



WRITERSTALK

Volume 26
Number 04
April 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

APRIL SPEAKER: VALERIE FRANKEL

Speed Authoring by Jamal Khan

Nothing is more satisfying than unveiling your book in the online marketplace: beautifully formatted and available for the world to enjoy. But how do we navigate the intimidating process leading up to the ideal debut? Valerie Estelle Frankel has written and published over sixty books, at one point fifteen in a year. She will guide you through invaluable shortcuts to leap from concept to product within a brief period of time. She will talk about designing a cover, fixing formatting issues, and self-publishing on Amazon's Createspace with a process she has distilled down to a handy checklist and template. She will also discuss the Kindle Direct Publishing and Smashwords platforms. Then she will top it all off with insights into gaining free marketing on Twitter, Facebook, Goodreads, Wordpress, and elsewhere. There is something for everyone in this inspiring snapshot of a super-author's life.

After earning a B.A. at UC Davis, Valerie Estelle Frankel became the youngest person ever to receive a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree from San Jose State University. She has won a Dream Realm Award, an Indie Excellence Award, and a USA Book News National Best Book Award for her *Henry Potty* parodies. Once a lecturer at San Jose State University, she now teaches at Mission College and regularly speaks at conferences.

Where: Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Ave, San Jose,
CA 95129

When: Monday, April 9 at
6pm; talk begins at 7:30pm

Admission: \$15 for mem-
bers, \$20 for nonmembers.
Includes \$10 credit for din-
ner.



MARCH WORKSHOP RECAP:
CONSTANCE HALE

Secrets to Wicked Good Prose by Marjorie Johnson

Constance Hale opened her March 24 interactive presentation to South Bay Writers by asking us to describe ourselves in three words. Most of us used generic words such as "writer." She then built upon moving from the generic to the specific; if we choose nouns well, we don't need adjectives. Her favorite words in the English language are verbs: axe the static "to be" verbs and move to the action-packed words "that operate on all syllables."

Here are her seven secrets to wicked good prose:

- Use specific, concrete nouns (and adjectives). Avoid the commonplace. Be precise.
- Pick action-packed verbs. Use the active voice for more dramatic writing.
- Pare distractions. Beware purple prose—adjective overload. Don't fall into the Adverb Trap.
- Every sentence is a mini-narrative. Sentence drama makes us pay attention.
- Stay simple in your sentences. Stark sentences are brilliant and memorable.
- Pace with sentence length and rhythm.
- Play with sound and metaphor; remember Dr. Seuss.

Connie wouldn't mind me telling you her secrets. Without her examples and without hearing her dynamic talk, the list above gives only bare bones. Nouns and verbs are the bones of a sentence;

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Between the Lines

Edie Matthews
President, South Bay Writers



No Does Not Mean Never

TV news reporter — that was my goal. I'd already worked in newsrooms at two different radio stations, so you'd think the transition would be easy. Not so. To get my foot in the door at KNTV, Channel 11, I finagled a summer internship. No pay. In fact, to do it, I paid tuition for three units towards my degree.

The final week I spoke to the News Director about a job.

"You need more experience — try a smaller market," he said, dismissing me.

The closest stations were Monterey (90 miles), Redding (248 miles) or in my friend's case, Cheyenne, Wyoming (1,205 miles), where there were always openings.

Not practical. I was married with four kids. So, I finished my internship maintaining a good attitude.

The following week, I got a call from a friendly voice.

"Who is this?"

It was the News Director offering me a job operating their new teleprompter — five nights a week, an hour's work on the late show. I negotiated for two nights: Thursday and Friday. I was still finishing my senior year at SJSU, and I figured I could zip in and out, it wouldn't disrupt my schedule — and more importantly, I'd keep my foot in the door.

As graduation approached, I learned of a full-time opening — assistant video photographer. The station was upgrading from film to video.

"I have no experience."

"It's new technology — none of us do," my friend said.

In that case, I could learn as well as anyone else.

Hired.

Monday morning, I started three-days of training. Suddenly, a hot story broke, and I was rushed out as part of a crew: reporter, photographer, and me, the "grip". Tangled in a mile of cords, I lugged a 30-pound recorder, while trying to maneuver a shotgun microphone. "How do I turn it on?"

By the end of the week I knew.

In the afternoon, the crews returned from as many as six stories, and assistants were idle. I asked the producer if I could help, or I'd assist the meteorologist putting up the weatherboard.

When the secretary left on vacation, I was tapped to fill in. (Of course, give it to the female grip — not the man.) Main responsibility: file the daily show schedule, record the story log, and update the video library

I didn't complain. I found the Rolodex in disarray with scribbled entries, and many out of order. Instead of handwriting, I typed them, consolidating multiple cards into a few, listing follow-up stories chronologically. When the crews returned, I

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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

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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.

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J. K. McDole Managing Editor



Fool Me Once...

I'll be the first to say it: I hate April Fools' Day.

"Why?" asks the well-intentioned inquirer, curious as to why a strong word like 'hate' could be associated with a holiday centered around light-hearted pranks. "Do you have a bad history with it?" another will prompt, perceiving there's some backstory to this firm declaration. Before I can reply, some jovial carouser—no doubt the kind of individual who gets a big kick out of the occasion—will come by to ask, "What did April Fools' Day ever do to you?"

April Fools' Day has done *a lot* to me, friends. It has taken its measure and found me wanting. It's hollowed me out and hammered me thin; it eyes me from the calendar every year as March dwindles to a close, for it has my number and is waiting to call. I assure everyone who inquires that there's a fair assortment of stories behind why I can't stand this holiday: for too many years in a row, April Fools' Day took itself just a bit too far.

One of the worst pranks I can recall happened when I was about thirteen. My father, a career military officer, was (in those days) a strict and unyielding parent. He shares his birthday with Adolf Hitler on a date that's now a popular counterculture holiday for enthusiasts of recreational cannabis. As a teenager, I did not grasp the relevance of either of these events, nor did I understand that my disciplinarian dad must have accumulated some sense of humor from being born on April 20th lest he go crazy. So, when he approached me one afternoon in a red-faced rage about my report card—which had conveniently arrived on that Saturday, the first of April—and demanded to know *why* I had scored naught but middling B's and C's, I could do little but blather while cowering before him in an approximation of parade rest posture. "I have no idea, Dad!" I bleated, "that's gotta be a mistake! I was doing really good in those classes, I swear!"

He barked back that he didn't believe me. I stared at each C on the report card like it was an individual brand into my skin. And there I trembled, facing certain doom—certain that I was going to lose every hard-earned video game in my possession and have all my free time replaced with endless yardwork and menial chores—until I noticed my mother snickering in the background. When she snickered, my father's mouth twitched. And then they were both twitching, ducking down and clutching at their sides like a pair of kids or chipmunks or kid chipmunks.

It was a fake report card. He had taken a tube of white-out and changed the dates

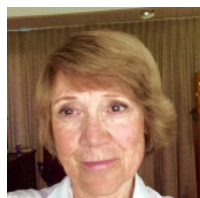
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View from the Board

by Karen Sundback



Karen Sundback
SBW Secretary

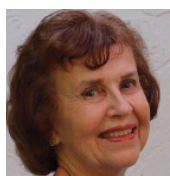
The March 6 meeting was held at President Edie Matthews' home. The secretary was unable to attend. This summary is based on Marjorie Johnson's notes.

- President's Message. Edie announced that the summer BBQ will occur in August this year.
- Anthology. Dave LaRoche predicted that the Dollar Bill Anthology should be available before the April meeting.
- Website. A note to our readers: if ever you misplace your hard copy of *WritersTalk*, our web editor, Tatyana Grinenko, keeps our website (www.southbaywriters.com) current with the most up-to-date information. Check it out!

The next meeting of the SBW Board will be Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7 pm at the home of President Edie Matthews. — WT

New Members

by Sally A. Milnor



Sally Milnor

I am pleased to introduce our four newest members:

Ryan Dietzen joined us online, and he writes fiction. On his membership questionnaire, Ryan said: "I work in marketing, so I write in my day

job, but I have wanted to write fiction for quite a while. A few years ago, I heard about National Novel Writing Month, and that jumpstarted my writing. I have self published two murder mysteries, and I am working on a piece of fiction now, with hopes of publishing late this year."

Ryan's email address is: rdietzen@gmail.com.

Susie Pineda heard about our Club online, and she writes novels. On her membership questionnaire, when asked what fuels her writing interests, she

said that "I am fascinated by culture and tradition, and inspired by history, architecture, and music." In addition to her writing, she enjoys cooking, sharing meals with family and friends, spending time in nature, reading and running.

Anjana Sangupta joined us online, and she writes fiction. On her membership questionnaire, she said that her writing interests are fueled by the wonder of nature and animals. In addition to her writing, she enjoys cooking, traveling, and reading.

Anjana's web page is: www.juruno.com.

Johanna Uribes also joined us online and she writes fiction. On her membership questionnaire, when asked what fuels her writing interests, she said: "I collect stories by observing the interesting and unusual people I see in all of my travels. I worked for many years as a high school art teacher. About five years ago, I took a break. During my hiatus, I went to wine school and worked as a sommelier in various restaurants. You meet amazing people in food service. I worked in all levels from fine dining in Palo Alto to bartending in Oroville. I didn't realize it at the time, but this allowed me to build a rich library of stories. The mysterious waiter, an odd young woman mouthing whispered conversations in an elevator – my stories unfold before me because I am always observing human behavior."

Johanna has written several short stories, one novel and is working on her next one. She said: "I am on the brink of submitting my first novel to literary agents. I am waiting for the responses from my focus group of family and friends who I have asked to read my story. Johanna said: "I have spent my life as an artist, primarily creating paintings. I have an art degree and have taught art for over twenty years. For most of my art career, I have written stories to design paintings based on these word pictures. I suppose that is why I have recently thought of myself as a writer." In addition to her writing, she also enjoys yoga and photography.

Johanna's email address is: juribes@sbcglobal.net

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

Fool Me Once...

Continued from Page 3

and grades. I assure you, I love my father, but that year I conveniently 'forgot' to get him a specific card -- that is, the kind you get for his birthday -- a few weeks later. Enjoy celebrating with Hitler, Dad! That's the only revenge a teenage apple-shiner can get!

The second prank that sticks out in traumatic memory happened about two years ago. I was working as a technical writer for an IT services company; my job required excessive use of a laptop, which was licensed out to me by our hardware team -- which also happened to be the same team to which my cube was adjacently positioned. I genuinely enjoyed working in that part of the office, as the hardware technicians were jovial and good-natured guys who were always either A) breaking stuff B) fixing stuff that someone else had broken. All while doing their best not to break it further.

I have no trouble admitting that my first mistake in this situation was verbally expressing my dislike for April Fools' Day in the first place. I think, if I could go back in time, I would have reminded myself ala Shakespeare what happens to ladies who doth protest too much, especially in the company of technicians whose paychecks revolve around handling digital mayhem. Because, a few weeks later, on April 1st, I came to work and found my laptop completely locked up. My keyboard wouldn't work; my mouse and thumbpad weren't responding. Enter total crisis mode: I had a presentation to give later that afternoon. A critical presentation, the kind that a bunch of important managers were going to see.

"What do you think the problem is?" I

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No Does Not Mean Never

Continued from Page 2

was called on to help locate file footage. “Ask Edie, she knows where everything is.”

“I need her to monitor the network feed,” insisted the producer.

“She’s helping me?” complained the weatherman.

All the time I kept devising ways to become a reporter. On occasion, I’d get sent to shoot video (one-man band) or be the pool cameraman in the courtroom (a single photographer who shares the video with other stations). I’d write a “read-to-sound,” but I still wasn’t on camera.

One day I brought in a story I’d written about taking my son to a rock concert. Everyone who read it laughed. The news director asked, “What’s so funny?”

“Edie’s story,” said a reporter.

“I’ll read it when it’s published,” he said, walking away.

That night I sent it to the *San Jose Mercury News*. A month later it ran in the Sunday paper. Monday morning I taped a copy to the News Director’s door.

He smiled, “I already read it.”

Still strategizing, I realized that one set of video equipment was free on weekends. I asked if I could do a feature story on my own—no pay. This was a chance to prove myself. Plus, I’d send it to the network. (Along with national and international video, the network feed includes a “kicker,” a lightweight story shown last, giving viewers a break from the depressing news of the day.) If ABC bought it, I’d get paid, and it would validate my skill.

Three successful stories later, the Assistant News Director stopped me.

As management, he was no longer allowed to report—and watching me, a lowly grip, riled him.

I was devastated. How could I achieve my goal now?

Meanwhile, the news director promoted me to part-time Assistant Producer. My schedule changed. Monday and Tuesday, I’d grip until 5:30 pm. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, I’d work until 11:30 and help produce the late news. No pay raise.

The holidays were approaching. Did I want Christmas off or New Years? Did this mean I’d be back covering St. Anthony’s Thanksgiving Dinner in San Francisco? What about cooking my family’s turkey?

News goes on EVERY single day. Elections were all-nighters. How many times did I miss my son’s track meet to cover a breaking story: a helicopter crash in Livermore, a bear spotted on a rainy night in Los Gatos. Not to mention, the crazy schedule, two early nights and three late nights (no dinner with my family). It was tiresome.

I could get work as a tech writer—and double my salary. Lockheed gave employees a week off at Christmas. I could afford to take the family to Hawaii, and finally take a trip to Europe. I’d have time to pursue my humor writing.

I decided and told the news director I was leaving. I needed

time off to bake Christmas cookies.

Co-workers thought it was a joke.

Nope. If you haven’t decorated cookies with your family, you don’t know what you’re missing.

Before I left, the Assistant News Director quit.

I realized if I stayed, I’d become a reporter. But now I didn’t want it. Still I was angry—mainly at myself. I had let this inconsequential person stop my dream. Never again.

That day, I learned a valuable lesson: NO DOES NOT MEAN NEVER. —WT

Secrets to Wicked Good Prose

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we must put on flesh but not flab.

She gave insight into how she edits a manuscript. By circling every verb in the first paragraph, she can evaluate a writer’s ability. The writer’s voice—contemplative, original, and unexpected writing—can dazzle an agent.

Constance Hale’s book, *Sin and Syntax: How to Craft Wicked Good Prose*, covers grammar’s ground rules while revealing unconventional secrets that make for excellent writing.

She teaches at Harvard and UC Berkeley Extension and directs conferences for journalists. She has been called “Marian the Librarian on a Harley.”

You can read more at www.sinandsyntax.com. —WT



SOUTH BAY WRITERS CLUB MARCH 2018 WORKSHOP



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!

Enter online at 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.

— WT

Poetry Center San José

40th Birthday Party

Saturday, April 7 12pm-4pm

Featuring readings by Nils Peterson, Sally Ashton, Kevin Arnold and Mary Lou Taylor!

- Edwin Markham House in History Park
- 1650 Senter Road, San José, CA 95112
- Admission is FREE
- Celebrating 40 years as a non-profit bringing poetry to San Jose across bridges of all kinds!
- Enjoy an afternoon of fun, laughter, and history under the great oak in front of Markham House! Featuring readings by Nils Peterson, Sally Ashton, Kevin Arnold and Mary Lou Taylor! Presentation by Lauren Muller, Department Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies at City College of San Francisco. Surprise guest performance!
- Hot food, cold drink, and tours of the house! Parking: Please enter History Park from Phelan Avenue.
- Free parking is available at the Staff/Volunteer parking lot on Phelan Avenue. Paid parking is available at the end of Phelan Avenue for \$6.

Marin Writers Conference

2018



Removing the Risk from Writing and Publishing

MICHAEL LARSEN



Make Your First Pages Shine

Editing Workshop **MARY RAKOW**

PLUS Pitching Sessions with Agents

The Promise (and Peril) of Self-Publishing

APRIL 22

9-430

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CORTE MADERA

REGISTRATION

Early Bird

(until April 1)

\$105 members
\$135 nonmembers

after April 1

\$135 members
\$165 nonmembers

**CWCMARIN.COM/
MARINWRITERSCONFERENCE**

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB—MARIN

Includes continental breakfast with coffee and boxed lunch from Mill Valley Market.



Alice's Trip

by Karen Hartley

It was a very cool day in February and Alice and her mother were sitting in the kitchen discussing the trip which Alice wanted to take, but to which her mother fiercely objected...

"Why won't you let me go, Mother? Don't you think I'll be able to take care of myself?" Alice whined.

"I just think you wouldn't belong there with the people. They're quite different, most don't speak English, and you would be at a loss among their customs and even the food there."

Alice became vehement, "Well, would you do any better?"

"That's enough of that talk, young lady. You'd better watch your manners."

"Sorry I ever brought up the subject. I knew you would be the last person to understand how I feel. I'm going out for a while."

Alice walked for about forty five minutes. While she walked, she thought of how hard her mother was; that she had no understanding at all of her. Usually, Alice and Mrs. Dalton were on very good terms, although lately Alice had been thinking about the trip she wanted to take to Paris, knowing her mother would not approve.

Her mother still thought of Alice as a child, while at seventeen, she was really quite mature for her age. Even more mature than some of her friends. She had graduated from high school a few months ago. "But not grown up enough to leave without mother's consent," she thought.

Alice's father, who was the only person who really understood her and knew her inner feelings, had died about a year ago of cardiac arrest. Now it was just Alice and her mother; the one person who never understood her.

"The French people aren't that different, and I can adjust to practically any situation," Alice murmured to herself.

After about a half hour of walking, Alice stopped into her girlfriend, Joann's house. Joann and Alice were just like sisters. They wore the same size clothes and all but looked alike, except for their

hair. Joann was a redhead, and Alice was blonde.

At Joann's invitation to spend the night, Alice phoned her mother to let her know she wouldn't be home.

It was both girl's practice to go to prayers in the corner chapel each evening. This night wasn't any different.

While sitting in the warm, silent church Alice said one special prayer: "Oh, please, when I go home, let mother say I may make the trip. Please let her know that I want to see France. I can ask directions if I need to, and my French is sufficient to get along. Please let me be able to go."

Alice and Joann spent the rest of the weekend talking about the trip. Joann agreed her friend should be able to go. The weekend passed quickly.

When Alice arrived home Sunday night, she found her mother as she'd never been accustomed to before. Mrs. Dalton was very pleasant, so Alice took the opportunity to ask her question.

"Mother, I'm going to ask you once more. May I please make my trip?"

Mrs. Dalton looked at Alice in a way that Alice hadn't ever seen. Mrs. Dalton took her daughter's hands and said softly, "I know this is what you want, Alice. After much thought, I realize that you will learn a lot there. So I am saying you may go to Paris. But you must promise me one thing."

"Yes, Mother. What is it?"

Alice's mother held Alice away from her and said softly, "Please just promise that you will write to me and call when you have a chance."

"Of course, Mother. Every morning, and when I come back from sightseeing. I'll tell you everything!"

"Then go, my angel. Have a great time!" — WT

Fool Me Once...

Continued from Page 4

asked, struggling to control my panic, lapsing into that classic frantic explanation that the technicians had heard a billion times before. "I've got a Really Important Thing I need to do today, man! I can't afford for my computer to break right now!"

"I don't know," answered the tech, getting out his toolkit and unscrewing the lid of my laptop. "But we'll take a look inside and see."

All my anxiety capitulated to fear when the *roach* popped out. Out dropped this hideous bug from my keyboard case, an insect about four inches long. It was pitch-black, half-splattered, an oblong monstrosity just glaring up at me from the desk. Have you ever had one of those moments of vulgar, innate terror—the kind that makes you let out a high, keening groan of sheer disgust? Yeah, that was me in that moment. A grown individual with a mortgage and a 401K, squealing down the office hallway with her arms in the air. I'm not proud of how loudly I made that sound, nor am I proud of how it trailed after me as I bolted (utterly flailing) from my cube.

I won't elaborate on the litany of cuss words I let out a few minutes later when I learned that the darn bug was just a toy made out of rubber, and that the laughing (read: guilty) technician had wedged it under my keyboard the day before, right after I'd left the office. But, let me tell you, that technician *still* talks about it. He's prouder than a peacock over it, and I heard he hasn't repeated the prank since.

I have to give the holiday some credit, however: it gives me reasons to write. Most jokes follow the standard narrative structure, with the punchline as the climax. My therapist once remarked that 'worries are stories,' and our brains like to generate a lot of noise and fuzz around whether or not those stories will come true.

So, in all my fretting and reminiscing over the pranks of yesteryear, I start to realizing that those grumps have turned into tales. Funny ones, at that — at my expense, of course, but still worth the resulting laugh. — WT

Poetry Features

Spell Check Pome

by Anonymous (Club Member)

Eye halve a spelling checker
Its a miss take wrecker

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye halve run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased to no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My spell checker tolled me sew



TAKEOVER

by Judith Shernock

Easter Bunny
Hopped into
Christ's Holiday.
Chocolate forepaws
Clutch store shelf.
A "come-hither" look
On her face.

Germans came
Bringing tall tales.
Fact from fable.
Holiday hares
Lay eggs
For 'good' children,
None for 'naughties'.

Now Bunnies
Fill mouths of
'Goodies' and 'naughties' too.
Hares lay jelly beans
For me and you,
As we dye our eggs
Bright red and blue.



California Foothills

by Penelope Anne Cole

I've always noticed the California foothills,
since as long as I can remember.
They're remarkable in the spring.

Everyone notices them then.
After the winter rains —
it's a dazzling emerald green
against the intense blue spring sky!

Me, I watch them all year long.
You could just wake up one morning and say,
"Hey, where'd the green go?"

Or you could watch them day by day, week by week.
Would they gradually fade from green to pale green,
to yellowish to gold, and then to brown?

Each year I vow to watch them day by day,
so I'll know the exact process of their color change.

We've had a five year long drought.
So you had to be quick or you'd miss it — the color change.

Then we had a lot of winter rain — even some spring rain.
The hills would start to change from their green,
but then there'd be some more rain.
So they'd stay green a little longer — maybe another week or two.

Then I got busy.
End of school year busy.
So I missed it completely.

One morning, I woke up and the only green left was
the drab green of the scrub oaks in the cracks be-
tween the hills —
the small valleys in between.

And the hills, what color are they now?

They're not really light brown.
They're not tan or khaki.
They're actually a pale gold —
my California foothills —
golden in the sunset.

Captive of Love

by Penelope Anne Cole

'In the misty morn,'

' ~phrases from a poem.

A hymn is a poem.

I contemplate my life.

Mind and free spirit collide.

My freedom is limited by love.

I cannot, dare not leave, give up,

nor run away from my life.

Love binds me here

as surely as any rope or chain.

My heart is here in this wee house,

in this small yard,

in this old garden.

Here even in this crowded,

loud, congested:

Big city-wannabee suburb.

Where are the Elysian Fields?

Where is my Zen Garden?

Where is my Tea Garden?

Where are the:

Good old Days,

Bygone days, Days of Yore?

Where are my Golden Years?

Where is my quiet morning?

My stroll in the park?

Where is my hushed midnight?

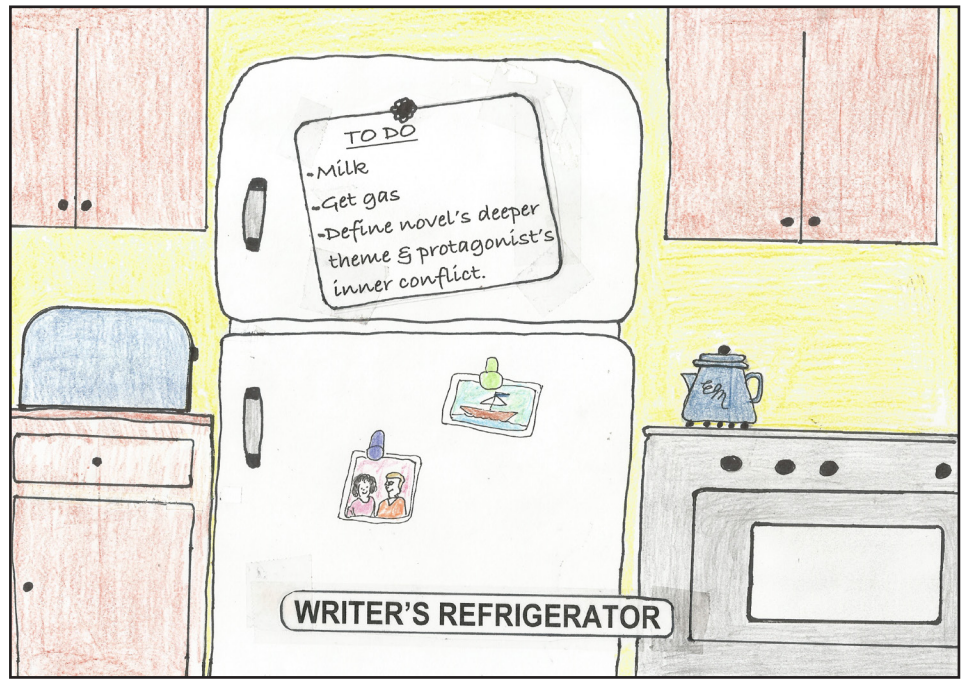
My afternoon delight?

Peace eludes me.

Worry engulfs me.

Choices confuse me.

Off the Shelf by Edie Matthews



I am surrounded by much love.

Still I am captive.

I am alone —

most hours, most days.

Whether by choice or by happenstance:

alone or lonely?

'Seek and ye shall find.'

But what do I seek?

What shall I find?

Will it bless, caress, or leave
me?

'Peace like a river'

flowing down,

Wash away my past.

Free me at last.

Also by Penelope Anne Cole

Lady in Red

Lost lady in red.

Her head bled red. 'Dead,' said Ned.

Tossed lady in red.

Tea for Me

Tea for me

Plea for me

See for thee

Free we three

Sometimes

A time

Subline

A mime

Devine

A crime

Big time.

Sometimes

They lie

The Yellow House of My Childhood

by Penelope Anne Cole

I can't believe we moved away.

Mom sold my childhood home —
our warm, yellow house.
She boxed up our stuff.
Our memories came with us.

We left our yard behind.
Our oak tree shades a silent fountain.
Will our tiny orchard bear fruit if we aren't there to water it?

We took the dog's gate sign, "Nicky's Garden" —
but left behind his napping tree.

Our white picket fence faded into the past.
We followed the moving van to our new life,
six states away from home.

Ahead: a fresh start, new friends, new sights.
Behind: the only life, family, and friends I knew.

I feel torn.
I'm split in two.

We brought our stuff.
But I left my childhood friends.

Mom meant well.
She wanted to be free from the fast pace —
from the materialism of the valley.
She wanted to be debt free.

In tears,
in pain,
I ask
"How can we be free
by leaving behind everyone we love?"

So Much and More

by Penelope Anne Cole

So much to do,
so much ado,
so much to chew —
on.
So much to know,
so much to tow,
so much to throw —
at.
So much to reach,
so much to breach,
so much to teach —
to.
So much to show,
so much to owe,
so much to grow —
in.
So much is taught,
so much is naught,
so much is fraught —
with.
So much to reap,
So much to sweep,
So much to keep —
in.
So much to cope,
so much to mope,
so much to hope —
for.
So much is free,
so much is me,
so much more are
we.

Haiku

by Carolyn Donnell

How fortunate are
The flowers that get to bloom
Fully realized

Haiku Series

by Stephen C. Wetlesen

One Word Haiku
For Steam Locomotive Memories
March 6, 2018
Fireflutes.

March 7, 2018 Haiku
Five Syllables
Sudden petal gust.

Dialysis Clinic Haiku
One Line, Five Syllables
March 7, 2018
Endless hearts blanket.

March 8, 2018 Haiku
One Line, Five Syllables
Hawk lands on pine tip.

March 9, 2018 Haiku
One Line, Five Syllables
Thick crescent in blue.

Redundant Haiku
March 9, 2018
One Line, Seven Syllables
Single petal flutters down.

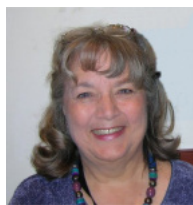
Iridescent Haiku
3/11/18
One Line, Five Syllables
Spider thread sun dance.

McDonald's Senryu
(Comical Sketch)
3/13/18
Employee scans bills,
eyeballs for North Korean
counterfeit dud cash.

Berkeley Memories
(The Late 1970s)
One Line, Five Syllables
Distant night foghorns.

Contests and Markets - Poetry

by Carolyn Donnell



April is NATIONAL POETRY MONTH. Here are some sites with suggestions for activities, from poem-a-day (PAD) prompts to sites to check for local events.

Writer's Digest 2018 April PAD (Poem-a-Day) Challenge

See guidelines at: www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/2018-april-pad-challenge-guidelines

National/Global Poetry Writing Month

From NaNoWriMo. They started a National Poetry Writing Month site several years ago. More Poem-a-Day prompts. Check out at www.napowrimo.net/

Academy of American Poets has many ways to participate including a poem-a-day challenge.

See at www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/about-celebration

Poetry Foundation: get a free download of the April 2017 issue of Poetry magazine!

www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/npm

Living Poetry: they will be following Writer's Digest's PAD, but you can find a list of many resources for poets listed on their site.

livingpoetry.net/category/pad/

30/30 Poetry Challenge: another site with poem-a-day prompts.

www.3030poetry.com/

Poetry.org has more links related to poetry.

poetry.org/links.htm

Poets & Writers continues to be an excellent resource for all things poetic.

www.pw.org/grants

Poetry Nook Weekly poetry contest

www.poetrynook.com/contest/172nd-weekly-poetry-contest

13 Ways to Write a Poem, a four-week course with Bernadette Geyer

wow-womenonwriting.com/classroom/BernadetteGeyer_13WaysOfWritingAPoem.php

WATCH FOR LOCAL POETRY ACTIVITIES

Santa Clara County Poet Laureate Blog

poetlaureateblog.org/

Cupertino Poet Laureate

cupertinopoetlaureate.org/

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Contests and Markets - Poetry

Continued from Page 12

Sally Ashton, former Santa Clara County Poet Laureate

sallyashton.com/calendar/

Poetry Center San Jose Poetry

www.pcsj.org/links.html

FACEBOOK GROUPS/PAGES FOR POETS

Los Gatos Poet Laureate

Poetry Center San José

Poets@Play

California Poets

Poets & Writers

Don't forget about our FaceBook group - South Bay Writers Club - and keep up with contests and submission opportunities, a well as articles on other topics of interest to writers. Members can post their own findings to the group as well.

www.facebook.com/groups/5486894361/

A FEW WEB SITES THAT LIST CONTESTS

(all are also on FaceBook)

- The Writer Magazine

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

- The Write Life

thewritelife.com/writing-contests/

- National Association of Memoir Writers

namw.org/

- Freedom With Writing

www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/

- Authors Publish: subscribe at

www.authorspublish.com/

- WOW! Women On Writing

www.wow-womenonwriting.com/

- Women's Fiction Writers Association

womensfictionwriters.org/Contests

OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

- 72 Poetry Manuscript Publishers (no fees)

www.authorspublish.com/72-poetry-manuscript-publishers-who-do-not-charge-reading-fees/

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 their 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. — WT



Conferences and Events April 2018

by Margie Yee Webb

SCBWI Spring Spirit 2018 Conference

April 7, 2018, Citrus Heights CA

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

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/

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

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

April 21-22, 2018, Los Angeles CA

events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/

Marin Writers Conference

April 22, 2018, Corte Madera CA

cwcmarin.com/marinwritersconference/

Continued on Page 14

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 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

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/

"Fourth Annual Bay Area Book Festival"

Independent Bookstore Day

April 28, 2018

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."

Our Life Stories

April 28, 2018, Sacramento CA

ourlifestories.org/

"a cross-generational memoir conference"

WordSpring 2018

April 28, 2018, Oroville CA

buttewordspring.org/

7th Annual WordSpring – a creative writing conference

Nonfiction Writers Conference

May 2-4, 2018, Online Virtual Conference

nonfictionwritersconference.com/

8th Annual Nonfiction Writers Conference

Gold Rush Writers Conference

May 4-6, 2018, Mokelumne Hill CA

goldrushwriters.com/

13th Annual Gold Rush Writers Conference — WT



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 7P Board Meeting	4	5	6 7:30P Open mic Barnes&Noble Almaden, San Jose	7
8	9 2P Valley Writers 6:00P SBW Dinner Harry's Hofbrau	10 7P Well-RED at Works	11	12	13	14
15 10A Our Voices 1P Poets@Play, Markham House DEADLINE: <i>Writer- sTalk</i> Submission	16 2P Valley Writers	17	18 7:30P Open mic SF Peninsula, Reach and Teach, San Mateo	19 7P Third Thursday, Po- etry Center	20 7:30P Open mic Rose Garden Branch Li- brary, 1580 Naglee Ave., San Jose	21
22	23 2P Valley Writers	24	25	26	27	28
29 10A Our Voices	30 2P Valley Writers	April 2018				

Future Events:

SBW Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 3rd at 7 pm
Edie Matthews' home
April: SBW Dinner Meeting on April 9, 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

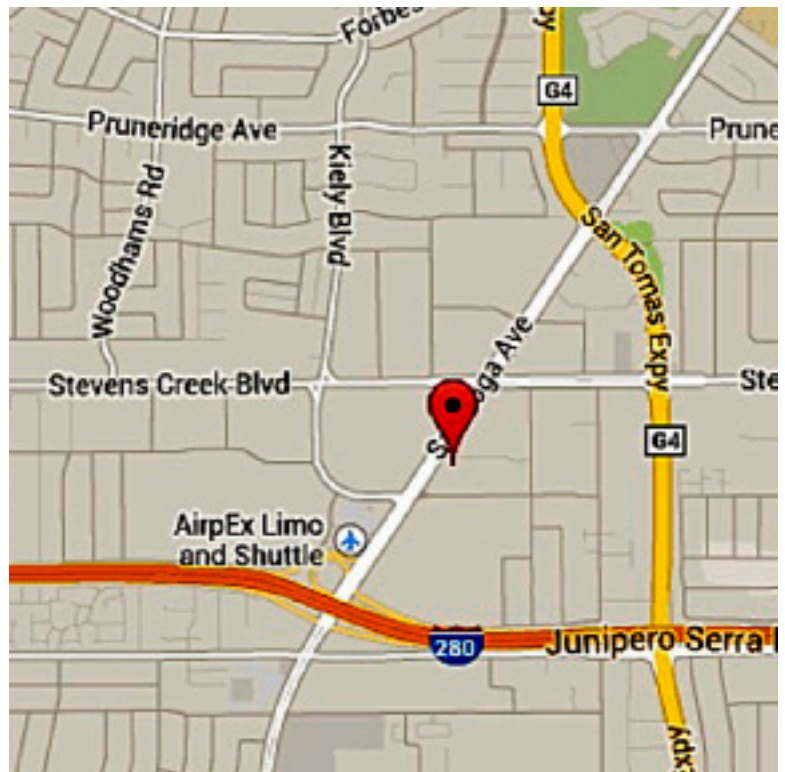
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**South Bay Writers
Regular Dinner Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Monday April 9, 2018
Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose**

**Speed Authoring
with
Valerie Estelle Frankel
April 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.