



WRITERSTALK

Volume 28
Number 02
February 2019

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

FEBRUARY SPEAKER: LISA MENDELMAN

Sex Scenes, More or Less

by Jamal Khan

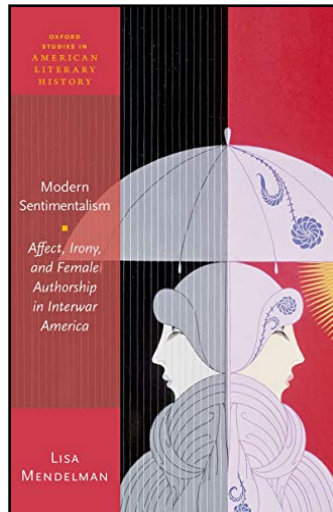


Few passages in a narrative are as cringe-inducing for both writer and reader as the notorious sex scene. But it doesn't have to be that way. A well-written sex scene can add to the sensory vividness and emotional depth of a story without crossing into the gratuitous. If details are too sparse, the reader will feel that something is missing. On the other hand, overly graphic descriptions may come off as excessive and try-hard, weighing down the work rather than allowing it to soar. But if the writer achieves the right balance, the sex scene becomes an essential component of the work, lifting it

to new heights of lyricism, catharsis, and, yes, titillation. In our dinner meeting on February 10, Lisa Mendelman will show us how to achieve this exquisite balance in the writing of a sex scene.

Lisa Mendelman is an Assistant Professor of English at Menlo College. She holds a PhD in English from UCLA and BA and MA degrees from Stanford University. She researches and teaches at the intersections of science and affect in American literature since 1865. Her first book, *Modern Sentimentalism* (Oxford UP, 2019), chronicles the emotional history of the modern woman and the corollary reinvention of sentimentalism in US interwar fiction. Additional and ongoing research interests include digital humanities, the history of mental health, and visual and material culture.

An educator and a writer for over a decade, Lisa teaches courses on topics ranging from modernist literature and the American bildungsroman to sex in popular culture. Her writing has been published in such venues as *American Literary History*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Arizona Quarterly*, and *Modern Fiction Studies*.



JANUARY RECAP: AMY ROGERS

Science Thrillers and How to Write One

by Marjorie Johnson

Our January dinner meeting was one of the best SBW events I have ever attended. Our new venue, China Stix, was comfortable, quiet, and conducive to enjoying a good presentation and saying hello to old friends. Because science thrillers are my favorite kind of book, I prepared myself for the evening by reading the speaker's *Petroplague*, a book I just could not put down.

Our speaker, Amy Rogers, gave a dynamite discourse on writing a thriller novel, and on crafting good fiction. Yes, I know—you wanted me to write “dynamic” and to delete the comma after novel. Amy says there are no rules, only things to avoid or to do improve one's writing. To me, the noun dynamite describes her lecture and the way it encouraged me to get back to writing, and the pause caused by the comma puts more emphasis on crafting.

Most of Amy's tips apply to any writing for a general audience. Many readers skip over the “dull” parts, turned off by long, dense paragraphs and even by long sentences. The work appears more exciting when readers see more white space on the pages. Shorter sentences and paragraphs lead to easier readability. She also discussed how to write better dialogue.

How did this Harvard-educated scientist, PhD as well as MD, get into writing fiction? She said that California Writers Club, especially the Sacramento Branch, started her on writing science thrillers. She frames her stories with real science, how things really work here on earth, and she explains the science needed without info dumps. Her thrillers are not

Where: China Stix (NEW LOCATION)

2110 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95050

When: Monday January 13 at 6pm; talk begins at 7:30pm

Admission: \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

Cost of admission includes a percentage rebate on the purchase of a dinner

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Between the Lines

Edie Matthews



Stars in Alignment

We guaranteed 35 would show up. This was the deal made with China Stix Restaurant in order to book their banquet room and get a small discount on the price. Even if fewer people came to the meeting, we were obligated to pay for 35. I was prepared to ask for to-go meals and pass them out to members if we had fewer attend. However, by 6:15, a quick head count indicated 30 people had found their way to our new venue--and more folks kept drifting in. By 7 pm, we reached the final count of 56.

Whew! Off to a good start.

Four large circular tables were set for forty. Wisely, two extra tables in the back were on hand if needed -- and they were needed. Place settings were swiftly brought out to accommodate the overflow. Half of one of the back tables catered to vegetarians, and a late arrival who asked for a gluten free meal.

I was particularly impressed with the staff. They were polite, efficient, and professional. People arrived and were checking out the place and deciding where to sit. It took a while to get settled, and dinner was served a tad later for early arrivals. However, when I said, please start serving, large platters of Chinese chicken salad were immediately brought out and placed on the lazy susans (family style) and diners dug in.

This was followed by a steady stream of courses. Since we didn't have a set menu, we were all curious to view the next dish. I lost track of how many but remember broccoli beef, shrimp pecan (so good!), sweet & sour pork, a vegetable dish, fried rice, and chow mein. A pitcher of water was placed on the table and a pot of hot tea -- that was refilled when empty. Finally, fortune cookies completed the meal.

My motto is "waste not, want not." When I noticed leftovers, I asked for to-go containers to be distributed. Part of the fun of eating in a Chinese restaurant is taking home leftovers. So those who wanted them had them for the next day.

China Stix has a podium and a professional sound system. We didn't have our portable microphone, but we will make arrangements to bring it in February and connect it to their system. Also they set up their screen and projector to accommodate our speaker Amy Rogers' engaging and informative Powerpoint presentation.

The weather cooperated, too. No one had to drive in a rainstorm to seek out the new location. And though the parking lot was crowded near the restaurant, there were lots of spaces. In addition, both Sprouts and Target are open late, so after the meeting, people had time to do some last-minute shopping.

I spoke to members who drove from south San Jose. Naturally, there was traffic, but as one person said, "Not as bad as I thought it would be."

The head waiter, James, could not have been more helpful. Whatever we needed, he provided with a smile. The owner, Frank Chang, was every bit as gracious. Of course, he was delighted (as we were) at the turnout. He said each month there would be a variation in the menu.

I can hardly wait! -- WT

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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, 2020. 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

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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 (1200-1800 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay/Nonfiction (1000 words)

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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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I'm Sick Of It!

I am nothing if not two things: a writer, and a mild germaphobe. I hate getting sick; nothing bothers me more than time and energy lost from being sick. Unfortunately, the natural biology that comes from having a five-year-old means I am *always* getting sick. In January, I went a whole week—seven straight days—without writing a single thing.

How did it happen? It began on a Monday, when my daughter caught a stomach virus. It kept her home from school for two days, so: no writing done, too busy nursing the pukes and cleaning up after. What about Wednesday? Viruses are contagious little buggers. Four A.M. rolls around and I'm jolted awake by stomach cramps that hit harder than Joe Louis' left hook. Doctor's orders: I drank (really nasty tasting) Pedialyte, gummed anti-nausea pills, and spent the next twenty hours seized up in bed. By Thursday, I was (mostly) back on my feet, only to get a call from the school that my daughter was in the nurse's office with a cold. She came home with a fresh fever, runny nose and a really bad attitude. Who can peacefully toil away in the word mines when a little kid is hollering distractions at your office door? There goes Friday. On Saturday, after the fifth child-related interruption that morning (her cat, she wailed, would not stop farting), I gave up. I closed my drafts. Writing wasn't happening, and I needed to just let it go.

This column is an editorial space, not a Facebook rant; I won't bemoan the fate that befalls pretty much every writer that's ever picked up a pen. Instead, I hope to normalize the reality that, sometimes, writing not only won't happen but can't. We get worn out. We get sick. We get overloaded by life's lemons, and what else is there to do besides sit down and drink the Vitamin C-infused lemonade?

I tried to alter my viewpoint to that of a more industrious writer. I could look at these roadblocks on my critical writing path and say, "unfortunate, yes, but not insurpassable." If you can't write, can you be productive towards your writing in other ways? A week may have passed without a single word going into my drafts, but bedrest allowed for plenty of reading. I finished two books, crunched through a backlog of podcast episodes, and watched as many writing videos on Youtube as my tired eyes could stand. Whenever I had a spare moment, I meditated on my drafts--the characters, the plot arcs, the upcoming action--and took notes on my phone each time a new idea or plot bunny would pop up.

And, alas: responsibility requires sacrifice. My husband and I really love to rent movies on Vudu and watch them after our daughter goes to bed. "Sorry," I told him on Sunday, "I really want to see *The Lighthouse*, but we have to move it to another night. I've got 800 words to crank out, or I'll really fall behind." Later, I missed out on an outing with friends so I could 1) recuperate and 2) catch up on some much-needed editing. It felt a little anti-social, cancelling fun plans with fun people to instead stay home and do such un-fun tasks. But readers like clunky prose about as much as my friends like spreading stomach bugs. We can always catch up in February.

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View from the Board

by Marjorie Johnson



Marjorie Johnson
SBW Secretary

On January 8, the SBW Board met at President Edie Matthews' home: Jamal Khan, Marjorie Johnson, Trenton Myers, Inga Silva, Jessica McDole, Tatyana Grinenko, Alfred Jan, and guest Carolyn Donnell.

Minutes of the November 19, 2019, meeting were approved. There was no board meeting in December.

President Edie Matthews discussed our new venue, China Stix, 2110 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, finalized after an email Board vote in December. Our new meeting time will be second Mondays, 6 p.m.

Vice President Jamal Khan announced our upcoming speakers:

- January 13, Amy Rogers, "Tips for Creating a Sci-Fi Thriller"
- February 10, Lisa Mendelman, "Sex Scenes, More or Less"
- March 9, Cara Black, *New York Times* Bestselling Mystery Author, "Writing a Mystery Series or Stand Alone."

CWC NorCal representative Dave LaRoche sent a report on the CWC Literary Review 2020. Go to <https://calwriters.org> for submission guidelines; deadline February 29.

We discussed the state of the club and reports from committee chairs.

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, February 5 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. —WT

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Staff the CWC Booth and you
can attend the San Francisco
Writer's Conference!



Meet other writers, editors, agents, publishers, and new friends in the writing world!

Contact Carole Bumpus--
carolebumpus@gmail.com

--to inquire how you can
help our club!



FICTION

Senior Moments

by Laurence Krumm

"Terry, your mom and I are going for a walk."

Terry emerged from the kitchen to see Bud in the mudroom buttoning Ginny into her blue-checked, fleece-lined, flannel jacket. Red was her favorite color but she loved the light-blue checked coat with the fleece collar Bud had bought her a few years before.

Once Ginny was secured, Bud plucked his navy-blue wool pea coat off its peg along with Ginny's red watch cap from the shelf. He handed her the hat, then worked his arms into his jacket. Ginny pulled the hat over her head.

After his coat was buttoned, Bud pushed the gray-blond strands off Ginny's face and stared into her amber eyes while straightening the hat over her ears. She stared back at him. He put his own watch cap on and pulled his gloves out of his pockets. "Your gloves are in your pockets, dear," he said, tapping the side of her coat. She fumbled for her gloves. From the shelf, he pulled his binoculars and dropped the strap over his head before helping Ginny get the right glove on the right hand.

He handed her her binoculars and held up the strap so she could duck her head under.

Bud held the door for Ginny. "We'll be back in a while," he told Terry.

Terry watched them walk hand in hand across the mostly brown lawn to the mostly denuded forest and disappear in the trees.

With the kitchen chores done, Terry decided to lay a fire in the wood-burning stove. Bud had bought and installed the fireplace insert over twenty years ago, and it had been used most winter and late fall nights ever since.

The next time Terry paid attention, it was after dark. The outside thermometer said it was almost freezing. Terry flipped on the outside porch light to help guide Bud and Ginny home. Searching out through the window, Terry saw little but a reflection of self and the room; the porch light didn't illuminate enough to see anyone approaching.

It was another ten minutes before Ginny burst in, red-cheeked and laughing, followed by an equally rosy-faced Bud. He set both sets of binoculars on the shelf above the coat hooks before pulling off his right glove and stuffing it in his pocket. He tapped Ginny's hand to cue her to do the same. She followed his lead, repeating an action she had probably been doing since she was a child.

"Welcome back, you two. I was starting to worry. It's getting awfully cold out there."

"Yes, cold," said Ginny making a *brr* sound.

Bud hung his pea coat on the hook and started unbuttoning Ginny's jacket. When he peeled it back, she turned so her arms came out of the sleeves, and he hung hers on the peg next to his.

Continued on Page 13

February News from SBW Members

by Marjorie Johnson

Carolyn Donnell will have several poems appearing in the Cupertino community anthology, *Celebrate Creativity*. The book has more than 300 pages of poetry and prose from local poets and writers, a beautiful collection of community voices compiled by Kaecey McCormick, Cupertino Poet Laureate. The book's release date is set for February 27, 2020. One of **Kelly Harrison's** stories will also be included.

In December, **Penny Cole**, **Marjorie Johnson**, and **Luanne Oleas** sold books at Barnes & Noble, Hillsdale, with writers from CWC SF Peninsula Branch. SF Peninsula goes to that venue twice a year.

On January 11, **Marjorie Johnson** gave a presentation and sold her novel, *Bird Watcher*, at Half Price Books in Fremont. Don't let the name fool you: HPB is a posh place. The book, the tale of a stolen Cessna and its owner/pilot's pursuit of the thief, takes place locally, at Palo Alto Airport. Nancy Guarnera (Fremont Area Writers) makes color flyers and two 16 by 20 posters, one for each HPB window where they fly for three weeks preceding the two-hour event. Perhaps someone from SBW will be inspired to sponsor such a monthly happening.

Louise Webb was the featured resident of Saratoga in the January 2020 *Saratoga Spotlight*. Her picture appears on the first page, and on page 4, she holds a copy of her book, *Best of Our Memoirs*. Genevieve Laucher writes about Louise in "Looking Forward to a Fun-Filled 2020."

Bob Garfinkle reports: "the California Map Society asked me for an article on the history of mapping and naming the Moon. The article is about 2,000 words including the references and a brief bio of me. It includes 19 images of map of the Moon going back to 1600. The title is "Four Hundred Years of Mapping and Naming the Moon." The society publishes its journal twice a year and my article is scheduled for their March issue."

Maddy McEwen Asker writes: Just wanted to let you know that my short story "Benevolent Dictatorship" has been accepted by Mysti Berry (editor) for the anthology *Low Down Dirty Vote*:

A Crime Fiction Anthology, Volume 2 about stolen votes to be published on the 4th of July. The \$\$\$'s go to charity.

At the same meeting, **Valerie Estelle Frankel** said she has branched out into a children's book, *Chelm for the Holidays*, a collection of ten tall tales, old and new. Chelm is the Village of Fools, where celebrating Jewish holidays has never been sillier, but you don't need to be a child or to be Jewish to enjoy these stories.

Steinbeck Scholar **Audry Lynch** reports that a Steinbeck festival will be held at the National Steinbeck Museum in Salinas July 31 – August 2, 2020. This year's theme is Cannery Row, celebrating the 75th of the writing of *Cannery Row*. This will be the 39th Steinbeck Festival held at the Steinbeck Museum. More information will follow at steinbeck.org. Also, the Steinbeck Museum will host its young author program on March 2.

Please send your writing news to me at membernews@southbaywriters.com. If I don't hear about it, I cannot feature your news here, which would be a shame.

— WT

Continued on Page 5

I'm Sick of It!

Continued from Page 3

There was a bright side to this sickly dilemma. I was having trouble with the exposition in one of my short story drafts, and a week's worth of mental distance from the piece gave me the clarity I needed to figure out how to fix it. Because I chugged through two (admittedly boring) books, I had a sense of completion, as well as the fresh feeling you get when you feel confident of your own prose. I was finally feeling a little healthier, and the week didn't feel like a total bust.

Still, I could do without the germs. I could do without the downtime, the dearth of energy, and the delays. And, all industrious viewpoints aside, I could definitely do without the Pedialyte. If you get sick this spring, avoid the cherry flavor. It tastes like someone seasoned a pitcher of Kool-Aid with Morton's kosher salt. Bleh! — WT

Memoirists Live an Examined Life

by Betty Auchard

Socrates said, "the unexamined life isn't worth living." Mine must be worthwhile, as I've examined my time on earth through the stories I've written.

I came into the world with an optimistic temperament, but melancholy settled over me on a few occasions. The first happened in the third grade. A handsome boy I liked didn't like me because of my straight hair. My hurt feelings lasted for no more than a day because sadness was so boring that I dumped him, even though he'd never been mine.

I also felt down in the dumps when my mother, dad, brother, sister, and I had to move to a sight-unseen apartment house in Denver. We had expected a nice home, but we got the worst place imaginable. I cried privately so no one would notice. Luckily, we didn't have to stay there long and soon found decent housing.

My family traveled on an imaginary ship that sailed in all kinds of weather, sometimes calm but often stormy. If we'd been looking for "normal," we would never have recognized it, because our wobbly up-and-down, back-and-forth kind of voyage seemed normal to us.

I've written about my adventures growing up in a zany, nomadic family. I've told my story of meeting and marrying Denny and the follow-up story of becoming a mother to eleven young men before having children of our own. I've poured out words as a way of handling widowhood. I have examined my existence from every vantage point.

Those of us who write memoirs share our experiences with others, hoping they resonate with the reader. In the process, we rediscover who we were then and discover who we are now. — WT



2020 San Francisco Writers Conference

A Our 17th Celebration of Craft, Commerce & Community

February 13-16, 2020—Presidents Day Weekend
at the **Hyatt Regency San Francisco**

FEATURING:



BROOKE WARNER

Author (*Green Light Your Book* and *Write on Sisters*), editor and founder of She Writes Press.



ARMAND BALTAZAR

Author of *Timeless* and *Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic*. He is a brilliant illustrator, too.

WALTER MOSLEY

Bestselling, award-winning author known for his 'Easy Rawlins' series.



JONATHAN MABERRY

New York Times best-selling author—his *Rot to Ruin* series is in development for film—and founder of the Writers' Coffeehouse.



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- Includes four days of sessions and workshops, Ask-a-Pro event, 3 breakfasts/1 luncheon, Gala party, access to the Books-to-Screen Summit and Poetry Summit, 'Practice Your Pitch' with Tri-Valley Writers. FREE consult with an editor or publicist/book coach. (One consult of each type per attendee!) and much more.
- Speed Dating with Agents is still only an additional \$75. BUT if you are a returning SFWC attendee, it's FREE!
- Optional one-on-one conversations with agents will be available exclusively for attendees, too.

Register now for discount pricing of \$850 for the full conference thru January. (Register today—price will be \$895 on Feb. 1st)

- **SFWC Poetry Summit** is included OR just \$195 on its own. (Full day—Feb. 15—writing poetry and getting published!)
- **SFWC Writing for Hollywood** included OR just \$249 on its own. (Full day—Feb. 15—break into screenwriting!)

Need a Room? SFWC Room Rate at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco is \$259 until 1/21 based on availability. Use this code: **SFWR MASTER CLASSES** are open to all. Great teachers. Excellent topics. Register on the website!

Details and online registration at:

www.SFWriters.org

Available NOW. Register online:

Writing for Hollywood Summit, SFWC Poetry Summit, and Master Classes.



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Want to be a sponsor or scholarship benefactor? Contact Barbara Santos, Barbara@SFWriters.org.

Questions about either of these events? Contact us at registrations@SFWriters.org

1/9/20

Goodbye California, Winnemucca Here We Come!

by *Chris Weilert*

August 2018

We cashed in and sold our home in Silicon Valley to move to the rocky pastures of Winnemucca, Nevada. One can buy a castle in Winnemucca and be a king with the haul of greenbacks you can get for unloading your three-bedroom two bath home. We didn't really want a castle but purchased a ranch style abode along with a nice spread of barren land for our kids to enjoy their very own go kart track. Life was grand.

September 2019

The late summer in Winnemucca is sweet. The average day temperature is ninety-one degrees much like back home. Oh...I mean back in our old home in the Valley. We wear shorts and tee shirts all day long and are definitely installing a pool next year, a real built-in beauty not like the cheap above-ground tin can ones I see around here. We are even considering a large barbeque area and pergola for our outdoor parties. Damn...we can have California right here in our Northern Nevada home. Why didn't we move here a long time ago?

October 2019

Well, according to our kids there is not a lot of choices for fun like they had in Cupertino. I told them they will have to learn to make their own fun. Oh, I have to say the people here are nicer, they say, "Hi, how are you" and hold doors open for you. The weather is cooling a little and we had a freak windstorm blow our patio umbrella down the street. So funny it landed two blocks down the road.

November 2019

We are settling into our new home but decided not to unpack all our outdoor furniture and accessories. The temperatures are dropping, and the days are shorter with this goddam useless Daylight Savings time. It only got up to 49 degrees and I was freezing my nuts off, so I had to put on long pants. We stay inside more at night and Cynthia is cranking out soup like she has a job at Panera Bread. We are gearing up a big ski season and so excited about having snow in close proximity. I am thinking about getting a real four-wheel drive because I don't think our Honda Cube will be suitable.

December 2019

Gosh, I remember having to pay those high property taxes in California every December, damn near killed me to write that check and please don't get me started on the DMV fees. Today we had a snow shower and the road to the grocery store was icy. I slid for twenty feet and start turning sideways. It was kind of fun and I'm sure I will figure it out soon enough. The kids are settling in school but are disappointed that computers are not as efficient and no one knows how to fix them. I had to go there and debug a few that were infested with porn viruses. I'm wear my Niners jersey around town but most of the folks around here can give two shits about them.

January 2019

We still haven't gone skiing because we haven't looked for a four-wheel drive vehicle yet. Cynthia doesn't want to go outside much. She drives me bonkers sometimes with her whining but I know we just have get used to our surroundings. They don't have Door Dash or Uber Eats around here so we cook a lot. I get tired of soup, so we bought a freezer to stock up on frozen dinners. The Hungry Man Fried Chicken is delicious. I am so glad I work from home because who wants to commute in the ice storm outside. Hell, they had a ten-car pile-up 95 just yesterday. We are looking at taking a vacation to Hawaii to warm up a little. The kids will have to stay home and go to school with my sister-law whom I will have to bribe.

February 2019

Cynthia's sister won't be able to make it to Winnemucca this winter. Looks like we are hunkering down until the spring when we can thaw out. We do go the Model T diner a lot, but the kids are tired of the menu and we sometimes make it over to Chihuahua's Cantina for fine Nevada Mexican food. The mole sauce is not as good as back home, I mean, in Cupertino. Cynthia slipped on ice going down stairs and broke her lower leg. Damn, what a setback for her. Now I have to do the cooking and cleaning. We will weather this storm.

March 2019

Cynthia is still limping around. Her complaints are easing up and we went outside today. It warmed up to 45 degrees today and we drove to Costco forty miles away. We put on our thermals and toughened up. I know I will be wearing my shorts in a month or two. Life will get back to normal soon enough.

April 2019

We took the kids to Hawaii for spring break. It cost me fortune but it was worth to get me some relief from non-stop bitching about weather, boredom, and overall crankiness from being around each other all the time. At least in Hawaii the kids will get away from us and play in the ocean. It took three days to get out of pool chair before I sobered up and went to luau.

May 2019

Cynthia dropped a bombshell on me today. She wants to move back to California. We got in big argument, but she told me I can stay here. She will go live with her sister in California. I am bummed that we're are leaving all of what we accomplished here. I was finally able to wear shorts today in Winnemucca. Man, just when it was getting good.

June 2019

We sold our house for less than we paid. We are going to move back to Cali and will live with Cynthia's sister. We can't afford to buy a house in Cupertino anymore in fact we will be living over in Lodi where we are only 90 miles away from our home in Cupertino. Good to be back home where I belong. — WT

SOME WRITER QUOTES TO CHEW ON

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

— Toni Morrison

"Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass."

— Anton Chekhov

An Excerpt from "Fever"

by Russ Towne

When Lorena finished washing, she tentatively stood, testing her unsteady legs as she leaned against a large boulder. The weakened woman teetered but didn't fall. Lorena dressed, and then walked to him.

"Well? What do you think?"

Whit was awe-struck by the transformation. The wretchedly ill yellow fever survivor had transformed into an alluring, brown-eyed, brunette beauty. The change was so startling it left Whit shocked and tongue-tied.

"Uh ... uh."

She frowned. "You can't find a single nice thing to say?"

"No, that's not —"

"No?"

"No, I mean yes."

Secretly amused by the effect the change made on him, she pretended to be angry. "Well, yes or no? It's a simple question after all."

Whit didn't like being stampeded, so he slowed down to collect his thoughts.

She pushed, becoming impatient, "Well?"

He blurted the truth he hadn't intended to say. "You're beautiful." The statement sounded more like a question.

"Well, thank you, I think."

A bit later, Whit said, "We can't catch the herd with the wagon. The trail is too steep and narrow for it. I know all your worldly possessions are in it, but —"

She interrupted, "I'm thinking of going on alone. In the wagon, with all my things, and Papa's, too."

Whit felt gut-punched. He thought, Why do I feel this way? Because she's beautiful? Admit it, that has something to do with it. But I've seen beautiful women before, and beauty alone never kept me interested for long. I'm not ready to settle down, and if I were, I'd want a lot of other qualities in a woman besides beauty. That fades. I want a woman who'll go the distance with me. One who I can laugh with and is easy to talk to. One who is strong

and can take whatever life throws at us.

Whit pressed, "Do you remember those three outlaws? What would have happened if you'd been alone when they came?"

She retorted indignantly, "I'll take one of the pistols and a rifle the robbers left. I can shoot."

Whit saw her look of determination falter. He added, but more gently. "There's another reason you can't take the wagon."

Hands on her hips and in a raised voice she said, "And why's that?"

"Because by now, most of the territory's heard about this wagon's connection to yellow fever. Panic and fear can turn civilized folks into angry mobs. The first people you came to would likely burn the wagon to the ground, maybe with you in it."

Silent tears fell from Lorena's eyes as she recognized the truth in his words. She'd already seen the people on the wagon train turn against her Papa and her and make deadly threats. They had considered some of those people friends. But she was angry, too furious to simply acquiesce. She needed someone to vent her anger, frustration, and disappointment on and Whit was the only one handy.

Lorena screamed, "You just don't care or understand!" Then she stormed away on her still-wobbly legs.

They didn't talk to each other all evening. The air between them was thick and heavy.

The wagon reeked of illness and death, so Lorena prepared her bedding under the stars and next to the campfire opposite from where Whit lay.

Neither one spoke, nor slept as they lay eight feet from each other. Even the crackling fire couldn't lull them to sleep.

Lorena's thoughts and feelings were a jumble of anger at the world and especially at herself for so poorly treating the man who had saved her life, gratitude and guilt for surviving but not being able to save her father, and despair

over the imminent loss of everything she owned, even her dreams of the future.

Whit's mind raced, too. Do I let her go on alone? What right do I have to stop her? Should I go with her to town instead of doing my job and getting back to the herd? With four men gone due to my decisions, the whole herd could be lost, and good men would probably die if rustlers hit them. I can't let that happen. But how could I live with myself if Lorena's attacked and I'm not there to help her? His painful questions swirled faster and faster, and with each rotation it became harder to breathe.

When it was time to leave the next morning, Whit thought, I can't put it off any longer. It's time to do yet another thing that will hurt this woman who's already suffered so much. The thought sickened him. He reached for a log burning in the campfire.

Lorena knelt beside him and touched his arm. She spoke softly, tearfully, but Whit noticed strength and determination in her voice. "I'll do it." There was no trace of anger, just resignation.

Whit nodded, stood, and backed away from the fire. Trembling, Lorena grasped one of the logs Whit had begun to reach for. She walked to the wagon that held so many things she loved, including her dreams. She burned them from her life with each searing touch of the flames.

Once she began, she didn't stop to mourn the loss of any of it. Her shaking hand holding the torch seemed to have a will of its own, as though realizing that the sooner the deed was done the healing could begin. Even as the heat grew intense, Lorena didn't back away from it. She stood her ground and did what needed to be done. When the wagon was fully engulfed, she threw the log into the conflagration, turned, and never looked back.

The young woman who walked toward Whit looked neither broken nor defeated. She walked tall. Fierce pride shined in her eyes. — WT

South Bay Writers January 2020



Mom's Expectations

by DeWayne Mason

My stepmother — whom I always called Mom — didn't study expectation theory. (I once heard her say she and her best friend barely graduated from high school.) But her beliefs about my future were a veritable gift.

My first memory of Mom's high expectations of me, reinforced by her countless retellings, occurred when I was age four, shortly after she brought home the fourth of six children. I was the oldest, her only stepchild from Dad's first marriage. To get Mom's attention while she washed dishes and looked out over the sink window, I tugged at her apron. Without missing a dish or bird flying by, she turned and said, "Go get your crayons and draw Mom a pretty picture. You're such a good artist." Sometimes before I even started my drawings, she made comments such as, "You're so good at art. I know you can make me another beautiful drawing. Maybe you'll be a famous artist one day."

These types of communications soon spread to other activities. When I played

catch with Dad, she told me, "You're good at catching and throwing the ball." Or "I bet you grow up to be a major league player." When I helped watch my little brother Larry, she would say, "Go teach Larry how to play catch," or "Help Larry draw a pretty picture of our house next to our walnut tree." While I was learning how to write, she often asked, "Can you write Mom a story?" During fifth grade she encouraged me to cover one of my baseball stories with red construction paper, fasten it with brass brads, and title the book with one of my pictures on the cover.

I understand Mom's efforts to keep me busy and nurture my energies. Even while dividing time between her other children, home duties, and Dad, she found positive ways to address my "Energizer Bunny" nature (noted by a kindergarten teacher on my first report card). Mom was my champion. Her messages always boosted my confidence. Dad messages were quite different.

One of my youngest brothers once told

me Mom treated me better than her "real" children. I think she did treat him differently, and I've often wondered what led him to that opinion and how much it affected him, especially since he withdrew from our family and his behavior became aberrant and self-destructive. She did tell me once that because of Dad's temper and the difficulties of my first two years — during which Dad divorced my birth mother, took sole custody of me, and shuffled me around to babysitters while he drove trucks all over the Midwest for days at a time — she tried to compensate and handle me so her care was beyond reproach.

As I wallowed in the daunting task of writing this book, her words came back to me: "You're good at telling stories. You'll probably be a writer when you get older." And it wasn't surprising when a few years ago at ninety-one, confined to a wheelchair in an assisted living facility, she was up to it again, remarking, "When are you and Phipps going to finish your book? I can hardly wait for you to read it to me." — WT

Off the Shelf

by Edie Matthews



"I just want a Big Mac..."

Senior Moments

Continued from Page 4

"Oh, you got a fire going," said Ginny. "That makes it so nice and cozy in here. I love it when we have a fire. Don't you, Bud?"

"Yes I do. Hat." She pulled the watch cap off her head and handed it to him to store on the shelf. Her hair was left askew from the cap's removal and the static electricity. Bud gently pushed it back off her face and behind her ears.

"Hot chocolate anyone?" Terry asked.

"Oooh, that sounds so good. Doesn't it Bud?"

"Sure, count me in."

"So, what were you two doing so long out there?"

After storing his own hat on the shelf, Bud tried to straighten his hair in the hallway mirror, and answered, "Looking for

birds, squirrels, rabbits. Anything willing to show itself on a evening like this."

"So, did you see wildlife?"

"No, not really."

"So what were you looking at all that time?"

Bud looked into Ginny's amber eyes and her honey sweet smile and said, "Each other."

"Yes, we did," said Ginny wrapping Bud in a bear hug, rubbing noses before planting a long kiss on his mouth, then burying her head in his neck and snuggling. Bud hugged back as best he could, but she had his arms pinned at his side.

They snuggled in front of the fire with their hot chocolate while Terry set the table for dinner. — WT



"To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs."

— Aldous Huxley

Not fully broken, I have only stumbled

The dog
The dog is the key
See, because She

She still sees me

She watches whether I am moving or still, aware of me
Seems I am not really so invisible to dogs
They resonate in my deepest
Howling
Sometimes growling
Soul and
They know they are safe with me

She is kind and she knows the map of scents that I am
She knows how my sighs smell
She understands my smiles and loves the cook in me
The joyous squirrel walks and time quiet in snow
My tears are salt for her
Her tail and and the orientation of paws indicate her mind
Eyes that always smile at me in that subtle way

In this weird pack of ours
She still watches it all and welcomes
the fire built for this cold night
— Michael Hahn

Poetry Page

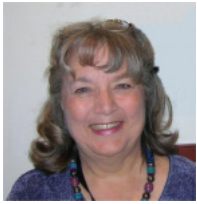
I think love is a big bear
She sits wherever she wants
For such a big critter, she knows
How to sneak up quietly
Sometimes her cold wet nose
Surprises me
Pressing hard against my skin

She is fierce claws and crushes with long jaws
She is tender and strong
She can be a pain in the ass
getting into all my stuff
And scattering it everywhere

So remember in the cold Winter night
She hibernates a long, long time
Before lumbering out to smile at the warming sun
Persistent and curious and quite hard to ignore
Always beautiful
Rare and quite
Wild
— Michael Hahn

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/cwcbranches/>

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.

CONTESTS WITH NEARING DEADLINES

Writer's Digest Contests

- Self-Published Book Awards deadline: 04/01/20
- Annual Writing Competition deadline: 05/04/20

<https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/>

LOCAL PUBLICATIONS AND CONTESTS

2020 Winter at Filoli – Haiku Competition - Submit a haiku inspired by Filoli's winter garden. Deadline Feb. 15, 2020, 12:00 pm.

- <https://filoli.org/2020-winter-at-filoli-haiku-competition-guidelines/>

The Literary Nest - A local online publication. Check website for submission period for Winter issue. Send visual art in high res .jpeg, .gif, or .png format to 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/>

OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS

The Writer Magazine: contests, articles, resources and you can subscribe to their newsletter. Free downloadable guide (Winter 2019 Guide to Writing Contests) at:

- <https://www.writermag.com/contests/explore/winter-writing-contests/>

Writer's Digest 8th Annual Self-Published Book Awards. Deadline April 1, 2020

- <https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-book-awards>

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

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

The Bitter Oleander Press - A Journal of Contemporary International Poetry & Short Fiction

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

Winning Writers - Lists poetry and prose contests that are free to enter. Usually accepts previously published work. Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest. Submit October 15-April 30. \$5000 prizes. Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest - Seeks humor poems Submission period: August 15-April 1. \$2250 prizes. No fee! Usually accepts published and unpublished work.

- <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/>

SOME 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/grants>

The Thimble Magazine - A quarterly online journal.

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

Poetry Pacific: Literary e-zine. Two issues per year. Published and unpublished welcome.

- <http://poetrypacific.blogspot.com/>

Poets.Org: recommends several book and magazine contests.

- <https://poets.org/>

Freedom With Writing: 78 Poetry Manuscript Publishers No Reading Fees

- <https://tinyurl.com/yccuwzj6>

Trish Hopkinson - a blog - Where to Submit Reprints.

- <https://tinyurl.com/poetryreprints>

No Fee Calls for Poems: Facebook Group that lists contests that don't charge fees.

OTHER RESOURCES

Poets & Writers

- https://www.pw.org/grants*

MWA NorCal Chapter

- <https://mwanorcal.org>

The Write Life

- https://thewritelife.com/writing-contests/*

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

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

Freedom With Writing

- https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/*

Authors Publish

- http://www.authorspublish.com/*

The Best Writing Contests of 2019 curated by Reedsy

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

NewPages Classifieds

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

Hidden River Arts

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

New Pages: October

- <https://www.newpages.com/item-list/category/795-october>

The Do's and Don'ts of Dialogue at *The Writer Magazine* website

- <https://tinyurl.com/vc7q4cq>

Here's How Writers Get Stories, Poems, and Novels Published Writer's Relief YouTube presentation

- <https://tinyurl.com/yx4627fj>

Continued on Page 13

Conferences and Events

February 2020

by Margie Yee Webb

San Francisco Writers Conference

February 13-16, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.sfwriters.org/>

"17th Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community"

Optional Pre-Event Master Classes Open to the Public

Thursday, February 13, 2020, San Francisco CA

Register for individual session with Brooke Warner, Jonathan Maberry, Kathryn Sands, Jordan Rosenfeld, or Rusty Shelton.

<https://www.sfwriters.org/master-classes/>

Hollywood Screenwriting Summit

Saturday, February 15, 2020, San Francisco CA

<https://www.sfwriters.org/screenwriting-hollywood-summit/>

Summit included with SFWC registration, or register for stand-alone one-day summit – packed with informative sessions for every aspect of the entertainment industry.

Poetry Summit

Saturday, February 15, 2020, San Francisco CA

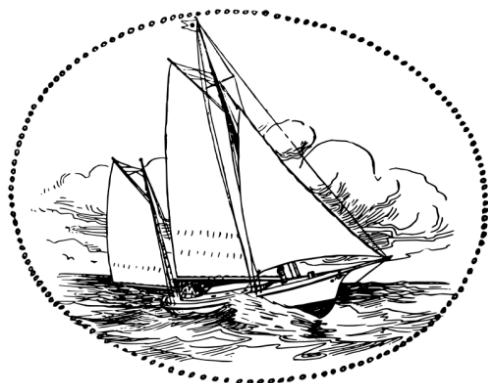
<https://www.sfwriters.org/poetry-summit/>

Summit included with SFWC registration, or register for stand-alone one-day summit – get inspired, improve your craft, shape your work for publication, learn how to navigate the multitude of pathways to publication and cultivate your market.

Optional Post-Event Master Classes Open to the Public

Sunday, February 16, 2020, San Francisco CA

Register for individual session with Susanne Lakin, Kevin Tumlinson, Victoria Zackheim & Anne Perry, or Linda Lee; and Connie Hale, Carla King, Jennifer March Soloway, or Suzette Standring.



<https://www.sfwriters.org/master-classes/>

Left Coast Crime 2020: Murder's a Beach

March 12-15, 2020, San Diego CA

<http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2020/>

Left Coast Crime is an annual mystery convention for fans of the mystery/crime genre: readers, authors, librarians, bloggers, publishers, editors, agents, and booksellers.

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." – WT

Contests and Markets

Continued from Page 12

Writer's Digest has a university and workshops at:

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

Poets & Writers resources.

- https://www.pw.org/conferences_and_residencies.

* *On both the Internet and Facebook.*

* *On both the Internet and Facebook. – WT*

Science Thrillers and How to Write One

Continued from the front page

science fiction – no aliens, paranormal rescues, or trips to other worlds.

She gave us an outline of her talk with references to books where we can read more, books that show, don't tell, and use lots of good examples; for example, Steven James: *Trouble-shooting Your Novel: 100 Essential Ways to Fix Your Fiction*, and books by James Scott Bell, Jodie Renner, and Steve Berry. Her PowerPoint slides all appear at:

<https://www.amyrogers.com/slides/>

Amy Rogers gave us a lot to think about and a lot to inspire and challenge us in our writing. Thank you, Amy! – 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.

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

ESSAY

The Secret Life of Punctuation

by Marjorie Johnson

Punctuation is not the most scintillating topic. A comma is a comma, a period is a period, and a semicolon is an argument waiting to happen. However, *The Chicago Manual of Style* expounds on such matters for more than 800 pages.

Punctuation was not always like this. While the period can claim an unbroken lineage stretching back to ancient Greece, for centuries punctuation was up to the reader, not the writer. The average ancient Greek or Roman struggled through texts devoid of commas, periods, and even word spaces.

Punctuation developed along with the advent of the printing press. The quotation mark appeared early on, but countless other symbols didn't survive. The road from the scrolls of Alexandria to today's books is littered with fallen marks of punctuation.

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

Central Coast: 5:30 third Tuesdays, Point Pinos Grill, 77 Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove. centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont Area: 2:00 fourth Saturdays, 42 Silicon Valley, 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 third Saturdays, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com

Napa Valley: 7:00 second Wednesdays, Napa Valley Unitarian Church, Napa. napavalley-writers.net

North State: 6:00 third Mondays, Butte County Library-Chico Branch. northstatewriters.com

Redwood: 2:00 second Sundays, Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa. redwoodwriters.org

Sacramento: 11:00 third Saturdays, Cattlemen's Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. cwcsacramentowriters.org

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

San Joaquin Valley Writers: 12:30 second Saturdays, University of Pacific community room

Tri-Valley: 1:30 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.

GETTING THE MOST

OUT OF

YOUR LOCAL WRITER'S CONFERENCE

A Guide from Jane Friedman:

"I've been speaking at writers conferences since 2001. Most years I travel to more than a dozen, and I've seen it all, from the biggest events to the smallest. Here's what I've learned over the past 20 years about making the most of any event, whether you're an attendee or a speaker."

CHECK IT OUT AT:

<https://t.co/jN2ot7TEvZ?amp=1>

TWITTER:

@janefriedman

To learn more, read Keith Houston's new book, *Shady Characters: The Secret Life of Punctuation, Symbols, and Other Typographical Marks*. —WT

Editor's Note:

This essay and commentary on punctuation was written by Marjorie in 2013. Keith Houston's aforementioned book on the history of punctuation and typography is on my yearly "book a week" reading list. It might be March or April before I get to it, but I'm really looking forward to it!

What books are you reading this year? Have you crunched through any in January that got your writerly creativity flowing? Let us know! After all: readers are writers, and writers are readers!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2020						1
2	3 2p Valley Writers	4	5 7p Board Meeting (Edie's House)	6	7 7:00p Open mic: B&N Almaden	8
9 10A Our Voices 1p Poets@Play, Markham House	10 2p Valley Writers 6:00p SBW Dinner China Stix	11 7p Well-RED at Works	12	13	14	15 DEADLINE: <i>WritersTalk</i> Submission
16	17 2p Valley Writers	18	19	20 7p Third Thursday, Poetry Center	21 7:00p Open mic: Willow Glen	22
23 10A Our Voices	24 2p Valley Writers	25	26	27	28	29

Upcoming Events

DINNER MEETING
February 10
March 9

BOARD MEETING
February 5
March 4

SBW/CWC Events
appear on this calendar page.

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

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

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.

Your Critique Group: Send info to 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

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.

Poetry Readings

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

Poetry Center San Jose: Meets Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, 7 PM Third Thursday, 408-808-3045 www.poetrycentersanjose.org

Well-Red Poetry Reading Series: Second Tuesdays, 7 – 9 pm, at Works San Jose, 365 South Market Street. Featured reader followed by an open mic, if time allows.

www.poetrycentersanjose.org

SBW Recommends ...

If you know of a regularly occurring event for writers, send an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

P.O. Box 3254

Santa Clara, CA 95055

www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers
Regular Dinner Meeting
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Monday, February 10, 2020
China Stix**

2110 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

Sex Scenes, More or Less

with

Lisa Mendelman

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

Regular dinner meetings are third Tuesdays 6 – 9 PM of every month except Summer BBQ, December, and workshop months



China Stix

Located at 2110 El Camino Real in Santa Clara.

Accessible from Hwy 82 and San Tomas Expressway.