband and I visited Ireland, we couldn't wait to sing in the pubs. All the travel magazines promised that every good Irishman sings in his local bar.

We began by visiting two pubs in Northern Ireland. The first one was owned by a woman who had no customers. She wasn't singing. We asked directions and moved on.

The second was Pat Donnelly's Bar in the city of Port Glenone in County Antrim. His sole patron was shooting pool and didn't appear in a singing mood. We decided there wasn't much to sing about in The North, and all those travel articles must have been written about the Republic of Ireland. We moved on.

In Dublin's fair city, the girls were so pretty, but the pub were uncommonly quiet, music-wise. There was drinking and talking but no singing.

Some fellow American travelers assured us the Irish still sang, but mostly in the pubs of County Galway. Unfortunately, we weren't going to Galway. We headed into the countryside outside of Dublin, hoping a few singing, traveling Galway residents might cross our path.

City after city, night after night, we visited pub after pub in search of singing. (Tough job, but someone's got to do it.) Always it was the same tuneless story. At a pub in Cashel, I turned to a young man beside us at the bar.

"What do the Irish do since they stopped singing?"

"You're looking at it," he answered and took a healthy swig of his Guinness.

I felt like singing the saddest Irish song of all. "Oh, Danny boy..."

We travelled on, giving up all hope of ever finding one warbler of Irish descent and making a note to complain to the travel magazines. Days passed.

We were lost late one night in County Kilkenny when we stumbled upon the

*Continued on Page 9*



## Irish Pub Singing

*Continued from Page 8*

Avalon Inn in the city of Castlecomber.  
We entered the deserted lobby, hoping  
they had a vacancy. After perusing all  
the paintings, we stood at the abandoned  
front desk. In the quiet, we heard  
faint voices coming from the attached  
hotel pub.

"When I walked out in the streets of  
Laredo

When I walked out in Laredo one  
day..."

Okay, so it wasn't very Irish. At that  
point, could we be picky? We left the  
lobby and entered the pub.

It may have been a Western song, but it  
was being sung by verifiable Irishmen.  
They had all been to court that day on  
"after hours" charges. They had been  
acquitted and were celebrating – by  
drinking after hours.

The tenor's name was Paddy (no, really)  
and his beautiful rendition of "Mona  
Lisa, Mona Lisa" made me cry. When  
they found out we were Americans,  
they insisted on singing "I'm a Yankee  
Doodle Dandy." They even took a stab  
at "The Stars Spangled Banner."

My husband bought a round and asked  
them if they would sing something  
Irish.

"What tune would you be thinking of?"  
Paddy asked.

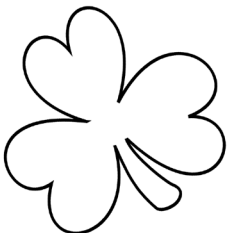
"Perhaps 'Patriot's Game?'" my husband  
suggested.

Unfortunately, they couldn't remember  
the words. In a fitting end to the story,  
my husband and I sang it for them.

"Come all ye young rebels, and list  
while I sing,

For the love of one's country is a terrible  
thing."

– WT



## Poetry Page

### Haiku Series

*by Stephen C. Wetlesen*

#### Flawed, Imperfect

February 6, 2018 Haiku

One Line, Seven Syllables

First almond blossoms flutter down.

#### Noon Driving Haiku

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Acacia blooms.

California spring -  
gold too soon, like love.

#### February 7, 2018 Haiku

One Line, Five Syllables

White moth in lemons.

#### Senryu for Tropical Paradise (Humorous Haiku Like Opus)

February 7

"Go to Aruba!"

Endless plugs on PBS.  
My front porch – better!

#### Faux Haiku Looking Back To the Great August 21, 2017 Oregon Total Solar Eclipse

It was only two minutes,  
Precisely – yet I still feel  
nostalgic for it.

#### February 10, 2019 Haiku

One Line, Seven Syllables

Off white moth flutter chaos.

#### Cox Avenue Haiku

February 10, 2018

One Line, Seven Syllables

Early pink cherry blossoms.

#### Two Seasons Haiku

February 10, 2018

One Line, Seven Syllables

Ripe lemons, almond blossoms.

#### Faux Haiku for My Perfect Pebble Beach

2/11/18

Lose all the golfers.  
Let's just see surfers, whales, trees,  
beach rocks, waves and blimps.

#### 2/12/18 Haiku

One Line, Seven Syllables

Puff clouds surround almond blooms.

#### 2/13/18 Haiku

One Line, Five Syllables

Sunlit spider thread.

#### Purist Valentine's Day Haiku

*(A few commentators suggest  
that, given Japanese language  
structures and sensibilities, an  
authentic English haiku, to  
properly parallel the Japanese,  
should be 3-5-3 as to syllables,  
rather than the familiar 5-7-5)*

Divine love.

Pink chocolate box.

Red roses.

#### Purist Saint Patrick's Day Haiku

No vipers.

Celtic emeralds.

Golden harps.

#### Haiku for Negative Space

1/31/18

Blood tinge orb eclipse,  
blue supermoon thrills viewers.  
I must sleep through it.

The Stuff of Dreams

Tiger Swallowtails.

Some dwarf Great War zeppelins?

So I imagine.

*To Debbi*

#### Shopping Center Parking Lot Haiku

One Line, Five Syllables

Saratoga, California

2/3/18

Crows overfly firs.

#### Southern Oregon Mountain Shores Haiku

I am seventeen.

Yellow jasper, shallow lake.

Perfect shape birdpoint.

*To My Brother, Keith*

# My Trip to London

by Jac Fitzenz

British Airways Flight 278, San Jose to London

31,000 feet above the Atlantic, south of Greenland,

ETA Heathrow 1:10 pm.

This is a research trip for my third Mike and Grace Novel, London's Secrets.

Three hours out of Heathrow the left posterior quadrant of my back is starting to hurt. Could be the business class cubicle I've been packed into for the last 9 hours. If anyone offers you this accommodation, you should remove their frontal lobes with a battle axe. You're better off in the last row in Coach, in the middle of a six seat row, between two, three hundred pound garlic eaters.

One hour out of Heathrow I'm having a kidney stone attack and it hurts like bloody hell, as the Brits would say. Give me a freaking parachute. I'll take my chances swimming the last leg. The cold water will probably block the pain.

No parachute. Gut it out.

45 minutes circling Heathrow. At last we land. The flight attendant says there will be assistance just outside the door. He's right. That assistant tells me, "Take the ramp to the terminal for assistance." Three ramps from plane to concourse, each 50 yards long, all up hill. Cold and raining.

At the concourse entrance is a line waiting for a young woman who never took physics in high school. She's trying to prop open a 60 pound door with a 10 pound stanchion. Finally inside, I hail a lady in coveralls. "I need to go to the bathroom and then see a doctor...quickly."

She takes pity on me and gives me a ride in a "buggy" (wheel chair) to the toilets—inside, all stalls are taken. One minute, two minutes, cramping. Finally an opening. Brushing aside a young man, I charge in and take full advance of the opportunity.

Back outside, the lady—still there



*"Wow, lady! You read all these books?"*

thank god, pushes me to a BA agent stand. She's helping an elderly Indian lady in a sari who apparently speaks some unknown dialect. Time stands still, but the pain is crippling. "I need a doctor and a barf bag!" I tell the agent. She calls someone.

Ten more minutes; two BA employees arrive. On hearing my story—between gags into a plastic bag—they go to work. One takes my docs and promises to cancel all reservations and put my luggage in baggage claim. The other finishes a call and says, "A medical tech is on the way . . . on a bicycle." Ironically, that makes sense; fastest way to move through a wife concourse.

15 minutes. I see a red, green and yellow bike with a rider dressed in matching garb. My first reaction: she missed a turn at the Tour de France. On arrival, she jumps off the bike and says, "My name is Maggie, how are you feeling?"

"Better now that you're here." I repeat my story. She checks my vital signs, eventually gives me a pain killing injection and promises an ambulance. Twenty minutes later two uniformed EMTs from NHS (National Health Service) arrive. Very efficiently, they wheel me through the concourse—

down an elevator and outside into freezing cold rain. I'm in a cold sweat from the pain. I try desperately to put my sweater and coat back on. No stopping these men. One goes to drive the ambulance. The other takes down my stats. I'm shivering and my teeth are chattering as we pull out. Twenty minutes—rolling through the door of Hillingdon Hospital's Emergency Room.

Inside the ER I see three large policemen: Are they going to arrest me for contaminating Great Britain? No, they're focusing on two blood spattered men in manacles. I'm pushed past them into an examination bay.

After more record taking I'm hooked to an IV pole. A nurse arrives, reviews my info one more time and promises a doctor ASAP. He sends me for an abdominal scan. In short, I'm diagnosed with five kidney stones and admitted to a surgical ward. Later that night another MD arrives, confirms the scan and tells me he'll put a stent in to take care of me until I return to California. Next day he follows through with the temporary stent.

Two days later, Saturday morning, a new doc comes in and asks how I feel. Between the stent and the pain killers

*Continued on Page 12*

# Billie's Valley

by Karen Hartley

It is a fine day here in the valley. The mountains are very high, snow covers their peaks wherever you look and the sun shines brightly. The trees waver back and forth with every breath the wind takes. My father's cabin lies a few miles behind me. My father is in the cabin diligently working on a wood carving for my mother. My mother is gone to the neighbor's for an afternoon chat, and I am left alone here with Billie.

How well I remember that day:

"My what a nice day it is," my mother said at the breakfast table.

"Sure is," I answered.

My father was busy inspecting his cup of coffee for any grounds.

"Daddy, you think it's a nice day, don't you?" I asked him.

"Huh? Oh yeah, sure, anything you say, Hon." He wasn't even paying attention.

"Are you going out with Billie today, Dear?" My mother asked me with a side-ward glance.

"Yes, we'll probably leave in a while," I answered.

Billie was aging fast, and I knew that neither of my parents approved of this.

My father turned to me and said, "Why do you care about Billie so much anyway?"

I answered truthfully, "Because he understands me and I understand him."

"Oh for goodness sake, how can you say that anyway?" my mother asked, anxiety in her voice.

"Since the first day we've been together I've been able to tell that," I answered, a little annoyed at the question.

My mother and father looked at each other as they often did when I became rude with them. I got up and left the table.

"Just a minute, young lady," my father said. "You didn't excuse yourself from the table."

"I don't have to," I responded. When I walked out I slammed the door.

Billie was waiting for me near the footpath where we always walked together.

"Nice day, isn't it?" I said, approaching

him. His quiet nod of the head told me this was to be a quiet walk. And so we were silent. Not a sound around except for the chirping of the birds and the soft breathing of the wind.

We spent the whole day, it seemed, just walking and looking; just me and Billie. I was glad I had packed a bag for us before we'd left. I put Billie's favorite treats in the bag, along with a sandwich for me, some chips and I filled my regular lunch thermos with milk.

When nightfall came, it was time once more to head back for the cabin and home.

After I took Billie back to his house, a few yards from our cabin, I came back to see the table set with the food my mother had heated when she came home. It looked good, and I was hungry.

It was a good dinner we had that night, and I ate plenty. It was a silent meal; hardly a word spoken between the three of us. We all just sat quietly and ate.

Suddenly my father spoke to me. "I hope you know you're not going to see Billie anymore," he said sternly.

"That's what you think," I replied curtly. "Nobody is going to stop me from seeing Billie whenever I want to."

"Your father is right, Dear. Today was the last time for you," my mother added.

I became a bit annoyed with both of them by this time, so when I answered, it sounded more sarcastic than I had intended.

"Yeah, and just how do you think you're going to stop me?"

Anger rose within me. My father rose, slammed his fist on the table, and said,

"I'll tell you how. I'm going to kill Billie. He's too old and I won't have him hanging around here anymore."

I stood up in shock and rage. This just couldn't be my mother and father sitting here. Surely, this was all a dream. But then my father went to clean his gun, and I knew it was real.

We all retired early that night. When my mother and father were asleep, I decided what I would do. I got up, dressed and

## Poetry, cont.

*Continued from Page 9*  
*More Haiku by Stephen C. Wetlesen*

**Railroad Haiku**  
**Tuesday, January 23, 2018**  
**One Line, Five Syllables**  
Train – rolling organ.

**January 25, 2018 Haiku**  
**One Line, Seven Syllables**  
Tree raindrops glow in bright sun.

**January 26, 2018 Haiku**  
Rainy days clear up.  
Bright sun illuminates cloud.  
Short life air sculpture.

**High Noon Haiku**  
**January 26, 2018**  
**One Line, Five Syllables**  
Cumulus cloud glows.

**January 27, 2018 Haiku**  
**One Line, Five Syllables**  
Puff seed breeze squadron.

**Haiku for a U.S. Island**  
Puerto Rico calls  
its fellow Americans.  
Our country answers.

walked to Billie's house. He was awake, and ran out to meet me.

"Billie, we must go from here. We must go down to the valley over there." When he just looked at me, I told him my father's plan and he was eager to go. Billie always understood what I said to him. I never knew how, but I just accepted it. We understood each other. We left immediately and headed for the valley.

Again, I had packed enough food for a few days, took the money I had in my dresser drawer to buy more when we needed it, and left a note for my dad and mother. I knew they would be angry that I took Billie, but my heart would not let me do anything else.

*Continued on Page 12*



## My Trip to London

*Continued from Page 10*

I'm almost euphoric. He checks my catheter and bag, asks if I've passed a stone. "I don't know."

Then he stuns me by saying "You can stay until Monday when the operating doctor comes in, if you choose to." (Later back in California my urologist tells me I'd have been out of the hospital the afternoon of the stent.) That's the difference between a social health system and private insurance. Actually, the care is excellent.

When I tell him I'm ready to be discharged if he'll give me a pack of adult diapers and some pain pills I never see him again. No release or discharge papers to sign. Finally, three hours later I tell the nurse about my diapers and pills. Thirty more minutes, she delivers and I walk out in my diaper, hugging my pain pills.

Welcome to England. —WT



## Billie's Valley

*Continued from Page 11*

I imagined the next day when my mother and father saw we were gone, that there would be anger and hurt. I could not help that. Billie belonged to me and I could not let my dad kill him. I was surprised too, that my mother didn't have any more sympathy.

I found an empty cabin in the valley. It was near a market, so I knew I could get more food when we needed it. Far away, back in my father's cabin, I imagined him carving wood for my mother. I know they too saw that Billie was gone and they knew I'd taken him away to save him. I hoped they were sad that I left. And I also hoped they finally understood my love for Billie, and his for me.

For a few more weeks, Billie and I lived in the cabin in the valley. We managed to have enough food and drink for us, walked to the nearby market when we needed more, and we took our usual walk every day.

Until the day Billie died, we were together. We were happy, and we walked when Billie came to me and in his own way, said he wanted to.

To this day, my father and mother have never found me. I am older now, of course. Billie surprised us all. He is still alive. Not as peppy as before, and not as ready for a walk like he'd always been. And sometimes I wonder if my mother and father are still alive.

I think I may go back home one day, but as long as I have Billie that won't happen. When I told Billie I would stay with him, I believe I saw his eyes twinkle.

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/5486894361/)

A FEW WEB SITES THAT LIST CONTESTS: (all are also on FaceBook)

- Poets & Writers: [www.pw.org/grants](http://www.pw.org/grants)
- Writer's Digest: [www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions](http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions)
- The Writer Magazine: [www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/](http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/)
- The Write Life: [thewritelife.com/writing-contests/](http://thewritelife.com/writing-contests/)
- National Association of Memoir Writers: [namw.org/](http://namw.org/)
- Freedom With Writing: [www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/](http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/)
- Authors Publish: [www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/](http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/)
- WOW! Women On Writing: [www.wow-womenonwriting.com](http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com)
- Women's Fiction Writers Association: [womensfictionwriters.org/Contests](http://womensfictionwriters.org/Contests)

All these listings are for information only. No vetting has been done by South Bay Writers Club. Some contests have been around for a long time and the reputation is known but some are newer. Please read all guidelines carefully before submitting. And please share any experience you have with them. Good or bad.

### WHITING CREATIVE NONFICTION GRANT

Do you already have a publisher's contract for your creative non-fiction book but need help finishing the book — like money to pay the rent, and all that fun stuff? If so, check this out. Individual awards of \$40,000 are given to up to eight writers in the process of completing a book of creative nonfiction.

[www.whiting.org/awards/content/whiting-creative-nonfiction-grant](http://www.whiting.org/awards/content/whiting-creative-nonfiction-grant)

THE MISSOURI REVIEW'S MILLER AUDIO PRIZE Deadline: March 15. \$1000. Four categories: prose, poetry, humor, audio documentary

[www.missourireview.com/contests/audio-contest/](http://www.missourireview.com/contests/audio-contest/)

NOBROW: Submissions for two categories. 1. Comics and Graphic Novels 2: Picture Books and Illustrated Non-Fiction for Children

*Continued on Page 13*

See guidelines at [nobrow.net/submissions/](http://nobrow.net/submissions/)

20 PAYING LIT MAGS – Deadlines: Feb. 15 – Mar. 31,  
2018 From a blog seen on Facebook

[trishhopkinson.com/2018/02/03/20-paying-lit-mags-deadlines-feb-15-mar-31-2018/](http://trishhopkinson.com/2018/02/03/20-paying-lit-mags-deadlines-feb-15-mar-31-2018/)

THE COWLES POETRY BOOK PRIZE (other contests at this site as well): [www.semopress.com/events/cowles-prize/](http://www.semopress.com/events/cowles-prize/)

FROM EARLIER WRITER'S TALK ISSUES WITH DEADLINES NOT YET PASSED:

- WRITER'S DIGEST: [www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions](http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions).
- WINNING WRITERS: North Street Book Prize - Self-published books. (Other ongoing contests too); [winningwriters.com/our-contests](http://winningwriters.com/our-contests)
- INGRAM SPARK AND NANOWRIMO: special offers at [tinyurl.com/ya5hmj9l](http://tinyurl.com/ya5hmj9l)

ARTICLES/BLOGS FOR WRITERS

- MERCHANDISING TIPS FROM KINDLE DIRECT PUBLISHING: [kdp.amazon.com/en\\_US/help/topic/G200673650](http://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200673650)
- WEBSITES FOR WRITERS: 20 Sites with Great Writing Advice: [www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/web-sites-for-writers-19-sites-with-great-writing-advice](http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/web-sites-for-writers-19-sites-with-great-writing-advice)
- HOW TO GET BOOKSTORE PLACEMENT FOR YOUR SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK: [tinyurl.com/nonfictionauthorsassociation](http://tinyurl.com/nonfictionauthorsassociation)
- Cathy Pickens' 6 STEPS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND CREATIVITY: [www.writermag.com/2017/12/07/cathy-pickens/](http://www.writermag.com/2017/12/07/cathy-pickens/)
- THE SEVEN MOST COMMON MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION MISTAKES: [www.authorspublish.com/the-seven-most-common-manuscript-submission-mistakes/](http://www.authorspublish.com/the-seven-most-common-manuscript-submission-mistakes/)
- COMMON WRITING MISTAKES AUTHORS MAKE: [www.ingramspark.com/blog/common-writing-mistakes-authors-make](http://www.ingramspark.com/blog/common-writing-mistakes-authors-make)
- LEVERAGING BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK PROMOTION SITES: [www.ingramspark.com/blog/common-writing-mistakes-authors-make](http://www.ingramspark.com/blog/common-writing-mistakes-authors-make)
- WHERE TO SUBMIT REPRINTS - Detailed List of 16 Markets: [trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/](http://trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/)
- SHOULD YOU WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW?: [tinyurl.com/ybnpxz64](http://tinyurl.com/ybnpxz64)

SOME WEBSITES THAT TALK ABOUT WHERE TO GET REVIEWS

(Again, read carefully before submitting)

- [www.pw.org/review\\_outlets](http://www.pw.org/review_outlets)
- [readingdeals.com/why](http://readingdeals.com/why)
- [www.bookrazor.com/get-book-reviews-on-amazon/](http://www.bookrazor.com/get-book-reviews-on-amazon/)

- [www.blurb.com/blog/how-get-reviews-amazon-once-you-have-launched-your-book/](http://www.blurb.com/blog/how-get-reviews-amazon-once-you-have-launched-your-book/)
- [happybookreviews.com/](http://happybookreviews.com/)

## Conferences and Events March 2018

by Margie Yee Webb

### Authors on the Move!

March 10, 2018, Sacramento CA

[saclibraryfoundation.org/authors-on-the-move/](http://saclibraryfoundation.org/authors-on-the-move/)

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

### 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](http://www.milibrary.org/events/wordpress-bootcamp-creating-wordpress-website-and-how-use-it-mar-10-2018)

[sfwriters.org/mil-classes](http://sfwriters.org/mil-classes)

Class co-sponsored by Mechanics Institute Library and San Francisco Writers Conference/San Francisco Writers Foundation.

### Left Coast Crime 2018

March 22-25, 2018, Reno NV

[www.leftcoastcrime.org/2018/](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2018/)

"Crime on the Comstock . . . an annual mystery convention"

### Poetry Workshop at Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

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

Deadline for receipt of application/submission for The Poetry Workshop (June 23-30, 2018), Squaw Valley CA  
[communityofwriters.org/workshops/poetry-workshop/](http://communityofwriters.org/workshops/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  
[communityofwriters.org/workshops/writers-workshops/](http://communityofwriters.org/workshops/writers-workshops/)

### WNBA SF Pitch-O-Rama

March 31, 2018, San Francisco CA

[wnba-sfchapter.org/pitch-o-rama-2018/](http://wnba-sfchapter.org/pitch-o-rama-2018/)

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.

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

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

**Central Coast:** 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

**Fremont Area:** 2:00 fourth Saturdays at Round Table Pizza, 37408 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. [cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

**Marin:** 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. [cwcmarin.com](http://cwcmarin.com)

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

**Mount Diablo:** 11:00 second Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. [cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com](http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com)

**Napa Valley:** 7:00 second Wednesdays, venue is changing. [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net)

**North State:** 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. [northstatewriters.com](http://northstatewriters.com)

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

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

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

**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](http://trivalleywriters.org)

## Wanted: Information on Conferences

Send information on conferences and other events of interest to writers to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) for consideration for inclusion on this page.

## Conferences and Events

Continued from Page 13

### SCBWI Spring Spirit 2018 Conference April 7, 2018, Citrus Heights CA

[canorthcentral.scbwi.org/events/spring-spirit-2018/](http://canorthcentral.scbwi.org/events/spring-spirit-2018/)

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators – California, North/Central: "14th Annual Spring Spirit Conference"

### The Character of Plot with David Corbett April 14, 2018, San Francisco CA

[www.milibrary.org/events/character-plot-apr-14-2018](http://www.milibrary.org/events/character-plot-apr-14-2018)  
[sfwriters.org/mil-classes](http://sfwriters.org/mil-classes)

Class co-sponsored by Mechanics Institute Library and San Francisco Writers Conference/San Francisco Writers Foundation.

### Pen to Published 2018 Redwood Writers Conference April 21, 2018, Santa Rosa CA

[redwoodwriters.org/2018-conference/](http://redwoodwriters.org/2018-conference/)

"Join your fellow writers along your path to publishing success at the 10th Redwood Writers Pen to Published 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/](http://www.joeygarcia.com/events/)

### Bay Area Book Festival, April 28-29, 2018, Berkeley CA

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

"Fourth Annual Bay Area Book Festival"

### Independent Bookstore Day, April 28, 2018

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

"Independent Bookstore Day is a one-day national party that takes place at indie bookstores across the country on the last Saturday in April. Every store is unique and independent, and every party is different."

—WT





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2018				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	13	14 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo
15	16	17	18	19 2P Valley Writers	20	21
22	23	24 9:30A WORKSHOP Harry's Hofbrau	25 10A Our Voices	26 2P Valley Writers	27	28
29	30	31				

#### Future Events:

SBW Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7 pm  
Edie Matthews' home  
March: NO MEETING; Workshop on March 24

**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](mailto:dalaroche@comcast.net)

**Valley Writers:** Meets at Valley Village Retirement Community, Winchester at Dolores, Santa Clara, Mondays 2 PM. Marjorie Johnson, [marjoriej358@comcast.net](mailto:marjoriej358@comcast.net)

**Your Critique Group:** Send info to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.calwriters.org) for details

### Poetry Readings

**Poets@Play:** Meets at Markham House History Park, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose, Second Sundays most months, 1 – 4 PM. [www.poetrycentersanjose.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org)

### SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).



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

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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**South Bay Writers  
will not have a  
Regular Dinner Meeting  
for the month of March.**  
Please attend our workshop below:

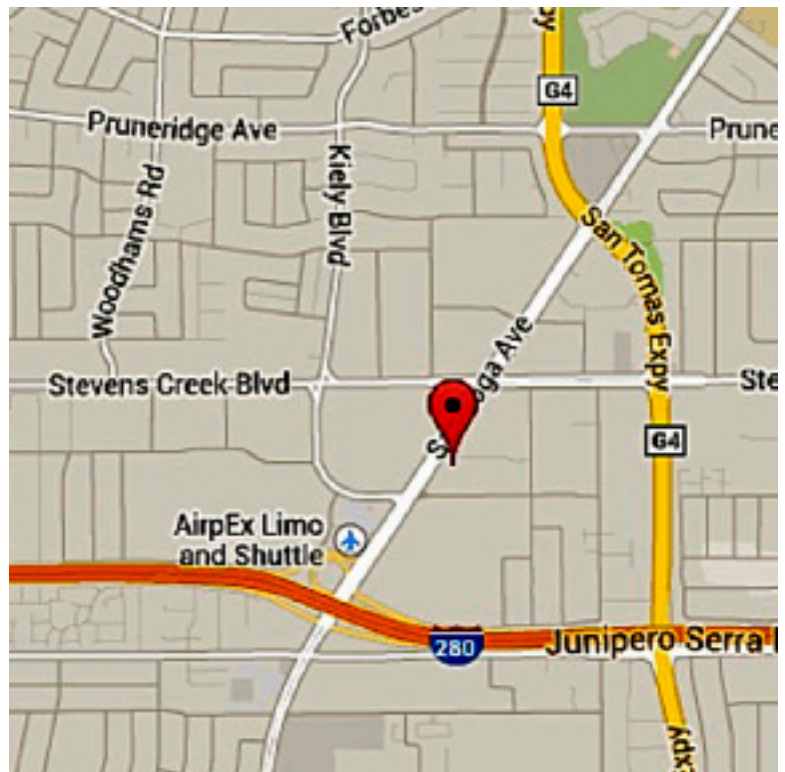
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**Dazzle an Agent:  
Secrets to Wicked Good Prose**  
**Constance Hale**  
**March 24, 2018 Workshop**

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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.