



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 28  
Number 04  
April 2020

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

CURRENT EVENTS: COVID-19

## Strange Times We Live In

by J. K. McDole

Writers, how are you doing?

"Oh, well, I'm on day #15 of isolation. I've been working from home, can't remember where I last put my car keys, and I'm pretty sure the housepets are learning human speech. The cat just wandered by and asked 'hey, are we out of toilet paper?'"

Funny, but, while I'm glad to hear you're functioning, I didn't ask *what* you were doing. I asked, *how* were you doing. How are you doing?

Silence. A hastily-inhaled breath, and then reality blurts out: We're all a little more than frazzled right now.

Does this introduction sound familiar? It's borrowed from a scene in *Contagion*, the epidemic thriller by Stephen Soderbergh. Current events have made *Contagion* an eerily topical film to rewatch. In the film's second act, there's this gripping exchange between CDC director Dr. Ellis Cheever (depicted by Laurence Fishburne) and young field epidemiologist Dr. Erin Mears, played by a somberly sensitive Kate Winslet. During a tense phone call, Cheever asks Mears how she's coping with the gargantuan task of tracking and containing a novel virus outbreak in suburban Minneapolis. Bewildered by local politics and the disruptive impact of the virus, Mears doesn't know how to respond. At first, she stammers; then she sighs, finally venting. She is out of her element, and stress has driven her to neglect rest and self care. Her last hot meal? "Taco Bell," she admits glumly.

Permit me some pop culture analysis; that's how I cope, and right now coping is essential. This pandemic has created a strange and unusual time, the likes of which many—if not all of us—have never experienced before this year. The impact of the novel coronavirus and COVID-19 will leave an unmistakable mark on human history, let alone our cheery microcosm of California writers. Upcoming issues of our newsletter will reflect that. You're probably accustomed to reading about our upcoming speaker here on the front page, or flipping through to our conferences and calendar pages to see what opportunities await in the upcoming month.

News and developments move about as fast as this nasty little virus. Our local Bay Area has been directed to shelter-in-place through May 3. By order of Santa Clara County, we cannot gather; we must stay at home, save for essential excursions. There can be no April dinner meeting—not a physical one, at least.



MARCH RECAP: CARA BLACK

## A Virtual Recap

by Marjorie Johnson

Cara Black, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 19 books in the *Private Investigator Aimée Leduc* series, was scheduled to speak to South Bay Writers on March 9. Due to the infamous COVID-19 coronavirus, her presentation has been postponed to June.

I was scheduled to write the recap of that meeting. What to do?

I went to Amazon to purchase the Kindle version of one of Cara's books. Her *Three Hours in Paris* is new, and the Amazon description is intriguing: "In June of 1940, when Paris fell to the Nazis, Hitler spent a total of three hours in the City of Light—abruptly leaving, never to return. To this day, no one knows why." However, being new, the book is more expensive than some earlier ones.

Since the entire series takes place in Paris with the same protagonist, I chose *Murder in Montmartre* because I have been there. Some of Vincent Van Gogh's street scenes still exist, especially Moulin Radet. I attended a show at the Moulin Rouge and was surprised to learn that the cabaret opened a year after Van Gogh moved from Montmartre.

Amazon gives the plot for *Murder in Montmartre*: Parisian P.I. Aimée Leduc strives to clear the name of a childhood friend, now a policewoman, who's charged with shooting her partner. She goes out for a drink with her friend Laure, a police officer, but Laure's patrol partner, Jacques, interrupts, saying he needs to talk to Laure urgently. The two leave the bar, and when they don't return, Aimée follows Laure's path and finds her sprawled on a snowy rooftop, not far from Jacques, who is bleeding from a fatal gunshot wound.

Continued on Page 3

Continued on Page 5

# Between the Lines

Edie Matthews



## Surreal

We are in uncharted territory. South Bay Writers has never canceled a meeting before. Even when our venue at the Sunnyvale Golf Course suddenly closed, thanks to Marge Johnson's initiative, we were able to meet at a Pizza Hut. The Italian buffet was tasty, but sadly, the restaurant wouldn't work as a permanent location—the room was a bit small and noisy.

If memory serves me, a speaker canceled in 1999. It was my second meeting and was held at Marianne's Restaurant. A member stepped in and spoke about websites—a valiant effort but a bit rambling.

It's strange to watch the effects on talk shows taping without an audience. Some manage better than others. *The View* does well with its feisty panel of ladies who interact with each other. But *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* isn't the same. Colbert's background in improv has conditioned him to react to an audience's response. Without it, he is noticeably uncomfortable.

One treat, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and former Democratic presidential candidate filled in on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. Buttigieg's intelligence radiated. He was poised and articulate. A dozen of the show's staff sat in the stands obviously impressed. If the seats had been full, he'd have killed it.

However, people are playing it safe and staying home. One advantage of this crazy time—no crowds. I desperately needed a haircut. In my topsy-turvy life, who has time to make an appointment? I walked into an empty salon where two hairdressers sat alone and forlorn. They lit up when they saw me and I was immediately waited on.

Traffic is light and grocery store lines are short—though still no Purell on the shelves. Like New York Governor Cuomo, who had prison inmates make hand sanitizer to be distributed, I decided to make my own. I double-checked the formula on my iPhone: alcohol (at least 70% strength), aloe vera gel, and a fragrance like tea tree oil or lavender oil. I knew I had aloe vera at home, but wasn't certain of the alcohol's strength; consequently, I decided to pick up a bottle. No alcohol or fragrant oils at Walgreen's, so headed off to the Mariposa Shopping Center.

I slipped into Safeway first. Low and behold, I found toilet tissue on sale on a shelf almost empty. Picked up two packages. Still no Purell. Sally's Beauty Supplies was a few doors down. I went in and asked if they had tea tree oil. Yes, there were several small bottles at \$3.25 each. "One is enough, thank you."

At CVS, I asked the druggist where the alcohol was. A woman carrying a red basket filled with six bottles, said, "You better hurry, it's almost all gone." She directed me to the aisle. Another shopper, a bedraggled man speaking on a cell phone, loaded his basket with 10 bottles. He looked flushed and sounded like he had a cold. Coronavirus? The flu? Allergies? I kept my distance until he moved onto the checkout counter. The shelf was nearly empty. I selected two bottles of 90 proof.

Are we over reacting? I don't know, but when Cara Black, our March speaker, called me and said the mayor of San Francisco was canceling events, I decided to err on the side of caution.

*Continued on Page 4*

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

### SBW Officers

President—Edie Matthews  
[pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)  
Vice President—Jamal Khan  
[vp@southbaywriters.com](mailto:vp@southbaywriters.com)  
Secretary—Marjorie Johnson  
[secretary@southbaywriters.com](mailto:secretary@southbaywriters.com)  
Treasurer—Trenton Myers  
[treasurer@southbaywriters.com](mailto:treasurer@southbaywriters.com)  
Member-at-Large1—Tatyana Grinenko  
[member-at-large-1@southbaywriters.com](mailto:member-at-large-1@southbaywriters.com)  
Member-at-Large2—Alfred Jan  
[member-at-large-2@southbaywriters.com](mailto:member-at-large-2@southbaywriters.com)

### SBW Representatives

Central Board—Bill Baldwin  
[WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)  
NorCal—Dave LaRoche  
[policies@southbaywriters.com](mailto:policies@southbaywriters.com)

### SBW Committee Chairs

Bylaws/Policy&Procedures—Dave LaRoche  
[policies@southbaywriters.com](mailto:policies@southbaywriters.com)  
Hospitality—Janet Patey  
[hospitality@southbaywriters.com](mailto:hospitality@southbaywriters.com)  
Membership—Inga Silva  
[membership@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membership@southbaywriters.com)  
MRMS Admin—Dick Amyx  
[mrms@southbaywriters.com](mailto:mrms@southbaywriters.com)  
Newsletter—J. K. McDole  
[newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)  
Programs, Workshops—Jamal Khan  
[vp@southbaywriters.com](mailto:vp@southbaywriters.com)  
Publicity and Public Relations—Tatyana Grinenko  
[pr@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pr@southbaywriters.com)  
Web Master—Dick Amyx (Interim)  
[webmaster@southbaywriters.com](mailto:webmaster@southbaywriters.com)  
Web Editor—Tatyana Grinenko  
[webeditor@southbaywriters.com](mailto:webeditor@southbaywriters.com)  
Member News—Marjorie Johnson  
[membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com)

### 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, 2020. 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

### Managing Editor

J. K. McDole

### Contributing Editors

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Carolyn Donnell

Marty Sorensen

Mary Miller Chiao

DeWayne Mason

### 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 (1200-1800 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:** 95

Copyright © 2020 CWC South Bay Branch



## Strange Times We Live In (Cont.)

How do you normally receive our newsletter? Digitally, or in print? Our printer is based out of Florida, where shelter-in-place decrees are causing non-essential businesses to close. When I started drafting this issue, they were still open; by the time it reaches you, they may have shut down. What does that mean for our readers who receive print copies of the newsletter? At the moment, I'm not sure; I don't have a plan in place besides keeping the newsletter current in digital form. If we cannot print and mail physical copies of upcoming issues, I'll do what I can to ensure back issues are printed and copies are available when this all blows over.

Of course, you should not hesitate to continue submitting your work to us. If anything, I encourage you now, more than ever, to send material our way. Maybe this month you'll find an unexpected streak in productivity! A few writer friends of mine have remarked that this slow-down is forcing them to write more; they have wide-open mornings for meditation, drafting, and toiling away in the "word mines." Others have commented on the muse inherent in our situation: How the surge of confusion and frustration lend well to creating artistic verse. April is (perhaps somewhat serendipitously) National Poetry Month.

If, however, you fall on the less productive side of things, give yourself a break. Don't force yourself through deadlines or demands, especially if you're feeling the strain of isolation or anxiety. I struggle to write anything right now, as my job title has shifted from "editor and writer" to "editor and writer and kindergarten teacher and chef and counselor and delivery worker and chief household manager." It took me a week to draft out this editorial alone. My therapist told me not to sweat it. "You're not working from home," she commented. "You're at home during a time of crisis, and you're trying to work." Some model advice.

Most importantly, please do whatever it takes to stay healthy. These social restrictions may seem stifling — perhaps even draconian, to some — but they're in place for good reason. In February, the news was chock-full of headlines that now seem like platitudes: assurances that the virus was dangerous only to seniors, the elderly, those with underlying conditions, and other immunocompromised groupings. Now we know this virus can put anyone, even the the young and healthy, into critical care. If you can stay home and safe indoors, do so. Others are counting on you to act in the best interest for yourself AND the community around you.

Last, I hope we all keep in touch. There's been chatter about virtual meetings, Zoom calls, and other ways to stay connected from the safety of our homes. I take comfort that *Contagion* was made in 2011, when Twitter was still in infancy; its scenes rarely accounted for social media's impact on the pandemic. Our forefathers could not text each other during the influenza pandemic of 1918; they could not reach out across miles and miles of distance to ask, with open hearts, "how are you doing?" — WT

## INSIDE

View from the Board: M. Johnson	4	The Art of Letting Go: E. Preston	8
Fill My Heart: K. Franzenburg	4	Words of Wisdom: M. Johnson	8
The Odd-Ball Dancer: W. Baldwin	5	Is there an Editor...: Kendad	9
Out-of-Office Reply: L. Oleas	5	Conferences and Events: M. Webb	9
Spring: Anonymous	5	Uncertainty: P. Muhammad	10
Boy: M. Hahn	6	Aprils Past: C. Donnell	11
February Weather: B. Auchard	6	Contests and Markets: C. Donnell	12
Done With Tears: C. Weilert	7	Unofficial Recap: M. Johnson	13
A Girl & Her Horse: L. Hoffman	7	Off the Shelf: E. Matthews	14
Freshly Ground: R. Burns	7	Calendar	15



# View from the Board

by Marjorie Johnson



Marjorie Johnson  
SBW Secretary

On March 4, the SBW Board met at President Edie Matthews's home: Jamal Khan, Marjorie Johnson, Trenton Myers, Inga Silva, Tatyana Grinenko, and Bill Baldwin.

No minutes were approved; there was no board meeting in February.

Vice President Jamal Khan announced upcoming speakers:

- March 9, Cara Black, *NY Times* Bestselling Mystery Author, "Writing a Mystery Series or Stand Alone."
- April 13, Elizabeth Kracht, "Advice From a Literary Agent"

CWC NorCal representative Dave LaRoche announced that the Bay Area Book Festival will take place on Sat., May 2 and Sun., May 3, Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA. NorCal Group will have a table/booth there, and CWC members are welcome to come sell their books and immerse in the industry. Publishers, distributors, editors, authors, designers, publicists, agents, and more will be in attendance, greeting, meeting, selling, and informing. The exhibitions are open to all, and people with those little alligator clips on the end of a stick will be picking up trash. For a few bucks, closed programs are also available. You won't want to miss it.

Membership Chairman Inga Silva reported that some new members/renewals pay on PayPal using a different name, and it is difficult to determine for whom the payment should be credited. (If you think that was a convoluted sentence, you should try sorting out whose name to add to SBW records.) If you are a member named Joe Smith, for example, and we receive payment from XYZ Corporation or from Paul Jones, whose membership is it? If you think this is a trivial problem, try updating our records for half a dozen such oddball situations.

Elections are coming up in June, nominations in May. YOU, yes YOU, could join our Board if you have an interest in SBW or would like to learn more about our nuts and bolts. Ask me at a meeting or send an email to [secretary@southbaywriters.com](mailto:secretary@southbaywriters.com).

Please come to a board meeting with your ideas and suggestions. SBW Board meetings are open to all members, and everyone is welcome. Next board meeting: 7 pm, Wednesday, April 8 at the home of President Edie Matthews. All you have to do is RSVP to Edie and show up for a pleasant evening discussing our writing club.

**Postscript:** On Saturday, March 7, President Edie Matthews cancelled our March 9 meeting because of concern about the breakout of COVID-19 and to follow a Santa Clara County Health Department advisory. Cara Black has agreed to postpone her presentation to our June meeting. — WT

## Surreal

Continued from page 2

(By the way, Cara Black has rescheduled for June.)

I felt bad canceling at China Stix. I know they, along with many other eateries, are struggling. However, the owner was very understanding.

So my friends, I pray that everyone stays healthy. Drink water, wash your hands, get plenty of sleep, and hope to see you at our April 8th meeting. Our speaker will be literary agent Elizabeth Kracht. Her book *The Writer's Checklist* has just been published.

**Editor's Note:** Since the receipt of this piece, Santa Clara County has extended the shelter-in-place order to end on May 3. There will not be an April dinner meeting. Keep an eye on your email for club meeting updates! — WT

### Fill My Heart

Let your words dance across the page  
Touch my soul  
Touch my heart  
Touch my mind  
Wrap me in a moment of time

Let it make me feel  
The Kiss  
Of Life  
Of Love  
Of heart songs

Let me long for the love that is spoken  
In your sweet words  
Let me saturate my senses  
In the pallet of your love song

Let me for a brief moment  
Feel I am the only one

Allow me to caress your poetry  
Clinging to the beautiful binding  
Laced in narrow gold rims and velum

The passion of life contained

Let me dream  
Take me briefly  
Fill My Heart

Dear Poet

— Karen Franzenburg

## A Virtual Recap

*Continued from the front page*

The Paris setting becomes almost a character. *Murder in Montmartre* begins, "Aimée Leduc's heels sank into the snow-crueted surface of the Paris street, quiet and deserted except for the whisper of ghosts." In the course of an investigation, Aimée climbs through a skylight and clambers about on a steep, wet Monsard roof. Having been there, I felt a chill just reading about it.

The dialogues include many French phrases from beginning French. I learned some new words, such as *flic*, *cop*, and *mec*, *dude*, or *guy*. I also learned a bit of history after Cara led her readers to the catacombs of Paris. Under Montmartre, warrens of tunnels were carved through limestone, the very white limestone used to build the famous basilica, Sacre Coeur. So much limestone has been quarried that some buildings have sunk or even fallen into sinkholes. Is Sacre Coeur next?

Cara Black writes an engrossing book. — WT

## APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

*Please enjoy these featured poems,  
many written by our club members,  
some printed in issues past.*

### SPRING — POEM

*as published in the Independence [Kansas] Daily Reporter,  
March 14, 1918, p. 3  
during the widespread influenza pandemic*

A limpid smile,  
The cooling of countless zephyrs,  
Sky-weeping and love and mud and hookey from school;  
A boy in love,  
A girl, too.  
April odors,  
May and love  
June in the offing  
(Blow, breezes, blow)  
With Lohengrin or Mendelssohn — what care I?  
(Bloom, blossoms, bloom  
But ah!  
Contemptible mutability!  
Winds high and winds shifting to the west and northwest,  
Vicious inconsistency,  
Catarrh and influenza,  
Rain,  
Sleet,  
Snow,  
Zero - o - o - o - o.  
Bronchitis,  
And then the narrow couch.

— Anonymous

### The Odd-Ball Dancer

For forty years he dances, dances,  
Sweeps round the hall to irregular rhythms  
Of Balkan music, leading or following  
The line of dancers  
On Friday nights or off on trips  
To dance workshops.  
Five-four, seven-eight, nine-eight,  
Even, at times, twenty-five-sixteen,  
Convincing his relatives the record is skipping,  
Puzzling them with leaps and squats and slaps.  
They wonder why he doesn't dance the polka.

— William A. Baldwin



### Out-of-Office Reply

There's no food in the fridge  
The bathroom's a mess  
I must get a flu shot  
And take the cat to the vet

I've been working from home  
I've been working from work  
I need a comp day  
Before I go berserk

I won't be in Monday  
I won't check email  
The I.M. will be off  
I'm ignoring voicemail

If it is critical  
You can call my cell  
It better be urgent or  
I'll be madder than \_ \_ \_ \_

— Luanne Oleas

# Boy

by Michael Hahn

Every camp throughout history that has supported a battle has always had boys like Augustin. It is immediately evident that he is a touch more motivated than some of the other children, most of whom watch we strange foreigners with a certain suspicion and wonder as we arrive in the school and unload. But this one, about seven, was engaged from the moment I first saw him, wiry, birdlike eyes quick to evaluate, his energy and willingness to help us and his desire to play, to be SEEN, is palpable.

He follows me the first morning as we set up in Sanarate, only wanting to carry something. He helps when I need to find a small table, then he fetches water bottles and takes them exactly where, and to whom, I have asked. More than once. His eyes miss nothing, as he moves from clinic to clinic making himself useful, not only to me. Each time I step out of our clinic to fetch something, there he is, waiting, ready to help. He asks me for nothing.

I go to get a cold tea and some snacks in the early afternoon heat. Under the hot sun, a woman sits in her shiny new wheelchair. She is an amputee, and appears to be at least eighty. Her husband, in his big hat in the shade under the tree, sits next to her as they wait for a tuk-tuk. She stares ahead, and it is evident that she is very hot. Her remaining leg twitches as the sweat drips from her brow. I decide to bring the tea I had planned to drink to her instead, and stand holding it before her as an offer. She does not move, because I realize that she is also blind. I ask if she would like a drink, and when she nods in the affirmative, gently place the cup in her hand. She drinks quickly and holds the cup out asking for a bit more.

And, there is Augustin, waiting quietly to help from where he has been watching a few feet away. I ask if he will stay with Grandmother, refilling the cup until she has had enough. Eagerly, he assents, and I walk back to clinic after telling him that he is a very good helper...

He sees me stretching later in the day and joins me. He says his parents are divorced, his Papa is in the States. I tell him that I had no Dad in the home either, and we talk about how important it is

to help Mama, to keep the home clean, do chores, and take care of things. He is proud of his responsibilities! He misses his father badly, and there is a recognition of a kinship that we share. He asks if we will come back, and I say that we have been here before and will most likely come again, and he asks if I will come again, and I say of course I will. The hug is real, it is sweet, and I am on the bus as he watches us load up. He smiles and waves as we pass in the big bus, his eyes and energy percolating until next time, and we roll towards the hotel. —WT

## February Weather

Those in Iowa have the tease of snow on the ground and weather that can't make up its mind. We're not much better off here in California where the sun shines bright but with a hard snap in the air and roses pressing out reddish green growth that frost will soon turn to black. So much for new life. Mother Nature can sure sure nip things in the bud, the bitch.

—Betty Auchard

## YOUR PIECE HERE...

*Like what you see?*

*Want to show off your work?*

*Make sure you're a current member of the CWC!*

*We cannot accept material from guests or interested parties who have not paid dues for the current year.*

*All the more reason to*

## JOIN NOW!

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

# An Evening With a Literary Agent

by Jamal Khan

**Editor's Note:** Jamal Khan writes our splendid speaker introductions each month. While current events necessitate a different feature on this issue's front page, I wanted to give our readers a glimpse at what to expect from future talks with Elizabeth Kracht. Thank you, Jamal!

Enjoy!

Publishing houses almost never consider an unsolicited manuscript from an author. Many will return manuscripts unopened as a legal precaution. They will only consider manuscripts pitched by a literary agent like Elizabeth Kracht. At our next dinner meeting, Elizabeth will talk about her experiences sifting through reams of material to identify the diamonds in the rough. She will discuss current trends in the publishing industry, and share her wisdom on what makes a manuscript stand out from the slush pile.

Elizabeth Kracht works at Kimberley Cameron & Associates. She represents both literary and commercial fiction as well as nonfiction, and brings to the agency her experience as a former acquisitions editor, freelance publicist, and writer.

In fiction, Elizabeth represents literary, commercial, women's, thrillers, mysteries, historical, and crossover YA. In non-fiction, she is interested in high concept, health, science, environment, prescriptive, investigative, true crime, voice- or adventure-driven memoir, sexuality, spirituality, and animal/pet stories. She thrives on working closely with authors to build their careers. —WT





# ESSAY

## Done With Tears

by Chris Weilert

I thought I was a tough guy until I had to put our dog to rest at the veterinary clinic. My wife, Linda and I brought our fifteen-and-a-half-year Labrador, Riley, in after she could no longer lift herself up and walk. I was warned by others that it's gut wrenching to make the call. After weeks of seeing this day arriving, the day had come.

I lifted her up then put her in our truck and drove to the clinic. Her vet, Dr. Blackwolf (no joke) was going to administer the final act. While waiting for her to come into the room, my wife and I sat with Riley. Linda talked to her and assured her everything was going to be all right. Riley tried to lift her head for short moments, but this created labored breathing. Linda gave her a Lifesaver from her pocket and surprisingly, Riley chewed and swallowed the candy. She tried to put another into her mouth, but Riley didn't take it. At this time, I couldn't speak, I was holding back a deluge of tears.

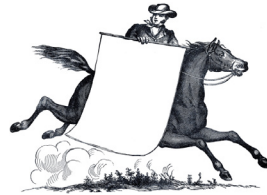
Dr. Blackwolf came in along with her assistant who would be giving the injection. I felt horrible for the young woman who looked nervous. Dr. Blackwolf had to be professional because she cannot be standing in the room blubbering and weeping. She was Riley's vet for many years and saw her through many trials and tribulations of health issues.

After the final shot was given and Riley was pronounced dead, Dr. Blackwolf and her assistant left the room. Then came the breakdown I held back for a long time. The last six months being the worst in my life after the passing of my mother and brother in one week, this past August. Riley's death was the final exclamation mark of sadness with the deaths of these three beloved souls. I cannot explain why this last one hit harder than the others.

All the ceremonies, rituals, memorials and candles do not take away the sorrow, they only serve as a way of honoring the dead. Kind words feel nice and are temporarily comforting but grief is a powerful emotion to avoid. Is all I can do is to wait for time to help with forgetfulness and distractions? Some say take one day at a time. Good advice but what does

this really mean? To take it slow and reflect even more? I want something different. I have to find a way to be happy and snap out of the dread.

Knowing my loved ones who have passed, the last thing they would want on this earth is for me to sit around and sulk. Riley, my precious dog, would bark and grab a ball if I sat there doing nothing. My brother, Jim, was an athlete who ran marathons and coached all sports would want me to go shoot some hoops with the youngsters. Lastly, my dear mother Nellie loved music and dancing. She always asked me to play guitar for her which led to telling me to join a band. Maybe the secret to grief is not one day at a time but perhaps to not acknowledge time at all. Life moves on and the time clock keeps ticking, you have to get off the bench and back into the game. —WT



### Freshly Ground

drip, drip  
blip, blip  
i hear the hopeful sounds  
water trickles in and drowns

the fragrant mound  
of magic beans freshly ground  
turning into pick-me-up  
steam emerging from my cup

inhale sweet aroma, gently blow  
and blow once more and oh  
a pause to treasure the pure pleasure  
its flavor in abundant measure

so i'm out for an oven-baked treat  
cinnamon bun sweet  
with a mug full of java  
steaming like lava

watching slow sippers  
comfortable as old slippers  
solving ills of the world  
with pinky fingers curled

— Richard A. Burns

### A Girl & Her Horse

I watched from a distance  
girl mount bareback  
a horse called Moon.

Spine straight, blonde hair flowing  
black mane billowing  
platinum and ebony  
resolute, vigilant  
nostrils flared.

If I were a horse  
I'd be you, Moon,  
her words rode on the wind.  
Moon whinnied  
her fluid gait uninterrupted.

Rider and mount challenged to trust  
each other, inner-selves  
their collective power.

— Leslie E. Hoffman

### DID YOU KNOW...

- Ernest Hemingway once endured quarantine from whooping cough in Cap d'Antibes with his wife, infant son, his son's nanny... and his mistress. No one perished; Hemingway even claimed it helped his writing. (Source: Lesley M.M. Blume, *Town and Country Magazine*, Mar. 24 2020)
- Norwegian painter Edvard Munch contracted influenza during the great pandemic of 1918-1919. One of his famous self-portraits even depicts him convalescing from the illness.
- Boccaccio's infamous series of novellas *The Decameron* was written while in quarantine from a 14th century outbreak of bubonic plague.
- The average person touches their face over sixteen times an hour, which is roughly the number of times I've picked at my rough drafts this past month before putting them aside with a huff.

# The Art of Letting Go...And Coming Back

by Evelyn Preston

I suspect that many South Bay Writers will remember the good/bad-old-days of the personal—even chummy—rejection letter. Recently, I’ve found several while giving overdue last rites to long-dead submissions stuffed into scruffy folders. It’s finally sunk in that not every word I ever wrote is sacred. Like Christmas cards held way after their holiday cheer, I’m indulging in one last read before their belated toss into the recycle bin. However, I can’t resist sharing an instructive past hurrah some writers might recognize.

Decades ago, I skipped the hip days of Free Love and Flower Power for matrimony and maternity, with Drs. Spock and Seuss as my gurus. My one weekly escape was a writing group where I penned a jaundiced view of the nascent Women’s Movement, a poem titled “A New E.R.A. or Mother’s Days,” brazenly sent to *Woman’s Day*, a top magazine market at the time. I prayed my piece worked as a tongue-in-cheek take on the recent feminine mantra: We can have it all! I upped my chances mimicking T.S. Eliot’s famous style:

*“Out there, somewhere, the children come and go,  
Shedding broken shoelaces and trails of Cheerios.....  
Mondays, religiously, I sculpt from nine to four,  
Then meditate in lotus land behind my bedroom door.  
Evenings, garbed in a tie-dyed, rainbow-hued skirt,  
I attend a “plein air” Mozart chamber concert.”*

And on it flowed, a seven stanza rhyming proof that women, especially young moms, truly longed to be liberated. My gentle spoof showed (not told), that we hadn’t yet succumbed to diaper rash of the brain but looked forward to ever more consciousness raising, all while rearing happy, creative, well-adjusted children.

I admit this brash stab at publication was early days in my quest for the elusive byline!

Ta da! I received a short, but business-like acceptance: “We are holding your submission, ‘A New E.R.A.’ for possible use. Thank you for taking the time and thought to send it to us. Sincerely...” typewritten over a personal, in-blue-ink signature of a masthead editor.

Euphoric at this early jackpot in the mammoth lottery of unsolicited submissions, I didn’t dwell on the “holding” part; I would soon be a pro! Well-aware of advance deadlines or possible changes, I kept cool enough not to put any actual kiss-marks on the letter; (it remains crisp to this day if a bit yellowed!)

Fast forward many months, well into a new year. I’d never touted my impending fame, yet the thought of payment and prestige had invaded my psyche—to be excised only by major surgery.

A bit deflated, but ever optimistic, I caved to curiosity. Was my opus lost? And if still on hold, until when? I couldn’t just write and ask like any amateur...my query had to preclude rejection....exude good will and excuse any guilt. Above all, it

had to secure publication!

My “lightbulb” solution completely banished any fear of failure; I was sure...no, positive...to seek the status of my submission, I’d reprise my original winner and send another poem!

*“Perhaps through the post  
Your check became lost,  
And it’s not a question of ethics  
Or maybe some art  
Could carry its part,  
If an editor mentioned aesthetics.  
But whatever the case,*

*I’d like to save face,  
To say nothing of body and soul.  
My hope springs eternal  
For my humor maternal  
When I’m within sight of my goal.”*

There was more that sang acceptance! There was also a swift turn-around note from the same blue-ink-signature editor:

“Many many thanks for your—very charming!—note. We have indeed held on to your “Mother’s Days” poem for far too long,” and blah, blah, blah about “space,” and “doubt” and “foreseeable future,” so “we return it with best wishes and hopes of better luck placing it elsewhere!”

She did add as a sop that my poetry was “great fun” and hoped that I would continue to share my work with the magazine. I knew the writers’ bright side—that a personal rejection was the next best thing to publication. Of course I should have followed through and tried again, but I didn’t.

Instead, soon after, I slipped into the financial field (counting numbers, not words), ‘though with its own brand of quirky humor. After 25 years of that odd adventure, I found myself again writing, again aiming high with a book, *Memoirs of the Money Lady*. This time, however, I hung in with financial articles, a Q and A column, adding general articles and personal essays for local publications. No matter the subject or success, however, I now realize that once we’re bitten by the writing bug, its long-term effects are truly fate-al. —WT

## ESSAY

## Words of Wisdom re: Coronavirus

By Marjorie Johnson

My iPhone feeds me all sorts of information and misinformation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. I see everything from “The end of the world is here” to “No worry—what will be will be.”

Here’s a summary of what Eric Klinenberg, New York University, has to say. The coronavirus pandemic will cause immense pain and suffering. But it will force us to reconsider who we are and what we value. In the long run, we could rediscover the better version of ourselves. —WT



## ESSAY

# Is There an Editor in the House?

by Ken Roberge (Kendad)

I'm so appreciative of all the writing help I've received these past few years. After my lucrative engineering career, I developed my first novel as a pure, non-addictive sleep supplement. I needed to edit. Although I've improved dramatically since the first words were typed, I still have much to learn.

This brings me to wonder why accomplished authors can get away with inferior writing.

I recently read *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. David isn't the bad boy I'm referring to, because his writing kept me glued to each page. I wasn't reading a historical document on the "early days of flight." I travelled through life stories of two incredibly gifted inventors. David's sentences avoided many filler words and phrases, although I did catch a few examples of "the fact that" within some sentences. This is forgivable. The book is a remarkably warm and comfortable read.

A few months later I saw Walter Isaacson interviewed on PBS promoting his book titled Benjamin Franklin. My hero—the one-hundred-dollar-bill man—the journalist and inventor who single handedly wooed the French into bankruptcy to help us win the Revolution.

Mr. Isaacson has no less than twenty-five written praises including David McCullough's, and the book is a New York Times best seller. I had to read it.

Ugh! This was not the smooth flying read that I'd experienced with *The Wright Brothers*. I felt like I was on a dirt road trudging through mud as I completed each paragraph. Don't get me wrong, Walter's research and fact finding is not my complaint. It's how the book was written.

The worst excerpt came from Chapter Seven, Politician, Page 169 (I underlined problem areas):

### COLONEL FRANKLIN OF THE MILITIA

*The issue of how to pay for frontier defense had been settled, for the time being, by the uneasy compromises between the Assembly and the Proprietors. To Franklin fell the task of figuring out how to spend the money and raise a militia. He pushed through a bill to create a force that was purely voluntary, thus securing the support of the Quakers, and then publishing an imaginary discourse designed to rally support for the plan.*

It goes on, but, Mr. Isaacson, where's your editor? Did you pay writers by wordcount?

The same part, edited:

### COLONEL FRANKLIN OF THE MILITIA

*The Assembly and Proprietors settled an uneasy compromise to pay for frontier defense, then provided Franklin the money and responsibility to raise a militia. Ben pushed a bill that created a purely voluntary force which secured Quaker approval. He later published an imaginary discourse to rally support for his plan.*

My changes brought 76 words down to 50. Fortunately, much of the book flows smoother. I also recommend the book for those who are interested in Ben Franklin.

To summarize—I'm not a strict supporter of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. I believe one must embellish writing to convey more than just the facts. But when the adornment becomes your comfort blanket, you can suffocate the subject along with the reader. —WT

## Conferences and Events - April 2020

by Margie Yee Webb

**Editor's Note:** Due to the impact of COVID-19, all events listed here are subject to change, postponement, or cancellation. Please review actions taken by the organizers of each individual event before heeding the dates and locations listed below.

### Sacramento Poetry Center Spring Writing Conference

April 4, 2020, Sacramento CA

<http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.com/>

Sacramento Poetry Center presents their annual conference.

### Our Life Stories Writers' Conference

Note: Registration required by April 8, 2020

April 18, 2020, Sacramento CA

<https://ourlifestories.org/>

"Envisioning Our Lives 20/20 Conference" – a cross-generational memoir conference. The focus of the annual event is the collection and writing of family stories and memoirs.

### SCBWI Spring Spirit 2020

Note: Deadline to register is April 15, 2020

Sacramento Poetry Center Spring Writing Conference

April 4, 2020, Sacramento CA

<http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.com/>

Sacramento Poetry Center presents their annual conference.

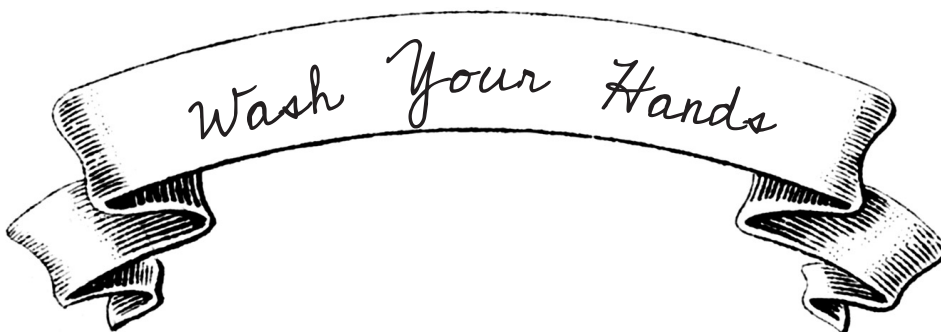
### Belize Writers' Conference

April 25-30, 2020, Jaguar Reef Resort, Belize

<https://www.joeygarcia.com/events/>

"Breathe new life into your writing while building friendships with literary agents, authors, and writers at the third annual Belize Writers' Conference."

Continued on Page 10



# Poetry Page

## Uncertainty

In the midst of uncertainty,  
Where the fields of doubt lie exposed,  
It is not known for sure how precious our time is here,  
Doubt, strange happenings and trials may deter the most apt,  
Though they exist for what is determined for you.  
You are you for a reason, you are here for a purpose, yet even this is temporal.  
Guidance may sometimes knock on your door, yet this too is often unclear,  
but is it possible to keep treading forward? We know not whether we have tomorrow.  
Can your heart find ease, even if it seems impossible, will calmness overtake your soul;  
and yes even this will not last.

Where is the respite for this difficulty, will ease arrive and bear its elusive appearance  
lest all hope is lost.

This is the trial for you, for another and for most, even when you think you are alone.  
You see we analyze, we think, hoping we can understand it all,  
Yet when we search in our reflection we don't even understand the image,  
Which purports to provide a justification of what is contained therein.  
Sometimes it yields to a momentary truth while often it is stagnant in a pool  
of yearning.

Hoping to break free from the mundane, the lost among the lost.  
Most will never surpass this, adorned with dross, barricaded in dust; nothing but walls that  
separates us further from what we thought was so near.

We can offer an excuse, make conjecture and even provide a reason; all this with  
our flawed thinking,  
This is what we understand--nothing.  
So why do so many of us think that we are more than this?

This veil of uncertainty, of tangible granting us the façade of what is actual.  
We look back even to our deepest moments and know that it too is fleeting.  
So who are we to define what we see before us, after all none of it is real.

— Patricia M. Muhammad

### **"Shakespeare wrote King Lear while in quarantine..."**

*a few hilarious thoughts from writers on Twitter:*

"Shakespeare wrote King Lear while in quarantine... I myself will be writing a spec script about Britney and Ryan Gosling switching bodies at the mouseketeer tryouts in Orlando in '92"

— Naomi Fry (@frynaomifry)

"Fair point, but I'll bet he had childcare."

— Emily St. J. Mandel (@EmilyMandel)

"i solemnly swear i will not use this time to write king lear"

— Claire Comstock-Gay (@MmeClairevoyant)

"have fun writing king lear everyone, i'm going to play mario kart"

— Rumaan Alam (@Rumaan)

## Conferences and Events

*Continued from Page 9*

### Independent Bookstore Day

April 25, 2020

<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.

### WordSpring

Creative Writing Conference

April 25, 2020, Oroville CA

<https://buttewordspring.org>

9th Annual WordSpring Creative Writing Conference

### Gold Rush Writers Conference

May 1-3, 2020, Mokelumne Hill CA

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

15th Annual Gold Rush Writers Conference

### Sonoma County

Writers Conference

May 2, 2020, Santa Rosa CA

<https://redwoodwriters.org>

11th Redwood Writers Conference

### Nonfiction Writers Conference

May 6-8, 2020, Online

<https://nonfictionwritersconference.com>

10th Annual Nonfiction Writers Conference. — WT





# APRILS PAST



2015



2016



2017



2018

2019





# Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Let us know if you have any success with any of the contests listed in Writers Talk. (Or any other contest for that matter.) Send your writing victories to

membernews@southbaywriters.com and any new stories, poems, articles, etc. to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

You can also check other branches for their current contests, submission, anthology, etc. requests. See a list of other CWC branches at

<https://calwriters.org/cwcbbranches/>

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.

## APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

Here are some sites with themed activities and prompts (Poem a Day, etc.):

POETS.ORG (American Academy of Poets, American Poets magazine and other resources)

- <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>

WRITERS DIGEST PAD (Poem a Day) prompts

- <https://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/poetic-asides/poetry-challenge-2020/2020-april-pad-challenge-guidelines>

NAPOWRIMO National Poetry Writing Month.

- <http://www.napowrimo.net>

POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA

- <https://poetrysociety.org/>

## OTHER SITES FOR POETS

*Up The Staircase Quarterly*: submit 3-6 poems in a single document. Submit up to 10 .jpgs for art. No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork is okay.

- <https://www.upthestaircase.org/>

Poets & Writers: lists poetry and other contests.

- [https://www.pw.org/blogs/prize\\_reporter](https://www.pw.org/blogs/prize_reporter)

*The Thimble Magazine*: a quarterly online journal.

- <https://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/>

*Poetry Pacific*: literary e-zine - 2 issues per year - Spring and Fall.

- Published and unpublished welcome as long as you still have the rights.
- <https://poetrypacific.blogspot.com/>

Authors Publish: Poetry Manuscript Publishers

- No Reading Fees
- <https://www.authorspublish.com/>

Trish Hopkinson Blog

- <https://trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/>

No Fee Calls for Poems - A Facebook Group that lists contests that don't charge fees

Ace World Pub Submission Lists

- <https://aceworldpub.com.ng/category/latest-opportunities/>

Poetry Society of America

- <https://poetrysociety.org/>

Some Facebook Poetry Groups

- Poetry Center San José
- Willow Glen Poetry Project
- National Poetry Month (write a poem-a-day challenge)
- How Writers Write Poetry Community Group
- No Fee Calls for Poems

## LOCAL RESOURCES

2020 San Francisco Book Festival: call for entries. Annual program celebrating the best books of the spring season.

- Deadline June 25th.
- <http://www.sanfranciscobookfestival.com/>

*The Literary Nest*: a local online publication. Check website for submission period for current issue.

- Send visual art in high res .jpeg, .gif, or .png format to [theliterarynest@gmail.com](mailto:theliterarynest@gmail.com)
- <https://theliterarynest.com/>

*Catamaran Literary Reader*: a West Coast quarterly literary and visual arts journal. Fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and fine art. Submissions year-round with a quarterly production cycle. Submission fee includes a coupon for a \$14 discount on their website store.

- <https://catamaranliteraryreader.com/>

Fremont Area Writers lists many resources on their page, such as Contest Announcements, Publications Seeking Submissions, Freelance Jobs, Resources for Screenwriters. Genre Organizations, and more

AWP Association of Writers and Writing Programs

- <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers/>

Poetry Foundation

- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org>

## OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS

*The Writer Magazine*: contests, articles, resources and you can subscribe to their newsletter.

<https://www.writermag.com/contests/>

The Write Life: 31 Free Writing Contests: Legitimate Competitions With Cash Prizes

<https://thewritelife.com/writing-contests/>

Sequestum Literature and Art: a "competitive, paying market which publishes high-quality short fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual arts on a rolling basis." Previously unpublished - any print or online format. Nominal reading fee. Can subscribe. See link for details.

<https://www.sequestum.org/submissions>

*The Bitter Oleander Press*: a Journal of Contemporary International Poetry & Short Fiction

- <https://www.bitteroleander.com>

Winning Writers: Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest - Fiction and nonfiction.

- Submission period: Oct 15-Apr 30. Total prizes: \$5,000.
- <https://www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview>
- <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

*Continued on Page 13*

# Contests and Markets

*Continued from Page 12*

The Black Orchid Novella Award From The Wolfe Pack: the official Nero Wolfe Society. Must be an original unpublished work of fiction that conforms to the tradition of the *Nero Wolfe* series.

- Deadline: May 31
- [https://www.nerowolfe.org/html/literary\\_awards/black\\_orchid\\_award/Black\\_Orchid\\_award\\_proc.htm](https://www.nerowolfe.org/html/literary_awards/black_orchid_award/Black_Orchid_award_proc.htm)

## OTHER RESOURCES

Poets & Writers

- <https://www.pw.org/grants>

MWA NorCal Chapter\* - Mystery Writers of America

- <https://mwanorcal.org/>

The Write Life\*

- <https://thewritelife.com/writing-contests/>

Funds For Writers - Contests, submissions, grants, etc.

- <https://fundsforwriters.com/contests/>

Freedom With Writing\* - submissions, contests, jobs, and more

- <https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/>

Authors Publish\*

- <http://www.authorspublish.com/>

The Best Writing Contests curated by Reedsy

- <https://blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/>

NewPages Classifieds

- <https://www.newpages.com/>

Hidden River Arts

- <https://hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com/>

ProWritingAid Writer's Community Facebook group

The Do's and Don'ts of Dialogue from *The Writer Magazine*.

- <https://www.writermag.com/improve-your-writing/fiction/dos-donts-dialogue/>

Here's How Writers Get Stories, Poems, and Novels Published

- <https://writersrelief.com/2018/08/20/heres-how-writers-get-stories-poems-and-novels-published-writers-relief/>

Writer's Digest Workshops

- <https://www.writersonlineworkshops.com/>

Poets & Writers - conferences/residencies

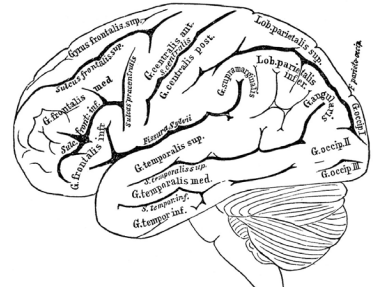
- [https://www.pw.org/conferences\\_and\\_residencies](https://www.pw.org/conferences_and_residencies)

Authors Publish

- <https://www.authorspublish.com/how-to-get-your-writing-published-in-2020/>

*\* On both the Internet and Facebook.*

— WT



"I tell you, we are here on Earth to fart around, and don't let anybody tell you different."

— Kurt Vonnegut,  
*A Man Without a Country*

## Unofficial Recap: CWC Meeting via Zoom

*by Marjorie Johnson*

On Saturday, March 21, CWC SF Peninsula Branch held their monthly meeting via the Zoom platform. One signs in before the meeting, and participants can see each other as well as the speaker in real time. The audience was muted but could respond by text. As an aside, each participant sat at a computer in his/her home office; it was interesting to see each one's office space.

Joan Gelfand presented "You Can Be a Winning Writer: The 4 C's Approach to Author Success." Her book by the same title is available on Amazon, and on Kindle for instant gratification.

Gelfand showed slides for the 4 C's: Craft, Commitment, Community, and Confidence. The titles of the slides give an outline of her talk.

- Commitment: I will ... Since writers are self-motivated, it's important to write down the game plan.
- Starting from Zero? Write your writer's resume and have the answer for "What else have you published?"
- Rejections, setbacks, and starting over.
- Build your platform. Social media gives a start, but all groups that you belong to should be part of your platform and your email list. Need to sell (or show possibility of selling) 5,000 books to interest an agent or publisher.
- Community. "Writers helping writers." Volunteer in CWC branches.
- Reciprocity: "Quod Pro Quo." (Slide produced way before present political scene.)
- Confidence
- Promotion
- Post publication.

The meeting was a success. SBW should look into Zoom. At \$30 per month, it's a real bargain. — WT

# 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:** 3:00 third Sundays, 1204 Preservation Park Way, Oakland. [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, 42 Silicon Valley, 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 third Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. [cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com](http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com)

**Napa Valley:** 7:00 second Wednesdays, Napa Valley Unitarian Church, Napa. [napavalley-writers.net](http://napavalley-writers.net)

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

**Redwood:** 2:00 second 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

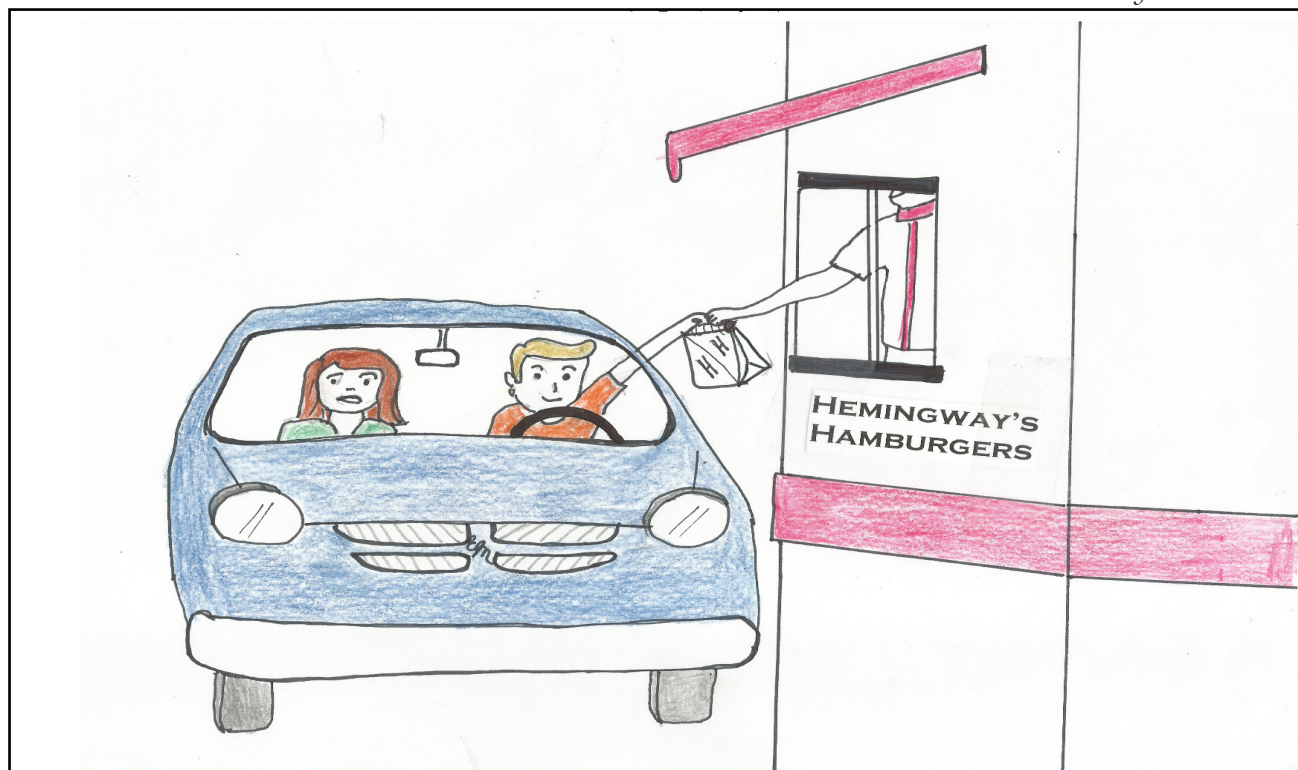
**Tri-Valley:** 1:30 third Saturdays, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton. [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org)

## 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.

## Off the Shelf

by Edie Matthews



"It's 'Moveable' but it's not a 'Feast.'"



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 2020</b>			1	2	3	4
5	6 2p Valley Writers (Zoom)	7	8 No Board Meeting!	9	10	11
12	13 2p Valley Writers (Zoom) No Dinner Meeting!	14	15 <b>DEADLINE:</b> <i>WritersTalk</i> Submission	16	17	18
19	20 2p Valley Writers (Zoom)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 2p Valley Writers (Zoom)	28	29	30	<b>Write On!</b>	

## Upcoming Events

**DINNER MEETING**  
TBA

**BOARD MEETING**  
TBA

Remain at home, keep social distancing,  
and STAY HEALTHY, SBW!

## 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)

**Morgan Hill Writers Group:** Meets at the Starbucks on Walnut Grove in Morgan Hill, Tuesdays at 6 pm. Critique group for long and short fiction (any genre). Contact: Vanessa MacLaren-Wray -- [vmacwray@gmail.com](mailto:vmacwray@gmail.com).

**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*.

### 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.

### SBW Board Meetings

Board meets on Wednesdays, 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).

## SBW/CWC Events

appear on this calendar page.

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

### 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**

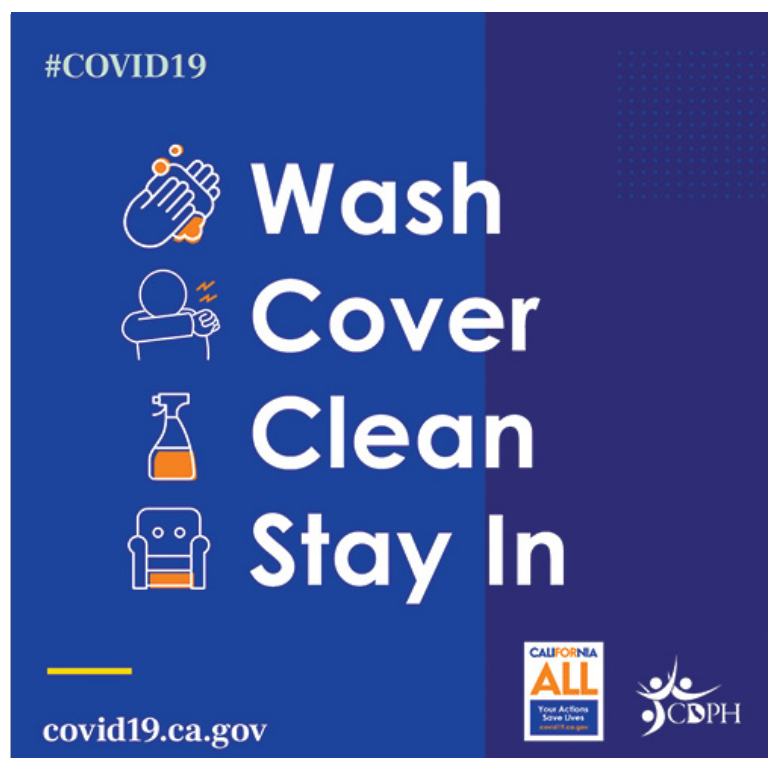
Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers  
Regular Dinner Meeting  
has been POSTPONED for April  
due to the Santa Clara County  
Shelter in Place order  
(active until May 3)**

**Upcoming Events  
and Speakers TBA  
Check Your Email  
for Updates!**

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 Summer BBQ, December, and workshop months



**Dinner Meetings at China Stix**

located at 2110 El Camino Real in Santa Clara

will resume when Shelter in Place is lifted. WRITE ON!