



WRITERSTALK

Volume 29
Number 4
April 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

APRIL SPEAKER: CARA BLACK

Writing a mystery: Series or stand-alone

Jamal Khan

A good mystery unspools much like the weaving of a spider's web: gradually yet consistently, appearing haphazard in the opening stages, and culminating in a dazzling whole that ties together all loose ends in a supremely satisfying fashion.

The genre that achieved its modern manifestation in the work of Edgar Allen Poe has introduced the world to some of the most famous fictional characters in literature, from Sherlock Holmes to Hercule Poirot. An absorbing mystery's twists and turns keep the reader hooked. When the climactic discovery is made, jaws drop as it upends expectations. Yet if readers flip back, they will spot the subtle hints dropped that, while initially hovering on the periphery of their attention, now make the conclusion appear all but inevitable. In our monthly meeting on 12 April, Cara Black will guide us through the writing of a mystery.

Continued page 25



Cara Black

Photo: Laura Skayhan

Monday
12 April • 7 PM
Details to come!

MARCH SPEAKER RECAP

LeeAnne Krusemark

Bill Baldwin

LeeAnne Krusemark, our March speaker, cautioned us to pay close attention when submitting a piece to an agent or publisher. They may not even read your submission if you do not follow their submission guidelines. This could ruin your chances for publication. If you have not bothered to format your submission as requested, they may just toss it in the trash. So pay attention to those guidelines. It doesn't matter how brilliant your writing is, you have to follow the guidelines!

And what are those guidelines? Here are a few.

You don't need a title page for your submission, but be sure to include all pertinent info on your first page. This should include your contact information and your name in the upper-left; and the word count, which rights you are selling, and copyright info in the upper-right. This is single-spaced. The word count can be approximate. For a story, article, or poem, you would be offering the first rights (no one is usually interested in second rights, but they may be).

If you are selling a nonfiction

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Between the lines

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



Inspiration and Motivation

"It's not the writing that's the hard part," said Steven Pressfield, "it's the sitting down to write." So true. How many of us turn on the computer to work and get sidetracked checking our emails or Face-

book? Two hours later, we still haven't written a word.

Early on Saturday morning, while lying in bed, I flipped on the TV and happened to catch Pressfield's interview on *CBS This Morning*. Though I'd never heard of this author, I'm always eager for a bit of inspiration and advice. Why reinvent the wheel? So, I watched it.

During the course of his life, Pressfield has lived in eleven states and worked 21 jobs. Wow, I thought, myriad experiences to draw from. He'd been a Marine, graduated from Duke University, and worked as an advertising copywriter in New York. Finally, after years of writing and suffering "utter agony" by rejection slips, he contemplated suicide. Only concern for his cat stopped him. Setting his novel aside, he decided to try screenwriting. He packed up his cat and computer and headed for Hollywood.

In LaLa Land, Pressfield achieved moderate success writing for TV and movies. But the lure of becoming a novelist beckoned. After 28 years and numerous unsuccessful attempts, eureka! In 1995, *The Legend of Bagger Vance* was published and climbed up the best-seller list. In 2000, Robert Redford directed the film version starring Will Smith, Matt Damon, and Charlize Theron.

His second book, *Gates of Fire*, took him on a new adventure that made a lasting impression. It's about the Spartan Battle of Thermopylae in ancient Greece.

Pressfield's trials and tribulations inspired a nonfiction book too. It focuses on overcoming resistance: *The War of Art*, subtitled *Break through the Blocks and Win Your Inner Creative Battles*. It became a best seller.

"That negative force [tries] to stop us from moving from one level to a higher level," said Pressfield. "Self-sabotage, fear, arrogance, complacency, procrastination. The number one thing that any writer or artist needs to [learn] is to overcome those forces . . . before they can do anything."

Continued on page 18

California Writers Club
South Bay Branch

www.southbaywriters.com

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SBW mission

To educate 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 30 Jun 2021. New member \$65, dual membership \$25, student membership \$20. Contact membership@southbaywriters.com, sign up online at southbaywriters.com, or mail your check and application to CWC-South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara CA 95055

WritersTalk

The monthly newsletter of South Bay Writers, the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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Submissions

SBW encourages writers at all levels to submit their creative work, essays, and reportage for publication in *WritersTalk*. Send submissions and proposals to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Submissions and proposals must be either included in the body of the email or attached as a Word file. Please double-space. No paper submissions or scanned PDFs. Graphics should be high-quality JPGs or PNGs. Submissions will be copyedited, and may be sent back for revision. Managing editor reserves all rights to selection.

Word limits

Member announcements (200 words, see below)

News/Essay/Reportage (please submit proposal by 1st of month; draft due 15th of month)

Opinion/Letters (300 words)

Fiction/Memoir (1000 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Deadline

Submissions open year-round

Issues close 15th of month prior to publication

Member announcements

An announcement is of interest and value to writers, does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator, and is published free of charge

Reprints

Authors retain all rights to their work. *WritersTalk* gratefully acknowledges authors' permission to publish their work here. Contact individual authors for permission to reprint

Advertising

Announcements of workshops, conferences, and events from other branches of California Writers Club are welcome in *WritersTalk*. CWC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, and *WritersTalk* cannot accept advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. To advertise in CWC's *The Bulletin*, see page 27. No political advertising

Change of address

membership@southbaywriters.com

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The found art of poetry

Renée J Anderson, Managing Editor



When I first moved to Denmark in the summer of 2000, I tried to learn a little Danish just as a hobby. This was during the brief time before I became an immigrant and began studying Danish intensely, out of necessity. The first piece of Danish writing that ever made sense to me was a poem, and it looked like this:

Svaner set gennem tårer

0 0

2 0

0 2

0 0

— Simon Grotrian

(1961–)

What a curiosity, this little numerical rebus. It seemed to be code for something. What was it doing in this tome alongside Danish greats like Steen Steensen Blicher, Jeppe Aakjær, Tove Ditlevsen? With help from my Danish-English dictionary, I managed to translate the title: "Swans seen through tears."

An image snapped into focus. A setting, an emotion I could relate to: a recent walk around the city lakes in the rain, pushing the children in their Burley, swans and cormorants gliding along beside us, me drowning in homesickness. This simple poem has stayed with me all these years. That is what good poetry does.

I cringe a little when poetry is banished to "Corners" and "Nooks," as if it doesn't belong with other literary forms. One never sees "Fiction Pavillion" or "Essay Hacienda." Welcome to Filene's poetry basement—we've put it all in one place so you can paw through it quickly or skip it if it bothers you.

Neither is it really to my taste to see groups of poems crowded all together on a page. Poems require more dimensions than other forms of writing do, among them space and time. They need to breathe. While unlimited page count remains in the South Bay Writers bylaws pertaining to *WritersTalk*, I will try to honor poetry in this way. (Except for the double dactyls! They are bundled together in a handsome basket for you to savor on page 14.) All I ask in return is that you send us your most distilled, honed, crafted, *loved* work.

And then there is poetry as found art. Unexpected poems that you find on the street, lying around in a drawer, that you didn't realize have been staring you in the face all along, like this one I "found" recently:

Control

Function

Command

Shift

Option

Escape

Space

Let us celebrate that poetry exists for us humans. Reread some of your best-loved poems. Make time and space to learn new ones. Try this month's haiku contest (see pages 6–7), not to win, but just to do. Experience words seen through tears. **WT**

WANTED



Your most distilled, honed, crafted,
loved work

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

View from the Board

Marjorie Johnson



The Board of South Bay Writers met on 03 March on Zoom.

Board Members present: President Edie Matthews, Vice President Jamal Khan, Treasurer Trenton Myers, Membership Chair Inga Silva, Member-at-Large/Web Editor/PR Tatyana Grinenko,

Member-at-Large Alfred Jan, CWC-Central Board Rep/NorCal/Open Mic Meetup Bill Baldwin, Managing Editor *WritersTalk* Renée Anderson, Carolyn Donnell: new member to the board, role TBD.

Absent: Secretary Marjorie Johnson, Hospitality Chair Janet Patey.

Meeting called to order 7:07 PM. Unanimous approval of the previous meeting's minutes.

Jamal Khan, Speakers on Zoom:

12 April Cara Black, *New York Times* best-selling mystery writer, will speak on Writing a Series.

10 May Rob Minkoff, director and producer of animated films *The Lion King*, *Stuart Little 1 & 2*, and more. He will discuss his experiences and provide advice to writers.

14 June John Brantingham, "Process & Benefits of Writing Book Reviews"

12 July Tod Goldberg, topic TBA

08 November Anne Hillerman (daughter of Tony Hillerman, continuing his series). Some talk of trying for a remote session if we are back to meeting in person.

To be scheduled: Elizabeth Kracht (agent), Kimberley Cameron & Associates, and Dan White, author.

Trenton Myers, Treasurer's report, 03 March 2021: Bank accounts continue happy, with assets 28 February \$20,012, a slight 1.9% decrease since January.

Carolyn Donnell had questions about our Facebook page and group, our *WritersTalk* cumulative index, and perhaps a blog tool on our web page for contests. She mentioned the possibility of advertising the Facebook group more, perhaps in the newsletter, and continues an investigation as to why Facebook still flags southbaywriters.com as against community standards. How to update the newsletter cumu-

lative index still is under investigation. Discussion about adding lists for contests, submissions, conferences, &c to the web page.

Tatyana Grinenko, Publicity updates: Emails for the 08 March speaker event went out 21 Feb, 04 Mar, 07 March (day before), an 08 Mar (day of), and 15 minutes before the event. Tweets scheduled for Thursdays and Sundays prior to meetings using new Twitter template. Goodreads promotion (emails to our 95 members) include Zoom link going forward. Discussion about thumbnails for publicity posts.

Inga Silva, Membership: Currently, we have the following numbers: 56 active members, 43 associate members, 5 supporting members, 2 student members, 1 life member, 107 members total.

Alfred Jan asked about the flash humor contest in the newsletter and the winners.

Bill Baldwin, wearing one of his many hats, announced that the next Central Board meeting will be held in April, and that NorCal has extended the deadline to 15 April for submissions to *Literary Review*. A discussion ensued about how to notify and encourage members, at Monday meeting and in email to members.

Renée J Anderson, *WritersTalk*, Poetry contest to be announced in the April issue, open to all CWC members. Discussion about what type of poetry: haiku was mentioned. Prizes to be the same as flash humor: \$50, \$30, \$20. Unanimous vote in favor. Unanimous agreement to reimburse for monthly cost of InDesign. Question about feasibility of making the printed newsletter color instead of B & W.

Bill Baldwin, Open Mic. First and third Fridays, separate Zoom for each. Averaging seven to nine readers so far. Contact Bill about this popular venue at WABaldwin@aol.com. When asked why MeetUp messages still announce meetings for China Stix, Bill promised to look into it.

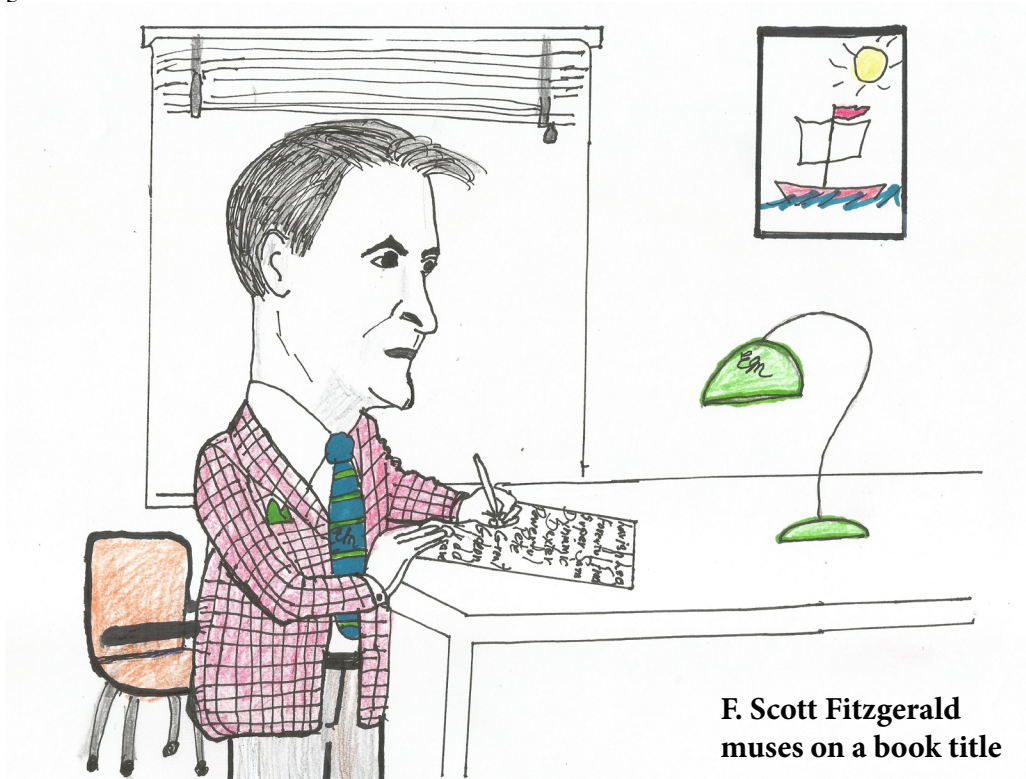
Meeting adjourned 8:52 PM. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, 07 April. Next regular meeting on Zoom: 12 April. Minutes taken by C. Donnell for Marjorie Johnson, SBW Secretary.

Any member of SBW is invited to attend our Board meetings—send an email to pres@southbaywriters.com. We are a friendly group and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

WT

Off the shelf

Edie Matthews



F. Scott Fitzgerald
muses on a book title

“... Lavish Leo ... Powerful Pete ... Forceful Fred. Hmm, Dynamic Dexter! No. Hmm, Jocular Judd ... Amazing Alfie--no no no. Wait, how about Sir Super Sam. Don’t like it. Mr. Mighty Melvin ... The Omnipotent Oscar ... The Great Gideon. That’s close ...”

“Poetry is the lens we use to interrogate the history we stand on and the future we stand for. It’s no coincidence that at the base of the Statue of Liberty, there is a poem. Our instinct is to turn to poetry when we’re looking to communicate a spirit that is larger than ourselves. Whenever I’m writing, I’m looking at the history of words. The specific history of words in the inaugural poem was: We have seen the ways in which language has been violated and used to dehumanize. How can I reclaim English so we can see it as a source of hope, purification and consciousness?”

—Amanda Gorman
American poet

Haiku is not about syllables

Renée J Anderson

Why would 5-7-5 with a red slash running through it be the official logo for National Haiku Writing Month (NaHaiWriMo)?

NaHaiWriMo, the National Haiku Society, and other organizations of poets devoted to the revered form of poetry known as *haiku*, would like poets to know that strict adherence to a 5-7-5 syllable scheme is a Western appropriation of the original intent of the art.

Surprise—the rules for haiku are not as strict as you might have believed. And that’s good news, as it gives you the freedom to create haiku poetry in any form, including the 5-7-5 convention if you so choose.

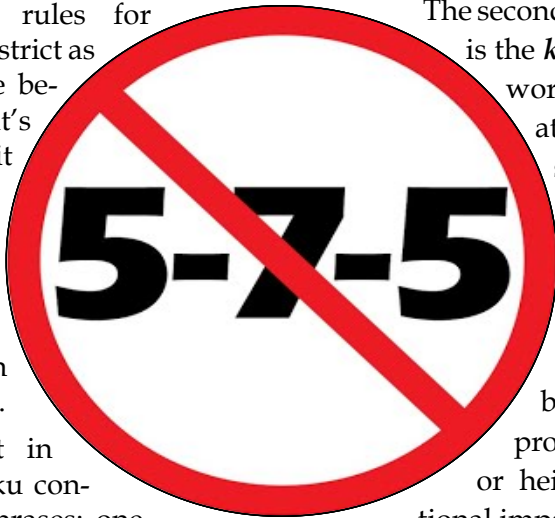
It’s true that in Japanese, a haiku consists of three phrases: one of five syllables, a second with seven, and a third with five again. But these are not “syllables” in the English-language sense.

Japanese is a *moraic* language. Words are made up of sounds—*mo-rae* or *on*—and these are counted very differently from English syllables. Therefore, it makes little sense to expect haiku composed in English or other nonmoraic languages to conform to a 5-7-5 standard. Additionally, in a Japanese haiku, the three phrases are often placed together on one line, instead of separated into three.

What really *counts* in a haiku is harder to quantify.

Haiku expresses a season, a mood, a feeling—not by stating it explicitly

but through subtle omission, or use of keywords. Strictly speaking, there is always a connection with season. In Japanese this is called *kigo*—a frog jumps, cherry blossoms waft, we observe leaves fall. The descriptions are evocative, nostalgic. If the poem is not specifically seasonal, then the poem is more properly called a *senryu* (comical) or *zappai* (miscellaneous).



The second key component is the *kireji*, or “cutting word,” meant to create a pause, designed to show juxtaposition, a turning. Its function can be tricky to define, but it can be structural, or provide emphasis, or heighten the emotional impact.

Western convention has adopted the 5-7-5 approach over three lines, although this has often impeded the otherwise natural, succinct beauty of the imagery, as poets add unnecessary words or syllables to force the poem to fit the structure. The liberation from rigid construct should allow for a more organic approach that is truer and more poignant.

As we transition from one season to the next, take a moment to observe. Linger on a memory. Distill what you feel. Send us your own poetry and join our contest (see page 7).

Stop counting, and just bear witness to the things in life that transport you.

Winning entries from the Haiku Society of America’s Harold G. Henderson Memorial Haiku Awards

For additional examples, go to hsa-haiku.org/henderson-awards/henderson.htm

meteor shower . . .
a gentle wave
wets our sandals

Michael Dylan Welch
1st place, 2000

All Souls Day . . .
my name called
from the front gate

Michele L. Harvey
1st place, 2010

pride parade
from behind a cloud
the sun comes out

Olivier Schopfer
honorable mention, 2016

our easy silence
every puddle
sky-deep

Annette Makino
honorable mention, 2016

window . . . to window . . .
and back . . . the cat

Celia Stuart-Powles
1st place, 2016

the Christmas
after we told them
artificial tree

Joe McKeon
3rd place, 2014

after the stroke . . .
watching only the half of your face
that smiles

Helen K Davie
2nd place, 1994

WT

HAIKU 俳句 Contest

National Haiku Poetry Day is the 17th of April. Celebrate with us!

Who? Any CWC member can enter.

When? Submissions are due by end-of-business Saturday, 15 May.

What? Haiku, senryu, or zappai – submit up to five poems, without titles

Prizes? 1st place \$50, 2nd place \$30, 3rd place \$20

Winners will be determined by independent judges familiar with haiku. We do not need adherence to the 5-7-5 style. Please see article and examples on page 6.

Send your submissions to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

Winners will be announced in the June issue of *WritersTalk*.

*The light of a candle
Is transferred to another candle—
Spring twilight*

Yosa Buson (1716–1784)

Three poems

Kate Russell*

words
scribbles on a page
whispers from your lips
promises
knots tied with honor
delegates from your soul

do not fear me
because i do not fit
what you were told
i would be

seeking consolation
I turn to page and pen
but what good can they do
if they never reach you

*Published in *Child Betrayed*, 2021,
as Kathy Burnett

**California Writers Club
Literary Review**

EXTENDED DEADLINE 15 APRIL

calwriters.org/publications/#submit



Have you been receiving our emails? Whether or not you receive **WritersTalk** in paper form, you also should have received an email with links to the published web version. If you did not, we may not have your correct email address in our directory.

Send email updates and subscription preferences to

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Does SBW know about your latest publication? If you recently published writing that we are not aware of (or published in the past ten years that you have not shared with us), please tell us! It could upgrade your membership from Associate to Active, and we may also describe your work in **WritersTalk**, giving your writing more visibility. Email a description of the writing and the publication to us so we can update your info.

Inga Silva, Membership
ingasbwmembership@gmail.com

Volunteer IT professionals for website administration,
and MRMS administration wanted

pres@southbaywriters.com

Upcoming virtual conferences

ThinkingFunny21 Conference

Humor & Comedy Writing

03 April, 9 AM. \$100, 30% early-bird discount if you register by 31 March. Whether you're writing a humor column, novel, nonfiction book, putting together a stand-up routine, scribbling a sitcom script or screenplay, crafting silly songs, drafting a storyboard, or writing a query letter, this conference can help.

ThinkingFunny.com

Chanticleer Authors Conference

21–25 April. Crime and mystery author Cathy Ace will headline, \$350 chantireviews.com/chanticleer-conference/

The Muse & The Marketplace

21–25 April, a virtual writing residency: surprise guests, little joys, and a “box of intrigue and fun” sent directly to your door, the contents of which will be revealed as the residency unfolds! \$269 museandthemarketplace.com

Northern Colorado Writers Conference, 24 April–01 May, 40+ sessions

available online. Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and screenwriting. \$225 northerncoloradowriters.com/conference

Katchemak Bay Writers' Conference

15–18 May. Workshops, readings, panel presentations in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and the business of writing. \$100 writersconference.homer.alaska.edu

The Writer's Hotel Fiction Weekend Conference, 20–24 May, a five-day

“weekend” packed with craft workshops, industry lectures, and one-on-one meetings with agents. Each writer can read their original work in the TWH Virtual Reading Series. \$2200 writersshotelweekends.com

Member news

Marjorie Johnson

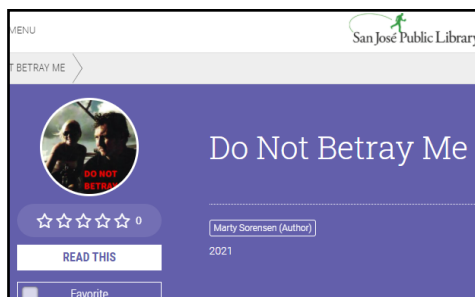
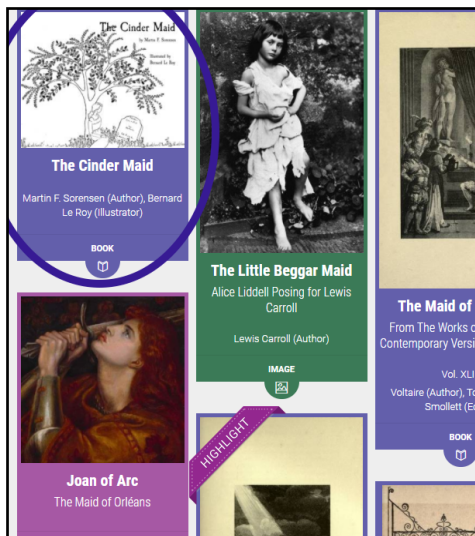
The *Pen Woman*, Journal of the National League of American Pen Women, has published **Edie Matthews'** review of *Ledra's Book* in their Winter 2021 issue. The book, written by Luanna Leisure, is a family memoir focusing on her mother and also appeared in the winter issue.

A representative of the Goldman Agency contacted **Marjorie Johnson**. He purportedly had an interest in her book, *Lost Jade of the Maya*. While checking it out, she found an informative blog/web-site, Writer Beware: "Shining a bright light into the dark corners of the shadow-world of literary scams, schemes, and pitfalls." Interesting reading, and a reminder that if it sounds too good to be true

Carolyn Donnell (*Deeper Colors*, by C. S. Donnell) and **Marjorie Johnson** (*Jaguar Princess* by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson) have their books shelved at Santa Clara Library in the local authors collection. (See photo provided by Carolyn.) Check out your local library—they may have similar shelves.

Marty Sorensen has books at San José Public Library and on the BiblioBoard Library on the web. See images, right.

Kate Russell sent us three poems from her recent self-published book of poetry, *Child Betrayed* (published under her maiden name, Kathy Burnett, and available on Amazon). See page 8.



Top: Books written by Marjorie Johnson (upper-right) and Carolyn Donnell (lower-left) on display with other local authors at the Santa Clara Library. **Center and bottom:** Marty Sorensen's *The Cindermaid* (as Martin F. Sorensen) and Sorensen's *Do Not Betray Me*, hosted on San José Public Library's website sjpl.bibliocommons.com.

Dennis Mattish saw Membership Chairman Inga Silva's blurb in *WritersTalk* about updating our information. He wrote: "I have been in the club for a few years now and have never mentioned my publications. Also, I haven't noticed anybody else writing history books in this club. At the moment I am writing about Altamont Speedway and the Rolling Stones."

He sent us the cover images of the five books he has written: *History of San José Auto Racing 1903–2007*, *History of San José Racing Part 2*, *History of Watsonville and Salinas Auto Racing*, *History of San Francisco Auto Racing*, and *Baylands Raceway Park, Fremont Drag Strip*. They are large-format, hardcover, and glossy coffee-table books.

Gerri Forté, writing as Geraldine Cynthia Forté, sent us the YouTube trailer for her recently released book, *The Sinceria Pound Cake Extraordinaire: A Recipe for Life*: youtu.be/1rpLOhPJ9L0, with **book launch scheduled for 28 March at 3 PM**. Also available on Amazon, she has the book *Of Prayers and Beatings*. Coming in 2021, *A Brand New Song to Sing*, and in 2022, *A Pandemonium of Parrots*. Email Gerri at gerriforte@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Kelly Miller's first released book, *Death Takes a Holiday at Pemberley*, won first place in Romance, 2020 Indies Today Book Awards.

Kelly has also recently released a novella, *A Consuming Love*, new



to her *Skirmish & Scandal Series*, *A Pride & Prejudice Variation*. In this novella, the methodical world of rich, proud Fitzwilliam Darcy is in chaos: a country lady of modest origins has utterly captivated him. One afternoon spent in company with Miss Elizabeth Bennet is enough to make an indelible and life-altering impression upon Darcy, setting him on a rocky course towards the fulfillment of his desires. Will Darcy attain happiness, or will his ingrained pride be his downfall? To find out, read Kelly's book on Amazon.

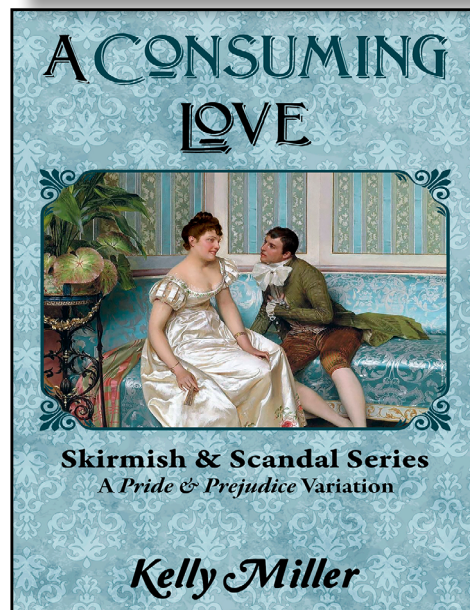
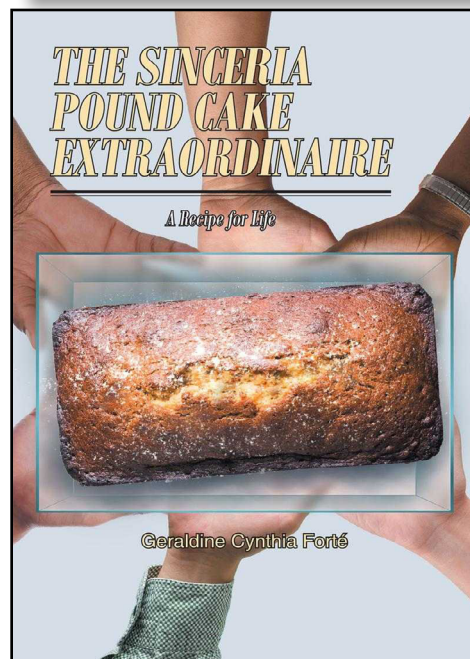
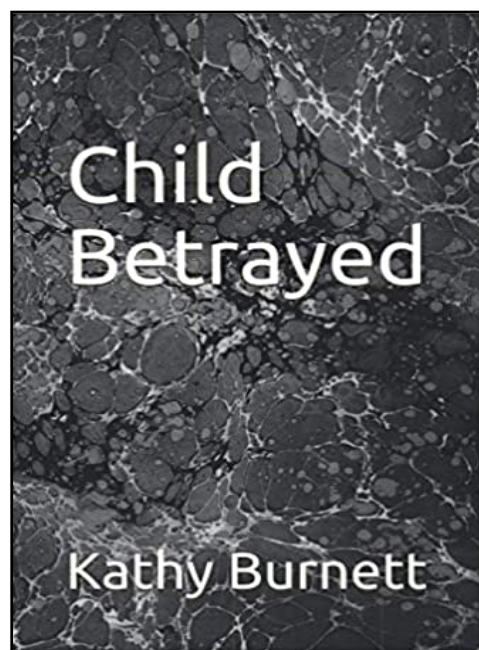
*

What variety in this month's news! Congratulations all. To have your writing news appear in this column, send it to me at membernews@southbaywriters.com. **WT**



Top and center: The history of Bay Area auto racing: cover images from five books by Dennis Mattish.

Bottom: Dennis signs books at the San José History Park.



Right, top: Kate Russell's book of poems, *Child Betrayed*, published this year as Kathy Burnett

Right, center: Gerri Forté's newly published *The Sinceria Pound Cake Extraordinaire: A Recipe for Life* (as Geraldine Cynthia Forté)

Right, bottom: Kelly Miller's *A Consuming Love*, from her *Skirmish & Scandal Series*, *A Pride & Prejudice Variation*

A daughter's prayer

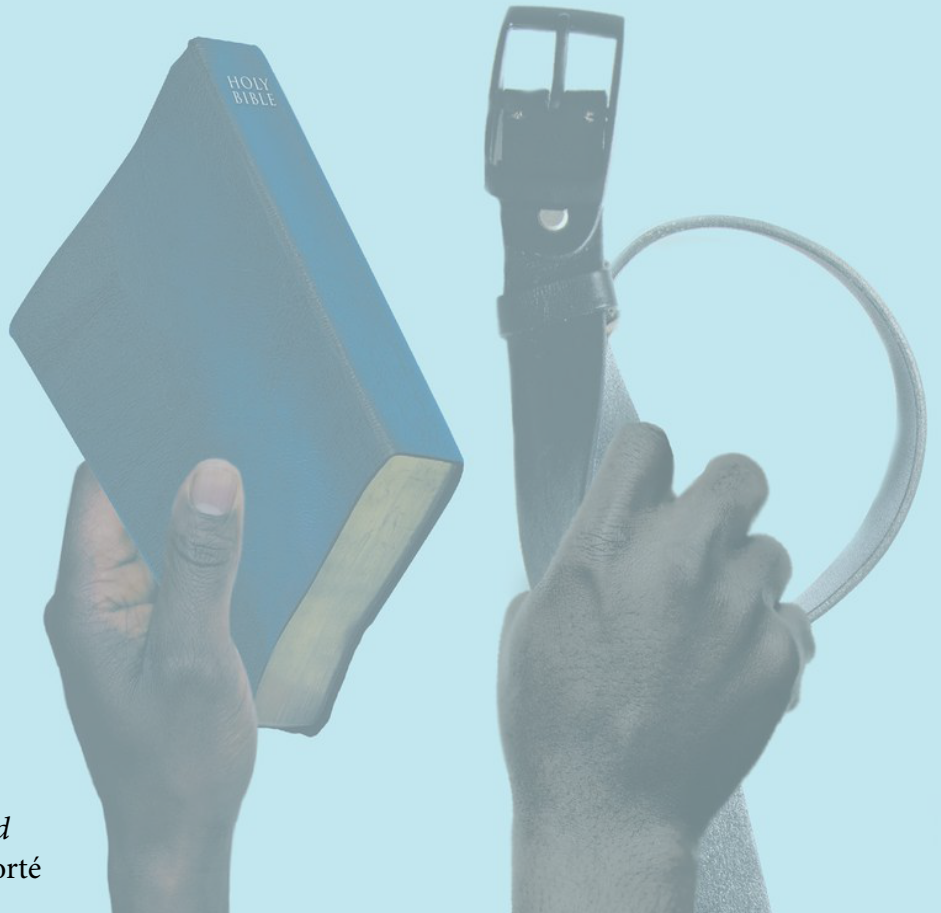
Geraldine Cynthia Forté

Oh, Daddy, dear Daddy ... I have forgiven you
I believe you always loved me, I really do
Your lifetime of suffering alone must have been great
So much anger, distrust and resentment on your plate
To live most of your life beset by fears
That your secret could resurface after so many years

Oh Daddy, dear Daddy I do understand
You are relieved of your fears ... Here, hold my hand
Let us pray together on bended knee
Pray that peace is finally yours ... throughout eternity



Poem and cover art from *Of Prayers and Beatings*, 2018, by Geraldine Cynthia Forté



New literary postage stamps for 2021!

Need something special for your next query and SASE? The US Postal Service will issue exciting new literary Forever stamps for 2021.



Playwright **August Wilson** (1945–2005) has been referred to as the “theater’s poet of Black America.” He is best known for a series of ten plays, collectively called *The Pittsburgh Cycle*, which chronicle the experiences

and heritage of the African-American community in the 20th century. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1987 and 1990, and Tony Awards in 1987 and 2017.

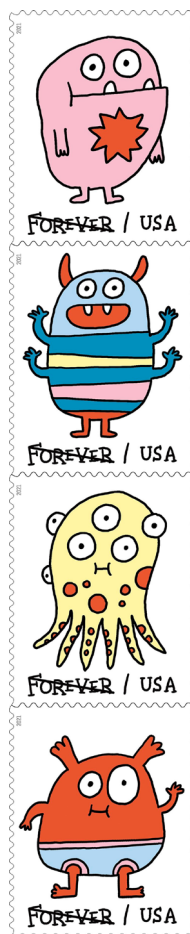


Author **Ursula K Le Guin** (1929–2018) was best known for her *Hainish Cycle* science fiction series and the fantasy-genre *Wizard of Earthsea* chronicles. Born in Berkeley, California, she is the winner of eight Hugo Awards, the first female writer ever to win one. Her work has been the wellspring for countless fantasy, science fiction, and literary fiction authors and screenwriters.



The **Raven Story** stamp honors oral storytelling tradition among First Peoples. Trickster Raven features prominently in these fables, often at the time of the world’s creation. In an homage to traditional artwork of Native Americans of the Northwest Coast, Tlingit/Athabaskan artist Rico Worl depicts Raven freeing the sun, moon, and stars.

The **Message Monsters** series of four designs includes additional decorative stickers to liven up your correspondence—hats, hearts, thought bubbles, and more. The stamps feature the artwork of Canadian children’s book author and illustrator Elise Gravel, winner of 2012’s Governor General’s Award for Children’s Illustration in French, whose books and graphic novels are wacky, gross, but most of all—fun.



Mystery Message stamp, designed by Art Director Antonio Alcalá, contains a hidden message. Can you find it? The answer is at the bottom of this page.

The United States Postal Service has a long tradition of honoring literary greats, including Henry James in 2016, Ezra Jack Keats’s *Snowy Day* in 2017, Walt Whitman in 2019, and Voices of the Harlem Renaissance in 2020. Whether you’re a philatelist or you just love stamps, love walking to your neighborhood post office or mailbox, and love the human touch of corresponding on paper, USPS has something for everyone. Say—this fellow looks a bit familiar! **WT**



Jack London
25-cent stamp, 1986

Answer: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Double Dactyls!



Bennity Pennity
Little Red Henny
Why would an $\acute{o}\rho\nu\iota\theta\alpha$
scale the Acrop?
Kitted with grappling hook,
clucking, let's have a look,
Acroposiphical
views from up top

Clickity-splickety
Kate Russell must write books
Keys clobbered, keys hammered
Stories to tell
Light shines through runes once true
Where letters were clouds now
Disambigulation
Clarity's bell
—Kate Russell

Scribbledon
Dibbledon
Ms Renée Anderson
South Bay Branch
Writers "Talk"
When they should write.
Cracking her whip then she
Orders submissions, her
disciplinarian
deadlines are tight.
—Linda B
Campbell-King

Residence evidence
Trespasser rodent Vince
Better unnamed, I guess
Poor rat must die
Cute though this pest may be
Fleas and mites ravish me
Polyinvasiveness
Mourning is nigh
—Colin Seymour

Chitterly chatterly
Jabberwock Jillian
Beware the Jabberwock
She spits out words
No rime nor raisin and
No sense for hoarse feathers
Recalcitrantific
Phone splits out words
—Marjorie Johnson

Yippity Skippity
Empire State Building
Art Deco skyscraper
In NYC
Built to moor Zeppelins
Its lonely spire hosts
Aerodynamically
King Kong & me

Hoopulla Loopulla
Base-a-ball's best comeback
Name of a book I write
Man I won't name
Skeptical Cynical
Fretting the truth, of course
Ultraincredibly
I saw the game!
—DeWayne Mason

Billable Syllable
Sesquipedalians
Using long words as they
stump and confound
Baskets of silliness
packaged attractively
hexasyllabically
sold by the pound

Sherlocky Whirlocky
Benedict Cumberbatch
Chasing down baddies with
Watson in tow.
Hounds of the Baskervilles
Pipe smoke and Baker St
Melodramatically
Stealing the show

Hyggety-Pyggety
One Little Mermaid sits
Lonely in Shophaven
Watching the sea
First in a story then
Next in a ballet then
Supermysteriously
She looks at me
—Marty Sorensen

Lickety-snickety
Lemon antiquity
Candy at CVS
Used to be Long's
Coffee from Dunkin' there
Hard-to-find dental ware
Omnistockology
Fifty-cent thongs
—Colin Seymour

Gobbledy Bobbledy
Covid's forced house arrest
Keepers, my kids they are,
Which set me "free."
"Double entendre," a
Crazy pandemic proves
Psychogrammatical
Home but at sea.
—Evelyn Preston

Fleedalee Freedalee
Harriet Tubman rode
Rails that ran under-
ground
Look at her go
Now you will find her each
Twenty can't hide her—she'll
Feministically
Be on our dough
—Linda B
Campbell-King

Loraxo-Boraxo
Six-book imbroglio
Who's mad? Well, that's a laugh
Bigots uptight
"Monkeys" and "Chinamen"
Seem to be fine with them
Stereotypograph
Skews to the right
—Colin Seymour

Traumameme, mamameme
Nightmare recurring theme
Wasting time, deadline-hell
Acting the fool
Hours behind I get
Dithering in a sweat
Corollopapallel:
Naked at school
—Colin Seymour

Doggity Schloggety
Piece of rejection mail
One more short story to
Shatter all hope.
"Thanks for submitting this,
Very enjoyable,"
euphemaliciously
telling me —NOPE.

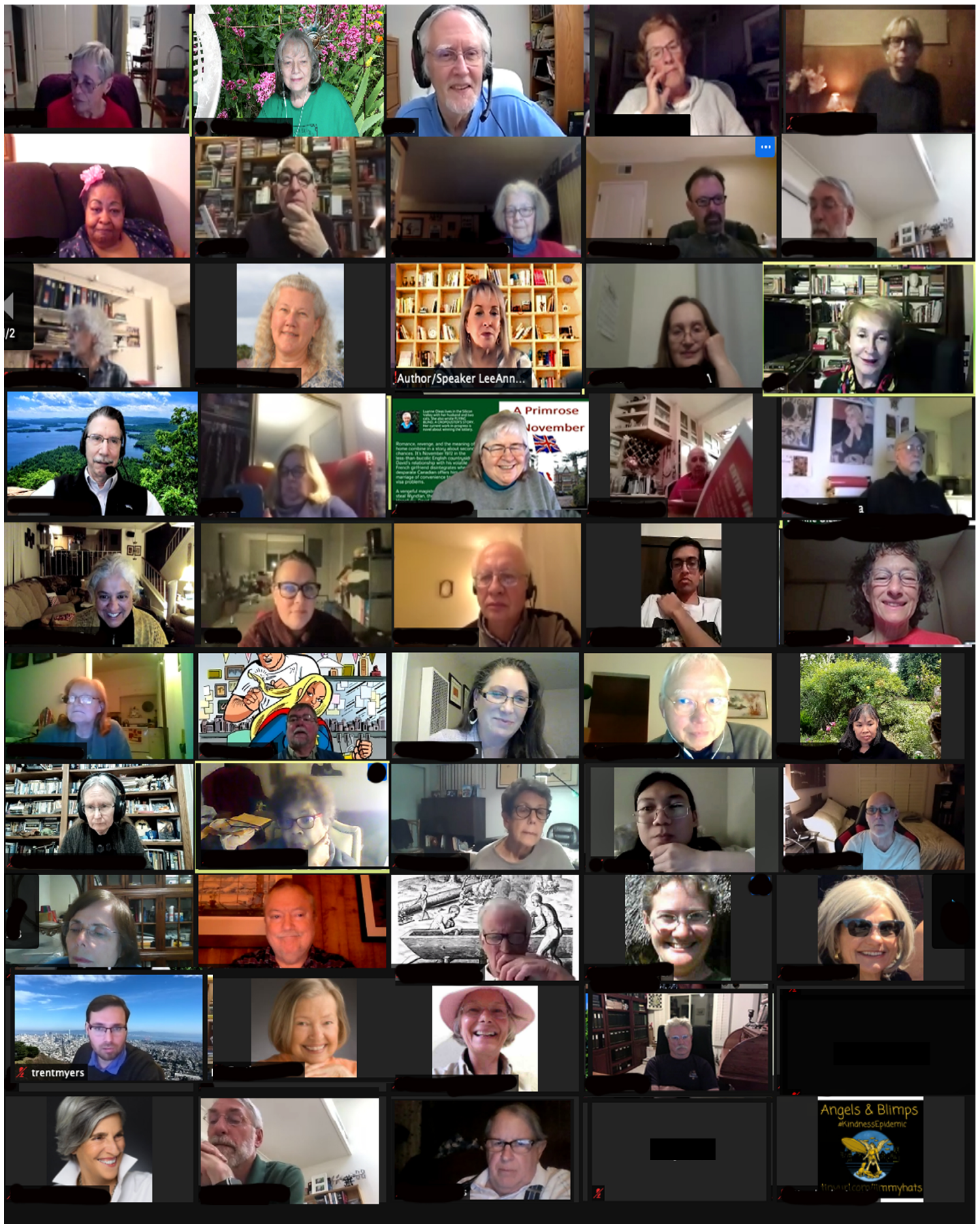


Photo collage and screen captures thanks to Carolyn Donnell.

Baldwin, continued from page 1

book or novel, omit the rights line. Do not try to negotiate these rights yourself—you should always have your agent do this. There are many different rights to consider—let the agent do it! But once someone offers you a contract, do always read it. You want to know what is in there, and what isn't—and you want to be sure you don't sell any rights that you don't want to.

For the copyright, type "Copyright" (or the copyright symbol), the year, and your name. For example: "Copyright 2021 William Albert Baldwin."

The copyright law changed in 1978. You now own the copyright as soon as you produce the piece in a "tangible form." The trick, for legal purposes, is to be able to prove that you wrote it. A good way to do this is to email yourself a copy of each version of your work when you complete it. Email yourself the manuscript as an attachment. This provides a time-stamped record trail of your work. Email serves as evidence in court.

Note that the copyright statement is not a formal copyright registration. You can also register your copyright at copyright.gov. This costs \$55 and may take as long as

two years to process. Even if you have self-published a book (for example, via Amazon's KDP) with the copyright page included at the beginning, you should do this to avoid any possible legal ambiguity. In fact, you need to do it in order to have a formal copyright. If you write a blog, you should also copyright that. You only have to do it once, on the blog's homepage.

You don't have to do this again if you make minor changes later; they are covered by the original copyright.

For details on formatting, ask Edie for a copy of the PDF file LeeAnne provided. You can also email LeeAnne@KrusemarkGrinnell.com. Here are a few of the details.

- › Always double-space your manuscript.
- › On pages following the first page, the upper-left header should include your name, the "slug," and the page number. (The "slug" is the abbreviated title.)
- › Use 20-lb. paper,

printed on one side only, and keep at least a one-inch margin all around.

› Begin each chapter on a new page.

› Poems may be single- or double-spaced, one poem per page. If the poems are short, you can put more than one on a page, but include extra space between the poems.

LeeAnne offered a few common mistakes to avoid in your writing: Weak openings, over-description, unbelievable conflicts, point-of-view errors, incorrect punctuation, incorrect dialogue tags, inconsistency, and, of course, showing not telling.

You can find more complete information on LeeAnne's website. In addition to various guides, she offers a variety of services (such as editing).

LeeAnne's talk sparked a variety of discussions in the chat and Q&A. Do ask Edie for a copy of her PDF guide—and visit krusemarkgrinnell.com or email LeeAnne@KrusemarkGrinnell.com.

WT

March Meeting

Editorial note: It's important to make your submission look as professional as possible. That doesn't mean to make your submission "look good" to you; you must produce something that will transcribe to publishing software. Details such as using only one space after a period are important because that is the industry standard. Use the ruler sliders or style sheets in Word so that the hard return produces correct indentation automatically. Using spaces or tabs to indent can cause the resulting printed copy to have a ragged look. See Chapter 2, *Chicago Manual of Style*. Also see *WritersTalk*, August 2014, page 3.

—Marjorie and Renée

Sixty tuned in to hear LeeAnne Krusemark talk of "Manuscript Formatting Do's & Don'ts" at the SBW meeting on 08 March 2021.

Les Prose Comics

Kendad



HELP NEEDED

Someone with web, HTML, or JavaScript knowledge to update the *WritersTalk* cumulative index. Carolyn Donnell sends the data ready for entry every month, but she cannot add it to the cumulative index.

How many writing clubs have copies on file of all their newsletters since 2005? And with a sortable cumulative index? I know you could count them on the fingers of one hand. Go to the *WritersTalk* tab on southbaywriters.com and check out this valuable resource.

Unfortunately, we are unable to add new entries. Dick Amyx brilliantly set up the index, always updated monthly using Carolyn's data; now his password is lost.

Can YOU help?

Matthews, Continued from page 2

Adopting the Spartan creed as motivation, Steven Pressfield has completed nineteen books. Now he alternates between historical fiction and nonfiction.

I do have a simplified approach to help me stay on target. I keep a notebook and write down tasks and obligations, big and small, and feel a sense of accomplishment each time I cross one off the list.

The past year during the pandemic, Pressfield has tackled another project—a series of fifty YouTube videos on the ancient warrior archetype, focusing on courage, selflessness, and the willing embrace of adversity.

In the CBS interview, he advised, “Begin each day with something physical and difficult.”

Even though I had a Pen Women meeting that morning, I hopped out of bed. Throwing on old clothes, I went downstairs and put the second coat of varnish on the arches leading to the front room. No, it wasn't physically arduous, but I had been putting it off—so there was a degree of difficulty. Afterward, I enjoyed the feeling of triumph and crossed the task off my to-do list. **WT**

Short Édition

Marty Sorensen

For Francis Ford Coppola, it was love at first sight when he read an article in *The New Yorker* about the Short Story Dispenser. He immediately hopped on a plane to Paris to be the first to offer creative writing in his San Francisco-based Zoetrope Café via the Dispenser. Not only is Mr Coppola a Short Édition fan, but he has also invested in Short Édition capital to feed the company's international development. They can't thank him enough for his inspiring support!

Original and simple, the Short Édition-connected Short Story Dispensers print out short stories for free at the touch of a button, in both unexpected and everyday places.

Check out the video here and see them in action:
youtu.be/hUICzse5gOs

Users simply press a button to choose a 1-, 3-, or 5-minute story, and the dispenser prints an original short story on eco-friendly paper. Completely free of charge for the user, the Short Story Dispensers are often positioned in waiting areas and on commuter routes. Reading the printed stories makes the acts of waiting or traveling a much more enjoyable experience.

Short Édition has now dispensed more than 5 million short stories written by 10,000 independent authors. The company even has an online community of 340,000 readers who have signed up to receive more original con-

tent, with already 35 million short stories accessed via the Short Édition website.

Bay Area dispensers:

- Zoetrope Café in SF
- Oakland Int'l Airport: two Dispensers
- City of Palo Alto Mitchell Park Library: Currently off due to COVID-19
- Fletcher Middle School, Palo Alto: Short Story Portal
- San José Public Library, Village Square and King branches: imminent launch (along with their comic contest winners on their two Dispensers)—Short Story Portal san-jose-public-library.short-edition.com/
- BART stations: launching within the month at Montgomery, Fruitvale, Richmond, and Pleasant Hill Stations

The dispensers offer short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, children's, and classics. (You know the *Prisoner of Zenda*, but what about the *Prisoner of Zembla* by O. Henry?)

The creators of Short Édition are pleased to share with you Short Circuit #05, their latest collection of poetry, stories, and children's works now circulating around the world via their Short Story Dispensers. You'll find bitter honesty and bare vulnerability, love and courage, connection and isolation. They hope you enjoy these tales as much as they do.

Want read a short story, or submit one? Go here: san-jose-public-library.short-edition.com/

WT

shortédition



Delighted readers discovering the free Short Édition short-story dispensers.

The San Francisco Writers Conference (SFWC), which usually takes place every February, did not convene in 2021, the organizers making the tough decision to use the time instead to regroup and refocus in preparation for 2022, when we can all meet in person once more (knock on wood).

The eighteenth annual event will be held over President's Day weekend, 17–20 February 2022, at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. Early-bird pricing is currently available. SFWC is in the premier league when it comes to writers conferences in terms of networking and access to agents and editors, offering parallel tracks for prose, poetry, and screenwriting.

Presenters this year will include best-selling authors, literary agents, editors, and publishers from major publishing houses. There will be experts on self-publishing, book promotion, platform building, social media, audiobooks, podcasting, and author websites. More info is available here: sfwriters.org/2022-conference/

Contest

The SFWC annual contest is officially open. There is a \$30 entry fee per piece submitted. Writing can be in any of the following categories: fiction, nonfiction, young adult/children's, or poetry. Maximum 1500 words, please. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded for each category, and the grand prize winner will receive an honorarium for the full price of the conference. More details can be

found here: sfwriters.org/2021-writing-contest-overview/

SFWC Podcast

5 March marked the relaunch of the SFWC podcast, now available wherever you look for podcasts. (Here's one place: podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/san-francisco-writers-conference-podcast/id1555654786)

Podcast Program Director and Host Matthew Félix introduced himself, sharing his three books, how he got into podcasting, and his new role with the San Francisco Writers Conference podcast. Episodes will now be one hour and cover a variety of topics. The podcast will have a new name, the result of a name-this-podcast contest, to be announced soon.

Definitely worth a subscribe!

The Mechanics Institute

In partnership with SFWC, the Mechanics Institute offers virtual events for writers, with many of its talks, Zoom salons, and its monthly Writers Lunch free to the public.

On Friday, 23 April, 12 PM, **Nina Amir** will present "How to Craft a Book that Sells" via Zoom. This event is free. Learn more and register here: milibrary.org/events/how-craft-book-sells-apr-23-2021.

SFWC and the Mechanics Institute ask you to register well in advance for events you would like to attend. Sometimes events are cancelled because of low registrations, only to have registrations come pouring in at the last minute. Early registration prevents cancellations. A running

list of events can be found here: sfwriters.org/online-classes-with-mechanics-institute-and-sfwc/

Writing for Change

The Writing for Change conference is funded by the San Francisco Writers Foundation. This important conference is go-for-launch for early autumn 2021. Conducted virtually last year, it is now gearing up for in-person attendance once again. From the Writing for Change website:

"Changes in climate, resources, technology, business, and relations between countries will force us to change how we live, work, and think, and our relationships with people and the planet.

"Writers will be essential catalysts in bringing about the changes we need. More than ever, we need writers to help us understand the challenges and opportunities ahead of us and inspire and empower us to do what we can to help bring about change." **WT**



The SFWC Podcast with host Matthew Félix can now be accessed wherever you listen to podcasts.

PITCH O RAMA

It's time once again for WNBA-SF's annual Pitch-O-Rama. As with last year, this event will be virtual. Grab this opportunity to pitch your project to real agents and editors, including those from the New York publishing world.

By popular demand, WNBA will offer a free prep workshop, so you can get your questions answered before the real deal.

07 April, 12:00–1:00 PM

Pitch-O-Rama Prep Workshop and AMA

Virtual coaching session. Come with questions, or just listen. This event is FREE. Register here:

wnba-sfchapter.org/april-7-pitch-o-rama-prep-workshop-ama/

10 April, 8:00 AM–1:00 PM

Pitch-O-Rama

\$65 WNBA members, \$75 Non-members. All genders welcome!

Register here: wnba-sfchapter.org/pitch-o-rama-plus-2021-registration/

WOMEN'S
NATIONAL
BOOK
ASSOCIATION

SAN FRANCISCO




Vintage auto enthusiasts, circa 1975, Benicia, CA. Photo by Phyllis Dulaney.

Contests and markets

Carolyn Donnell



 **NB: NO VETTING** has been done by South Bay Writers Club. Listings are for information only. 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 your experiences, good or bad.

Let us know if you have any success with any of the contests listed in *WritersTalk*. (Or any other contest for that matter.) Send your writing victories to membernews@southbaywriters.com and any new stories, poems, and articles to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Check out other CWC branches for their current contests, calls for submission, anthologies, &c. See a list of other CWC branches at calwriters.org/cwcbranches/

Members of our Facebook group—South Bay Writers Club—see contest postings and other notifications on the Facebook group (facebook.com/groups/5486894361).

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Here are some sites with prompt-a-day or other ideas for celebrating poetry and submitting.

POETRY PROMPTS AND IDEAS

writersdigest.com/resources/wd-presents-writing-prompts-april-2021-poem-a-day-guidelines-and-more

poets.org/national-poetry-month

napowrimo.net

writermag.com/improve-your-writing/poetry/poetry-writing-prompt/

trishhopkinson.com/2019/04/05/april-is-national-poetry-month-napomo-prompts-galore-other-ways-you-can-participate/

writerswrite.com/prompts/poetry/

readpoetry.com/22-poetry-prompts-to-help-you-write-your-next-great-poem/

thinkwritten.com/poetry-prompts/

poetrypotion.com/a-poem-a-day-writing-prompt-09-march-2021/

writersdigest.com/resources/wd-presents-writing-prompts-april-2021-poem-a-day-guidelines-and-more

poets.org/national-poetry-month

napowrimo.net/na-glopowrimo-2021-is-coming/na/glopowrimo

POETRY CONTESTS, SUBMISSIONS, & OTHER RESOURCES (see regular contest list as well)

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest Submit **15 Apr–30 Sep**. Total prizes: \$8000. Special award for verse that rhymes or has a traditional style winningwriters.com/our-contests

Cæsura 2021: Poetry Center San José call for entries. Theme “Unmasking.” **Deadline 15 Jun for PCSJ members; 01 Jun for general public** pcsj.org/caesuracall

Academy of American Poets poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes

Authors Publish Poetry manuscript publishers No reading fees. authorspublish.com

Everywriter Article, “The best poetry prizes” everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes

The Literary Nest Online publication for poetry and visual arts. Accepted poetry appears on blog; issues released quarterly theliterarynest.org

Palette Poetry No fee, contributors receive \$50. Monthly contests, open submissions palett poetry.com/submit/

Poetry Foundation poetryfoundation.org

Poetry Magazine Please send only one submission at a time per category, and wait until you hear back from us before uploading another submission. Unpublished work only. **Paying market** poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/submit

Poetry Pacific Literary eZine, 2 issues per year, Spring and Fall. Published and unpublished welcome as long as you still have the rights. poetrypacific.blogspot.com

Poetry Society of America The nation’s oldest poetry organization, founded in 1910. Celebrating its 110th anniversary poetrysociety.org

Poets & Writers Lists poetry and other contests. pw.org/blogs/prize_reporter. Also lists over 1200 literary magazines. pw.org/literary_magazines

Rattle website and Facebook group. Publication submissions and live critiques rattle.com

Thimble Literary Magazine A quarterly online journal. thimblelitmag.com/submissions/

Trish Hopkinson “A Selfish Poet.” Blog with lists of markets for poets trishhopkinson.com/tips-and-resources/ Facebook group, “No fee calls for poems” facebook.com/groups/860877037424122

Up the Staircase Quarterly Poetry & art. No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork OK upthestaircase.org/submit

FOR POETS, CONTINUED

Writing Matters Article, “34 Publishers of Poetry Books & Chapbooks” randallssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/

SOME FACEBOOK POETRY GROUPS

- California Poets
- Cupertino Poet Laureate
- How Writers Write Poetry Community Group
- Los Gatos Poet Laureate
- Natl Poetry Month write a poem a day challenge
- No Fee Calls for Poems
- Poetry Center–San José—PCSJ
- Rattle
- Santa Clara County Poet Laureate
- SF Creative Writing Inst drop-in poetry workshops
- Willow Glen Poetry Project

CONTESTS

The Missouri Review Miller Audio Prize Genres: audio recordings of prose, poetry, documentary, and humor. One \$1000 prize for the winner in each category. Open for entries year-round missourireview.com/contests/audio-contest/

Winning Writers Tom Howard/John H Reid Fiction & Essay Contest All styles and themes, fiction and nonfiction. Accepts published and unpublished work. **Deadline 30 Apr** winningwriters.com/our-contests

CWC–Redwood Writers 2021 Poetry Contest First prize \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. **Deadline 15 Apr, 9 PM.** Open to all CWC members, \$10 entry fee. Winners announced 15 May at the Redwood Writers general meeting on Zoom. redwoodwriters.org/2021-poetry-contest/

Regal House Publishing regalhousepublishing.com

- **The 2021 Kraken Book Prize** for middle-grade fiction, **deadline 06 Apr**, winner receives \$750 and publication
- **The 2021 Petrichor Prize**, recognizing finely crafted fiction, winner receives \$1000 and publication. **Entries accepted 15 Apr–15 Jul**

WOW! Women on Writing

wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php

- **Creative Nonfiction Essay Contest.** Your story must be true, but the way you tell it is your chance to get creative. 200–1000 words, entry fee \$12, **deadline 30 Apr.**
- **Quarterly Flash Fiction Contest.** Open prompt, 250–750 words, entry fee \$10, **deadline 31 May**

Grist “Imagine 2200: Climate fiction for future ancestors,” **deadline 12 Apr.** Stories that envision the next 180 years of climate progress. *Grist’s* solutions lab, *Fix*, is excited to announce the launch of our first-ever, free-entry, climate-fiction short story contest. 3000–5000 words. 1st prize \$3000, 2nd \$2000, 3rd \$1000. Nine \$300 honoraria. Winners and finalists will be published in a stunning immersive digital collection

CONTESTS, CONTINUED

on *Fix’s* website. grist.org/fix/climate-fiction-writing-contest-imagine-2200-prizes/

2021 Book Buyers Best—Contest for published authors.

Deadline April 30. Open to writers of traditional or indie romances in print or e-novel format published during 2020. Higher than normal fees though. Non-refundable fee for each entry: \$30, RWA members; \$50, non-RWA. occrwa.org/contests/book-buyers-best/

Writer’s Digest Annual writing competition, *WD’s* oldest and most popular competition, now in its 90th year. \$5000. Winners announced in the Nov/Dec 2021 issue. **Deadline 07 May.** See writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions for more prizes and details.

Rattle Poetry Prize One \$15,000 winner and ten \$500 finalists selected in a blind review; one \$5000 readers’ choice award chosen from among the finalists. **Deadline 15 Jul** rattle.com/prize/guidelines/

The Vincent Brothers Review Annual short story contest: theme is “Housekeeping,” **deadline 31 Oct** vincentbrothersreview.org/annual-short-story-contest

San Francisco Writers Conference—2021 Writing Contest 1500 words or less in fiction, nonfiction, children/YA, or poetry. Entry fee \$30. \$100 prizes for each category; grand prize a full registration to the 2022 SFWC. **Deadline 18 Sept** sfwriters.org/2021-writing-contest-overview/

LOCAL & CWC

California Writers Club Literary Review reading cycle **EXTENDED through 15 APR.** All CWC members are encouraged to send their best work for consideration in *Literary Review* calwriters.org/publications/#submit

Catamaran Literary Reader Santa Cruz print quarterly. “West Coast themes. Writers and artists from everywhere.” Fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, fine art. Submissions year-round. catamaranliteraryreader.com

CWC–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. cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers



LOCAL & CWC, CONTINUED

MWA NorCal Chapter Mystery Writers of America, the country's oldest organization of professional mystery writers. Events, podcasts, blog mwanorcal.org

West Trade Review Reading periods 01 Apr–01 Aug & 15 Aug–15 Dec. Original and unpublished fiction, poetry, and photography by new and established writers & artists. SBW's Kelly Harrison is an associate editor. westtradereview.com/submissionsguidelines.html

Women's Natl Book Assn–San Francisco Events, lecture series, Pitch-o-Rama, Effie Lee Morris writing contest & more wnba-sfchapter.org

OPEN SUBMISSIONS

Kosmos Journal for global transformation. Essays, poetry. Editorial preference given to members; membership is free kosmosjournal.org/contribute-to-kosmos-quarterly/

The Lumiere Review Accepts poems and prose, encouraging emerging writers, BIPOC, LGBTQIA, and disabled. No fees. lumierereview.com/

Second Chance Lit Submissions must have been previously rejected. No payment, but will promote. Max 1000 words. secondchancelit.com/submit

Sequestrum: Literature & Art Paying market. High-quality short fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual arts. Previously unpublished only. **Theme issues open, ends on 15 Apr:** "Slipstream: Magical Realism" and "Optimism." Nominal fee. sequestrum.org/submissions

Vestal Review Flash fiction. "A venue for exceptional flash fiction by both emerging and well-known authors." Reading periods: **Print, Feb–May**, Aug–Nov. Online: Jun and Dec. Length: ≤500 words. Genres: fiction, including speculative, romance, contemporary, political, humor Nominal reading fee; contributors receive \$50. vestalreview.net/guidelines/

The Vincent Brothers Review Submissions in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Pays a minimum \$25 per accepted item. **Issue 25 submissions call, themed "Ghosts"** vincentbrothersreview.org/submissions/

GENERAL RESOURCES (* = Internet and FB)

Ace World Pub Maintains updated lists of international opportunities for grants, publication, contests, prizes, jobs, and more aceworldpub.com.ng

Association of Writers & Writing Programs AWP sponsors six contests, and also provides an extensive listing of literary grants, awards, and publication opportunities available from organizations and publishers throughout North America. awpwriter.org/contests/overview

Authors Publish* Subscription magazine for writers, with lists of publishers accepting no-fee submissions for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry authorspublish.com

GENERAL RESOURCES, CONTINUED

Electric Lit Article, "Free or cheap resources for emerging writers" electricliterature.com/free-or-cheap-resources-for-emerging-writers

Freedom with Writing* Subscribe to our newsletter and we'll send you reviews of freelance writing companies, assignments, and the best articles we can produce. Everything is free and delivered via email. freedomwithwriting.com

Funds for Writers Up-to-date listing of contests, submissions, grants. Free weekly newsletter. fundsforwriters.com/contests

Hidden River™ Arts Independent literary, visual, and performing arts organization based in Philadelphia dedicated to the service, support and celebration of all artists. Book awards deadlines and guidelines, news, celebrations, and publications hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com

NewPages News, information, guides to literary magazines, independent publishers, creative writing programs, alternative periodicals, calls for submission, indie bookstores, writing contests, and more. Contests: newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests

Poets & Writers Contest blogs pw.org/blogs/prize_reporter; pw.org/grants
List of 1200+ literary magazines (filterable): pw.org/literary_magazines

ProWritingAid Writer's Community FB group for writers to connect and help each other become better writers facebook.com/groups/ProWritingAidCommunity

Publishing ... and Other Forms of Insanity Article, "185 Literary Magazines Accepting Reprints" publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2016/01/163-literary-magazines-accepting.html

Reedsy: The Best Writing Contests Blog spot with filterable and searchable listing of current competitions blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests

The Write Life* "Tools, Courses & Resources for Writers" thewritelife.com/tools-for-writers/

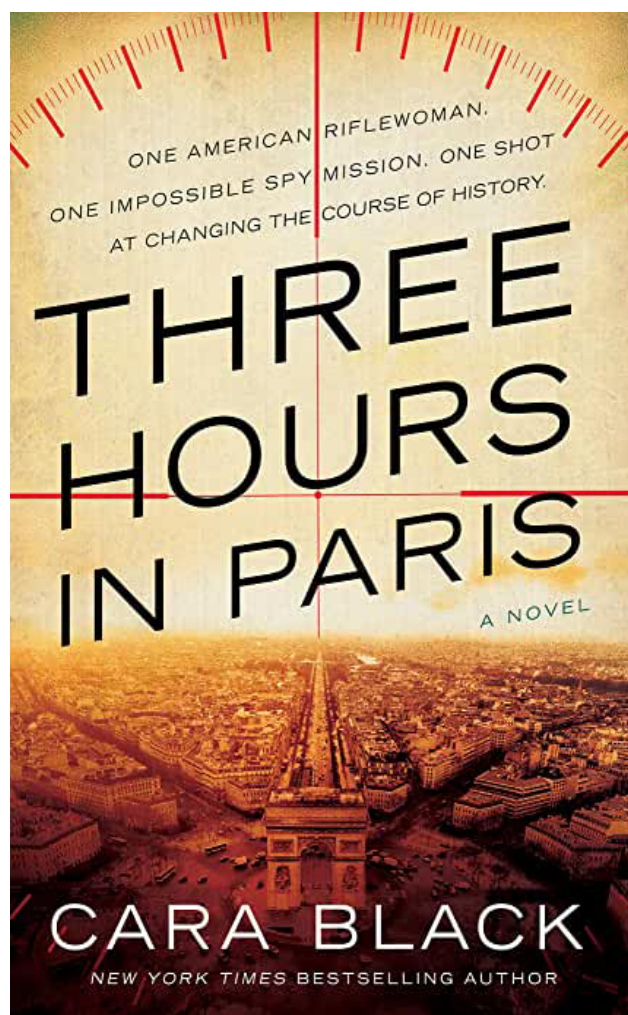
The Writer Upcoming contests, articles, resources, and you can subscribe to the newsletter. writermag.com/contests

Writers Post No Fee Call for Submissions Facebook group: "Help yourself and other writers" facebook.com/groups/58414389316

Khan, *Continued from page 1*

Cara is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author of nineteen books in the Private Investigator *Aimée Leduc* series, which is set in Paris. Her most recent novel, *Three Hours in Paris*, has been described as a “taut, smart, heart-in-throat page-turner worthy of the most discerning reader of John le Carré, Daniel Silva, or Alan Furst.” Cara has received multiple nominations for the Anthony and Macavity Awards, a *Washington Post*’s Book World Book of the Year citation, the Médaille de la Ville de Paris—the Paris City Medal, which is awarded in recognition of contributions to international culture—and invitations to be the guest of honor at conferences such as the Paris Polar crime festival and Left Coast Crime. With more than 400,000 books in print, the *Aimée Leduc* series has been translated into German, Norwegian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, and Hebrew. Cara has lived in the Bay Area since the age of five. **WT**

Three Hours in Paris is now available in paperback: 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.



CWC around the Bay

Berkeley cwc-berkeley.org

Central Coast centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont Area

cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Marin cwcmarin.com

Mendocino writersmendocinocoast.org

Mt Diablo cwcmtdiablo.org

Napa Valley napavalleywriters.net

North State northstatewriters.com

Redwood City redwoodwriters.org

Sacramento cwcsacramentowriters.org

SF Peninsula cwc-peninsula.org

San Joaquin Valley trivalleywriters.org



CWC events in April

27 MAR: CWC–Fremont

Mary Anna Evans talks about, “The Writing Life,” experiences and discoveries as an author of more than a dozen books. Sat, 27 Mar, 2 PM, **Free**. Request Zoom link: scottfrombayside@yahoo.com

10 APR: CWC–Mt Diablo

Alan Brennert presents “Researching Your Novel: Reality Matters,” Sat, 10 April, 9:30 AM–12:15 PM (speaker begins at 11:15), \$5 for CWC members. Brennert will cover the many techniques he has used to ensure his award-winning historical novels conform with historical records, including using archives and other resources to create the past, ferreting out legal matters and facts surrounding infamous cases, and interviewing subject matter experts. Sign up here: cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/

14 APR: CWC–Napa

Talk with Marianne Lyon, Napa County’s new poet laureate. Wed, 14 Apr, 7 PM. \$5 for CWC members. napavalleywriters.online/meetings/

17 APR: CWC–Redwood

Phyllis Meshulam, “Writing Our Way Out of Our Crises.” Sat, 17 Apr, 1 PM. \$5 for CWC members. redwoodwriters.org/meetings/

17 APR: CWC–Sacramento

Jill Lublin, “Publicity for Authors,” Sat, 17 Apr, 1–2 PM. **Free**. cwcsacramentowriters.org

17 APR: CWC–Tri-Valley

Martha Alderson, the Plot Whisperer, will present “will present “Writing Backward—Begin by Plotting from the End,” Sat, 17 Apr, 2 PM, \$5 for CWC members. **RSVP by 15 Apr:** trivalleywriters.org

18 APR: CWC–Mendocino Coast

Susan Bono, “Contents of the Dead Man’s Pockets: The Power of Objects in Your Writing.” Sun, 18 Apr, 3 PM. To request invite: writersmendocinocoast@gmail.com

19 APR: CWC–Berkeley

Emily Cotler of WaxCreative Author Websites, ONLINE, Mon, 19 Apr, 1–3 PM, \$5 for CWC members. Emily Cotler is the Creative Director and principal of Waxcreative Design, Inc., and co-author of *Web Redesign 2.0: Workflow that Works*, an established standard for workflow methodologies and user-centered design principles worldwide. cwc-berkeley.org

20 APR: CWC–Central Coast

Carolyn Burke speaks on “Other People’s Lives.” Burke is often asked why she wrote about Mina Loy, Lee Miller, and Edith Piaf. This presentation will focus on how her subjects’ stories overlap with her own. Tue, 20 Apr, 6 PM. **Free**. Request Zoom link: info@centralcoastwriters.org.

Have a look at

NorCal Group, a regional collection of our northern-California CWC branches. The “Group” was formed a decade back to further communication and share best practices among the various northern-California branches—some seasoned and established, others new to the mission. We are recognized and partially funded by the Central Board and act, in part, as an intermediary. **Curious?** cwc-norcalwriters.org




25 APR: CWC–Marin

Eden Bradley WORKSHOP, “Awaken the Senses.” *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Eden Bradley has created Awaken the Senses for Writers. In this course you’ll learn to use the five senses to wake up your manuscripts, deepen character development and draw your readers into each scene with compelling sensory details. In this hands-on workshop, you’ll be given a list of sensory supplies to gather prior to the workshop, as well as a gorgeous downloadable workbook with exercises and prompts. **This event is FREE** (donations for speaker welcome). cwcmarin.com/april/



Eden Bradley

Facebook discussion group

 Join our Facebook group South Bay Writers Club Group admin Carolyn Donnell

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 APRIL FOOLS' DAY	2 OPEN MIC GOOD FRIDAY	3 PASSOVER ENDS
4  EASTER	5 VALLEY WRITERS	6	7 SBW BOARD MTG 7 PM	8	9	10
11 	12 VALLEY WRITERS SBW MTG 7 PM RAMADAN BEGINS	13	14	15 WT ISSUE CLOSES TAX DAY	16 OPEN MIC	17 俳句 NATIONAL HAIKU POETRY DAY
18 CWC CENTRAL BOARD MTG	19 VALLEY WRITERS	20 	21	22  EARTH DAY	23 WORLD BOOK DAY	24 INDIE BOOKSTORE DAY
25	26 VALLEY WRITERS WIND MOON 	27	28	29	30 ORTHODOX GOOD FRIDAY ARBOR DAY	

Ongoing events

Critique groups

Valley Writers Mondays 2-4 PM via Zoom. Email Marjorie Johnson marjohnson89@earthlink.net

Zoom writing group

Small supportive group of experienced writers has room for one more. We meet the **1st & 3rd Fridays, 3:30-5 PM**. If you're interested, please contact Karen Sundback at sundback@gmail.com

Morgan Hill writers group

We're a critique circle based in Morgan Hill, with members from all over. Long and short narrative, any genre. **Mondays,**

5 PM. Contact Vanessa MacLaren-Wray for Zoom login details cometarytales@gmail.com

SBW regular meetings

2nd Mondays, 7 PM. Watch your email for Zoom login details

SBW Board meetings

1st Wednesdays, 7 PM. Contact pres@southbaywriters.com

Open mic

1st & 3rd Friday nights. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 WABaldwin@aol.com

Know of a regularly occurring event for writers? Email us!

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Ads in CWC's *The Bulletin* 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 CWC's *The Bulletin*, published three times a year, reaches 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 22 CWC branches throughout the state and is published on calwriters.org.

We accept 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.



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
PO Box 3254
Santa Clara CA 95055
southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

South Bay Writers
May 2021 meeting
Monday | 10 May | 7 PM

Guest speaker Rob Minkoff

Watch your email
for details!

California Writers Club
Literary Review

EXTENDED DEADLINE
15 APRIL

**[calwriters.org/
publications/#submit](http://calwriters.org/publications/#submit)**

COVID-19 VACCINE IS HERE

STAY INFORMED. KEEP WEARING YOUR MASK.

- Validated by the nation's top medical experts to be safe and effective
- Provided at no cost
- Phased distribution plan based on risk and level of exposure
- Widely available later in 2021



covid19.ca.gov/vaccines

Vaccinate ALL 58