



WRITERSTALK

Volume 29
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June 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

JUNE SPEAKER

**John Brantingham on
book reviews—process & benefits**

Jamal Khan



and build from there. The benefits are vast, opening doors that would have otherwise required a more circuitous route. This under-utilized path to getting your name out there will be explained in detail during our monthly meeting on 14 June, 7 PM. **John Brantingham** will discuss how to write compelling book reviews for publication and how to increase your presence in the kinds of magazines that sparkle on a CV.

John was Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' first poet laureate. His work has been featured in hundreds of magazines, *The Writer's Almanac with Garrison Keillor*, and *The Best Small Fictions 2016*. He has nineteen books of poetry and fiction, including his latest, *Life, Orange to Pear* (2020, Bamboo Dart Press). He teaches at Mt San Antonio College in Walnut, California.

MAY SPEAKER RECAP

Rob Minkoff
Bill Baldwin

We were delighted to host Rob Minkoff, longtime Disney contributor, at our May regular meeting.

As a child, Rob became involved in Palo Alto Children's Theater, which ignited his interest in theater. A cousin of his got him interested in drawing.

When he was fifteen, his involvement with the Children's Theater gave rise to a babysitting gig. At the house of the girls he was babysitting was an enormous coffee-table book, *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms* (1973). The girls said their uncle wrote it. Minkoff asked his parents for a copy for his birthday, and got it.

Meanwhile, Rob met Kirk Wise in high school, and both were into animation. Kirk stumbled onto an animation school: The California Institute of the Arts. Rob told his parents that animation was the only thing he wanted to do. Prudently, they urged him to apply to other schools as well (in more practical fields). But Rob was accepted in the school, and Kirk got in the following year.

After two years, Rob was invited to intern at Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California.

Monday
14 June • 7 PM!

A book review provides instant visibility and credibility, not only to the author but also the reviewer. In fact, far more people read reviews about a book than the book itself, potentially giving the reviewer an even wider audience than the author. How do you begin? Start with smaller publications

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Between the lines

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



Uncharted riches

Our May speaker, Rob Minkoff, is an inspiration we can all learn from. First, he had the good fortune of discovering his life's ambition at a young age—become an animator. A visiting uncle's ability to sketch pictures planted the

seed, and Rob started teaching himself to draw.

On a babysitting job he was reluctant to take, he noticed a 500-page book on the coffee table, *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms* (1973). Serendipitously, the children's uncle was the author of the book.

Rob requested and received a copy of the tome for his birthday, and continued to expand his repertoire of drawings.

Graduating from California Institute of the Arts led to an internship at Walt Disney Studios. From there, he worked his way up.

Sadly, the creative arts are not like other professions. That is—there aren't precise steps to follow, like earning a college degree where if you complete the required classes, you're awarded a diploma.

However, one aphorism is true when it comes to art: "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity" (Seneca). The emphasis is on "preparation."

In his book *Outliers: The Story of Success* (2008), Malcolm Gladwell's thesis is that it takes ten years or 10,000 hours to master a skill. Consequently, realizing early what you want to do, like Rob did, is an advantage—you can begin your training early.

Chuck Jones, the iconic cartoonist, reiterated as much when he said, "All of you have one hundred thousand bad drawings in you. The sooner you get rid of them, the better it will be for everyone."

For writers, the equivalent is to write a million words.

If you study the masters, you'll learn that they often made many copies of the same picture before determining the final painting—in some cases, there are several of the same painting. Edvard Munch created four versions of *The Scream* (1893). Paul Cézanne created numerous paintings of Mont Sainte-Victoire, the landscape overlooking his home in Provence.

Similarly, writers go through drafts. Margaret Mitchell said she re-wrote the first chapter of *Gone with the Wind* (1936) eighty times.

It's curious how our childhood experiences influence us. In 1974, *Blazing Saddles* was released. Since Rob was only twelve at that time, he was not allowed to see the R-rated film. The experience left an in-

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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 23. No political advertising

Change of address

membership@southbaywriters.com

Circulation 130

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Tabs are not your friends

Renée J Anderson, Managing Editor



Managing the acquisitions for *Literary Review* is a tough job this year, with more than 300 submissions in all, 130 of those arriving just before the deadline. Managing Editor Elisabeth Tuck is to be commended for all her coordination efforts!

I've had the great opportunity to judge some of the *LitRev* submissions, and I'd like to use my column this month to draw your attention to a simple little thing. Those of you who are already on intimate terms with MS Word and its ruler can skip to page 4.

It has been dismaying to find so many *LitRev* submitters using *tabs*, or worse, *spaces*, for paragraph indents. If this is you, *make a plan to quit – today*. Nothing screams “inexperience” more than those little blue arrows at the beginning of every paragraph.

A recent speaker advised us to use tabs, but I don't feel that was a helpful suggestion. True, tabs are better than using the space bar, but please, stop using both.

As with a typewriter, the triangles on the Word ruler allow you to set margins, right and left, for your document. But they also allow you to set paragraph indents and hanging indents. Word will remember these settings so your paragraphs look consistent.

I'm talking about these thingies



...and in particular, the left thingy. It has three parts: two triangles that point towards each other, and a rectangular block underneath them. Here's what they do:



The rectangle will let you move both arrows at once. Click and hold the rectangle to set your left margin. When the rectangle and both triangles are lined up together like you see here, your paragraph will be “flush-left,” no indent. This is what you want for your opening paragraph, and at the beginnings of new sections.



You can also click and hold the triangles individually. Moving the top arrow to the right lets you set the paragraph indent. When you finish writing your paragraph and hit Return for the next one, it will have the same indent. *This is the key to the castle, right here. Please learn this.*

If your paragraph is already written, just place the cursor somewhere in that paragraph before you move the triangles. If you have a whole document you want to change, it's easier just to highlight each paragraph, or “Select-all,” first. My shortcut is to select-all (⌘A on a Mac, Ctrl-A for Windows), and set the indents and margins as I want. Then select the first paragraph only, and align the block and arrows so that the opening paragraph is flush-left.

Please experiment with the triangles and block until you get the hang of them. Myriad tutorials are available all over the internet. The bottom line: any experienced writer must be familiar with how the ruler can be used to give your work a professional look. It's important enough that I'm risking sounding pedantic, but I truly want to help you give your writing the most polished first impression it can have.

Please renew your membership by 30 June. Haiku contest winners, this issue! **WT**

WANTED



Submissions of all kinds
Names for racehorses,
creative classified ads,
cereal box copy, news, artwork

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

View from the Board

Marjorie Johnson



The Board of South Bay Writers met on Zoom on Cinco de Mayo. **Present:** President Edie Matthews, Secretary Marjorie Johnson, 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 J Anderson, and Facebook Group Admin Carolyn Donnell. **Absent:** VP Jamal Khan, Janet Patey, Hospitality Chair. Meeting called to order 7:16 PM. Unanimous approval of 07 April minutes.

Edie Matthews, Speakers on Zoom (all announced in last month's *WritersTalk*)

10 May Rob Minkoff, Director and Producer of animated films *The Lion King*, *Stuart Little 1 & 2*, and more

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

12 July Tod Goldberg, topic TBA

08 November Anne Hillerman (continuing in footsteps of Tony Hillerman)

Trenton Myers, Treasurer's report: holding steady.

Carolyn Donnell, administrator of the SBW Facebook page and group, had nothing new to report. She reminded us that you can get a Zoom meeting invite by contacting Tatyana Grinenko at pr@southbaywriters.com

Tatyana Grinenko, Publicity updates: requests to email PR@SouthBayWriters.com for the Zoom link for the May speaker have been working. I added these new contacts into Constant Contact and will send invites to them to future events.

Inga Silva, Membership: Currently, we have the following numbers: 110 members: 8 dual, 55 active members (published per CWC guidelines), 46 associate (actively writing but currently unpublished), 5 supporting, 2 students, and 1 lifetime member. We have three new members, Inna Tsirlin, Elizabeth-Kile Herchkorn, and Carey Steffee. Renewals are beginning to come in.

Bill Baldwin, wearing one of his many hats, announced that Open Mics continue on first and third Fridays. Attend this popular venue by contacting him at WABaldwin@aol.com.

MRMS: The committee met Sunday, 11 April. Roger Lubeck, Committee Chair, is recruiting for a programmer to develop a MRMS replacement. We would like the

system to provide a uniform approach to membership management across the entire CWC. There are currently variations in how individual branches process new and renewing members. There are questions of whether all members should be able to access the system, what information they should access, and what, if anything, they can change. The committee meets again sometime in May.

CWC-Central Board met 18 April. The Ina Coolbrith Award will go to Rusty LaGrange for her longtime work with *The Bulletin*. Jack London Awards are supposed to be presented July (per our P&Ps). We would prefer to present them in October, perhaps as part of the Tri-Valley writing conference.

Board elections will be held in July in conjunction with the next board meeting. Nominations have been presented. The current President (Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal) and VP (Roger Lubeck) will switch positions, and we will have a new Treasurer (Constance Hanstedt). Elisabeth Tuck will continue as Secretary. Of course, other people could be nominated and elected instead.

We discussed allowing branches to go into "hiatus" if they are having difficulty maintaining their branch. This would avoid forcing the Central Board to suspend a branch. No proposal has been made yet. This is important stuff—a branch has to have a board to operate, for heaven's sake!

SBW Election in June: In this time without in-person meetings, the usual nominating committee format just doesn't work. Tatyana will send emails outlining positions to be filled, and announcements will appear in *WritersTalk*. Most current Board members would serve another year if needed, but a healthy club benefits from change. Taking a position on the SBW Board doesn't take much time beyond the monthly board meeting. You benefit by learning what the club can do for you and meeting other board members, and SBW benefits from your new ideas and energy. Besides that, it's fun and there's time to get acquainted, even on Zoom. We hope that some of our new members will try this. We need *YOU*.

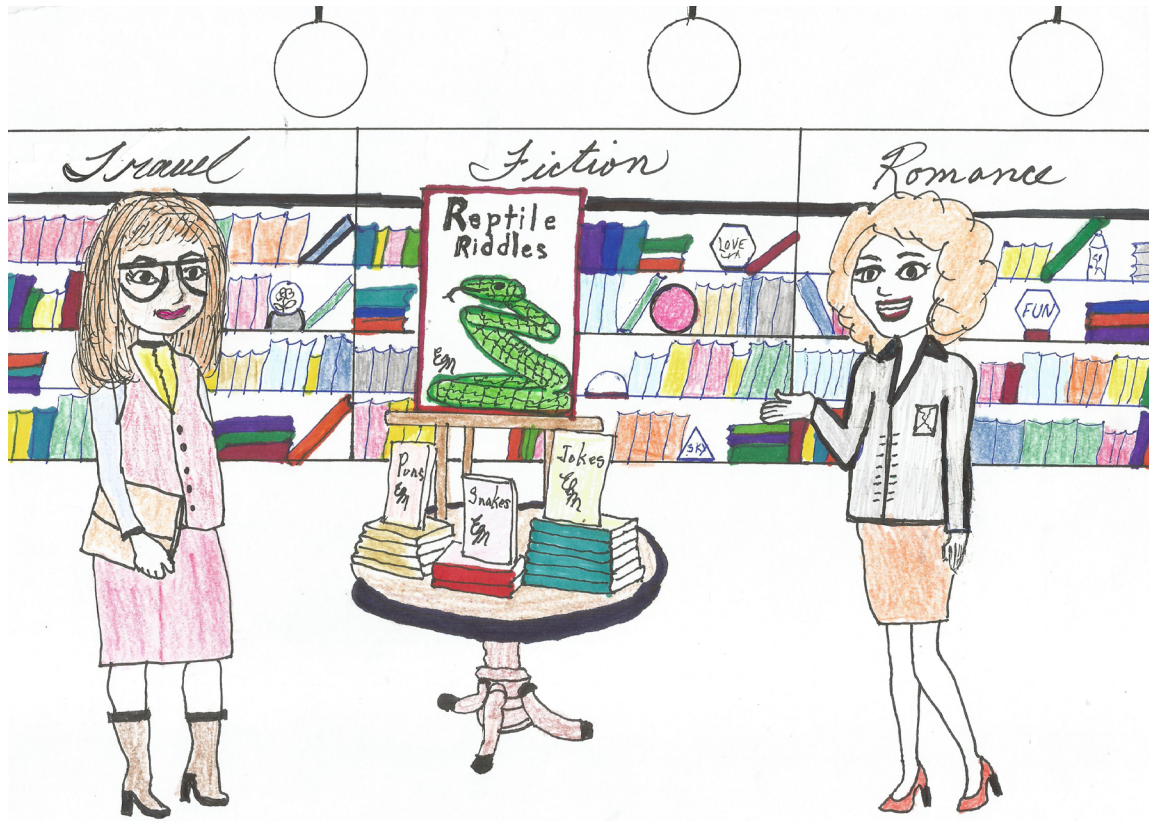
Any member of SBW is invited to attend our Board meetings—send an email to pres@southbaywriters.com. We're a friendly group and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Meeting adjourned 8:34 PM. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, 09 June. Next regular meeting on Zoom: Monday, 14 June.

WT

Off the shelf

Edie Matthews



"That book is hisssterical!"

It's time: Renew before the end of June

Marjorie Johnson

As you know, South Bay Writers is a proud branch of the California Writers Club. CWC's fiscal year runs from 01 July though 30 June, so our 2020–2021 fiscal year is ending. That means that none of us are members after 30 June—unless we send \$45 to the SBW treasury. The easiest and best way is to pay online at southbaywriters.com

Be sure to print out your receipt to remind yourself—the most common member error is to pay dues extra times. The second most popular member error is not telling us who you are. If you use a pen name or a business credit card or other credit card without the name we know you by, let us know when you fill out the application form. So you have been a member of SBW since the Dark Ages, why fill out a form again? Sorry guys—that's just the way our website works.

If you're a Luddite and don't like the internet or credit cards, send a check for \$45 to CWC–South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

Grumble, grumble: Why send \$45 at all? Everybody gets invited to SBW Zoom meetings and comes for free, right? That special deal lasts only though the pandemic. SBW still pays the speaker and for using Zoom and for printing and mailing *Writers-Talk*. Please show a little loyalty and longing for camaraderie.

WT

Renew your membership today!

southbaywriters.com/join/#submit



Member News

Marjorie Johnson

On Sunday, 11 April, **Linda King** and **Kate Russell**, as members of the Mission Valley Chorus, sang the National Anthem for the San Francisco Giants and the Colorado Rockies. It was the Giant's home opener for the season at Oracle Stadium. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the chorus performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" virtually. Each singer recorded the performance individually at home. Then tech support combined their voices, and a video displayed their faces singing on the giant scoreboard. It was thrilling to perform this grand tradition in spite of the limitations imposed by the Year of COVID-19. The chorus was invited back to sing for Mother's Day as well.



Above: Linda King (third row, third box from left) and Kate Russell (far right, second from top) perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Oracle Stadium in April.

Photo courtesy Mission Valley Chorus.

News from **Kelly Miller**: I entered my book, *Accusing Mr. Darcy: A Pride & Prejudice Variation* (2020), in several book awards contests. It has been named a finalist in the Wishing Shelf Book Awards; a Recommended Read in the Author Shout Reader Ready Awards; First Place for Romance in the Queer Indie Awards, Ally Division; and First place for Romantic Suspense, Firebird Book Awards.

Louise Webb, interviewer to the stars and presidents, gave a Zoom presentation "Behind the Scenes with Celebrities" to the Monday, 24 May meeting of the San Jose Women's Club Antiques Group. During her career as a journalist, Louise Webb has interviewed presidents including Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, stars such as Oprah Winfrey and Clint Eastwood, and well-known writer Truman Capote. For more than twenty years, she covered topics of local and international interest for the *Saratoga News*. She teaches writing at a local community center.

Please share what's happening out there. I love it when I hear of your writing successes. Send email to membernews@southbaywriters.com

WT



Left: Kelly Miller

Below: Louse Webb



Opportunity knocks

Marjorie Johnson

Will you answer? Or will you let it pass?

South Bay Writers needs new officers. According to our bylaws, a new slate every June.

That's so not me.

Please, just read on. What do they do? How much time does it take? Good questions. Before I answer those, what will you get out of it?

In more usual times, SBW officers have the opportunity to meet editors, agents, and writers who have "made it." We often sit with them at dinner. Making it in the writing world is often more about who you know than what you have written. We also are in the loop when planning programs.

As to what each officer does, as in every nonprofit club, the president presides; the vice president can take the place of the president; the secretary keeps the minutes of monthly board meetings; and the treasurer accounts for the money. Officers attend a Board meeting and a program every month.

Because SBW is a writer's club, the vice president introduces the speaker each month and writes the page one article in *WritersTalk*. The president and vice president plan programs and contact speakers. The secretary writes a column for *WritersTalk* to keep members informed about what the Board is up to. The members-at-large advise the Board about concerns and suggestions from members.

Perhaps it's a bit late to commit to running for office for 2021–2022, but it pays to plan ahead. You can learn the ropes by taking a position as Secretary or Member-at-Large. Or, you can attend Board meetings any month on the Wednesday before the general meeting. Contact Edie Matthews at pres@southbaywriters.com for a Zoom invite.

WT

Elections: Secretary role is open!

What does the Secretary do?

- Records and obtains approval of minutes from Board meetings
- Submits a monthly account of Board meetings to *WritersTalk*

Contact Edie Matthews if you might be interested
pres@southbaywriters.com

Attend a Board meeting

Get to know your Board and learn more about your club's activities.

Great for networking.

Bring ideas, or just listen in.

You are more than welcome!

Contact Edie Matthews for the Zoom link
pres@southbaywriters.com

Submit to WritersTalk

Remember, you retain all rights to any work you have published in *WritersTalk*.

Send us pieces of you.

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Many colors, plus a new blue
Marty Sorensen

From Kathy Steinemann (kathysteinemann.com/Musings/colors/), a list of more than a hundred adjectives from thousands you could choose from to produce more vivid descriptions of the colors in your writing.

Here’s A to C: accented, achromatic, ashen, ashy, atomic, blazing, bleached, bleak, blinding, blotchy, bold, brash, bright, brilliant, burnt, chromatic, classic, clean, cold, complementing, contrasting, cool, coordinating, creamy, crisp.

Why is color in writing so important? Pablo Picasso said, “Colors, like features, follow the changes of the emotions.” Picasso was an artist who evoked emotion with colorful pigments. As a writer, you can do the same with colorful words. Note the different pictures painted by the following two paragraphs.

Ned gazed at the calypso-orange horizon. A lapis-blue speck sparkled above it in the deepening violet of a new night sky – Planet Vorton, home.

Ned gaped at the corpse-grey horizon. A mold-blue speck festered above it in the deepening black of a smoggy night sky – Planet Vorton, home.

Same number of words, different colors, with complementing adjectives and verbs. One paragraph emanates optimism, the other gloom.

Now take just one color: the new blue.

The Egyptians started the whole blue thing. Look at Nefertiti, that

super-fancy hat she wears. It’s Egyptian Blue. Her son was King Tut, aka Steve Martin.

The new blue is called YInMn because it’s made up of yttrium, indium, and manganese. It’s the first new blue in two hundred years. Before that was synthetic indigo, the color used to dye jeans blue. YInMn is so good that Crayola is dumping its entire set of Dandelion colors and replacing them with this new color it calls . . . wait for it . . . *Bluetiful*. Derivan puts it in its Matisse Acrylics. YInMn is non-toxic, so it can be commercialized. It’s going into graphics chips because it reflects near-infrared. Try explaining that to the Maine Coast Writers Group.

Remember the scene from *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006), where Meryl Streep upbraids Anne Hathaway for not knowing she wore a cerulean sweater? That’s what the Romans called the blue of the Egyptians. If you don’t know The Blue Nile you need to read some more adventure stories. We’re way beyond that now. Look at the table on the next page, which shows the Red, Green, and Blue makeup for some blue colors. The max for each number is 256.

Remember this table when next you sit down to tempt the muse. No murders with YInMn. Prussian Blue is good when either perp or vic is into fashion. Blue Screen of Death is for tech types.

Cobalt, well, the poisoning can come from artificial hip wear and tear. I have one, so knock on wood (and not on the cobalt!). It’s good for knocking off painters.

But most importantly, the blueness of YInMn comes from manganese. And the highest, most concentrated source of manganese for humans is . . . wait for it again . . . blue mussels. And (still going) the most important value for manganese is for helping with your moods, when you’re feeling . . . well, you know.

WT

	Red	Green	Blue	
<i>YInMn</i>	46	80	144	Extremely stable, non-toxic, durable, doesn’t dilute
<i>Ultramarine</i>	63	0	255	Obviously, the bluest blue
<i>Prussian Blue</i>	0	31	53	Yikes! Can release cyanide
<i>Cerulean</i>	0	123	167	It means <i>sky</i> in Latin, so Duh!
<i>Blue Screen of Death</i>	9	39	245	Relax, it’s just the death of your computer. And not on Macs
<i>Cobalt Blue</i>	0	80	181	More yikes! Pure poison



YInMn



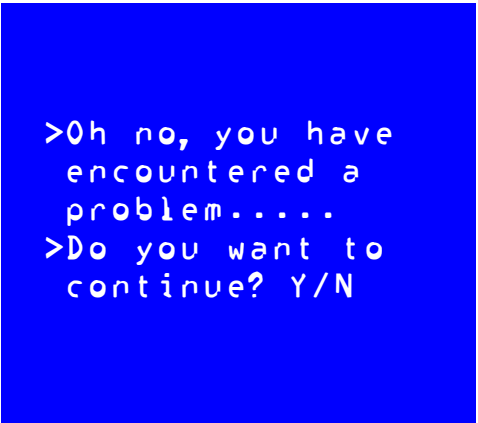
Ultramarine



Prussian Blue



Cerulean



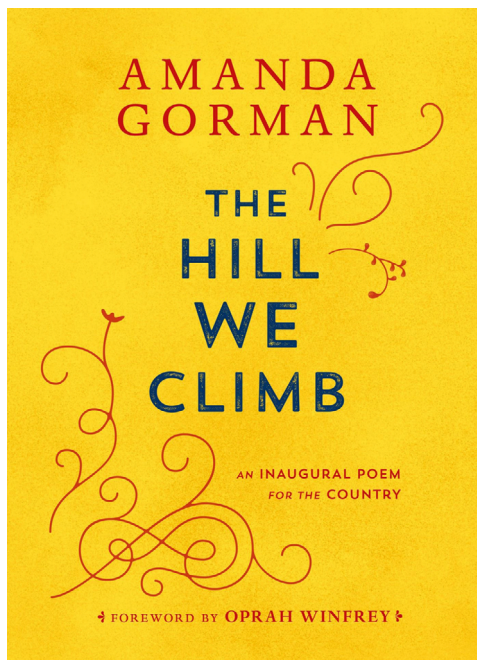
Windows Blue Screen of Death



Cobalt



Blue mussels. Credit: British Antarctic Survey



Amanda Gorman in January 2021 at the inauguration of Joe Biden

theamandagorman.com

NEWS

"The Hill We Climb"

A poetry first

Renée J Anderson

Amanda Gorman, 23, took America, and the world, by storm on Inauguration Day 2021, as the youngest inaugural poet in American history. (She was 22 at the time.) Her poem, "The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country," seemed to hit at just the right moment, a cathartic balm many in America have been craving, after a tumultuous four years, and in particular after the ne'er-to-be-forgotten 2020.

"The Hill We Climb" was bound in hardcover and published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House, on 30 March 2021. It immediately debuted in the #1 spot on the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and several indie best-seller lists, with the highest sales in week 1 for any book of poetry ever published. As of this writing (15 May), it remains in the top 10 in the *New York Times* Combined Print & E-Book Fiction list.

*When day comes, we ask ourselves:
Where can we find light
In this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must
wade.*

Thus begins "The Hill We Climb." One can almost hear *Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free* dancing in and around these words, in a kind of harmony. Indeed, Amanda Gorman's poem is very like an anthem, on a par with other national poems and songs. One imagines it will continue to be an iconic portrait of the American spirit for generations to come.

WT

Upcoming conferences

8th Annual Catamaran Writing Conf. 25–29 July (local, in-person)

Artistic themes tap into the rich literary history and beautiful setting of the California Central Coast. Special guest speaker Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley. From \$750. catamaranliteraryreader.com/writing-conference-2021

Historical Novel Society of North America, 21–27 June (virtual)

Gain insight into various ways to publish a book, build a platform, market a novel, and approach a sequel or a series. \$289. Deadline for registration is 20 June. hns-conference.com

Southampton Writers Conference 14–18 July (virtual)

Billy Collins, Major Jackson, and Paul Tremblay are among the faculty. Morning and evening lecture series \$289; afternoon workshops + lecture series \$950. Registration deadline is 20 June. stonybrook.edu/writers

Port Townsend Writers Conference 19–24 July (virtual)

Craft-focused workshops, lectures, panels, open mics, and readings. \$490; full experience including morning intensives \$790. Evening readings free. centrum.org/the-port-townsend-writers-conference

Mendocino Coast Writer's Conf. 05–07 August (Virtual)

Keynote speaker author Wendy O Ortiz. Workshops, craft sessions, social events, panels, one-on-one consultations, open mics. Full experience \$475 per day, with add-ons. Registration deadline 30 June. mcwc.org

HAIKU 俳句 Contest



First place

Last Easter with you
I had time but not courage
ever since, regret

Assunta Maria Vickers
Inland Empire

Second place

Red-breasted robin,
Last year's nest, lichen rimmed,
Awaits your return

Meghan Farley
South Bay



Third place

Wolves howl at the moon
Some women howl at the moon
Delightful madness

Nancy Guarnera, Fremont

WINNERS

April chirps and sings
Splitting shells and seeds and blooms
Riotous greening

Nascent roots and stems
Displace freshly warming earth
Chill nights slow their birth

Foggy mornings pale
Seared from sight by blazing sun
Nectarine juice drips

Kate Russell, SBW

big helium balloon
tiny girl's hands let go
brightens winter sky

Groups of poems crowded
All together on a page
They need room to breathe

4/1/2021

Linda B Campbell-King, SBW

The leaf stretches forth
from the inside —
Its potential becomes its reality

Tamara Bell, SBW

Stuck home for St Patrick's Day
the lighting O' the green
LED

I don't remember
this film.
In one eye and out the other.

Flu season
fever sends me down
all the rabbit holes

Lake Superior
its broken ghost ships
send the blackfly to shoo us away

Burning the leaves
We lean on our rakes
the hidden crabapple howls and spits

Renée J Anderson, SBW

We turn the page on
A year of uncertainty.
Still questions remain.

At the forest edge
The dogged apple tree grows.
Catch what light you can

While the hawk killed her
lover, Junebug hid. For weeks
her lonesome calls rang.

Chestnut horse, my friend,
I pray to stop you going
dead behind the eyes.

Meghan Farley, SBW

Fragrance of Springtime
T'was not of scent, Fingertips
Awaken within

fumi-tome ohta
Orange County/High Desert

Ocean reflects sky
White foam kisses shores of sand
Foghorn sounds afar

Black as raven's wing,
night awaits the fire of dawn.
Shadows slip away.

Saturday today
Found me at gardening class
Hummingbirds buzzed by

Silver shimmer o'er deep sea.
Black as a raven's wing
sky awaits the fire of dawn.

Another day gone
Where to find some peace of mind
Look inside they say

Carolyn Donnell, SBW

adapted to life
this pandemic season, now
cocoon emergence

Wounded Healers
travelled valleys of sorrow
to find that heart salve

Covid rescue-cat
your purrs, kneads, nibbles, cuddles
indeed rescued me

amazing green shoots
burst through hidden places
babies from their womb

Assunta Maria Vickers, Inland Empire

Cactus' fleeting bloom
Year's wait Dear Saguaro
One fine day of glory

Honey need your help here
Zip up my dress in back please
Oh Jane, I zip down

Temp hits 104
Position fans, crank AC
Beer, chips, Yankees ahhhh

With dad at the park
Roughhouse, tree climbs, leaf pile dives
Mom drinks tea at home

Think of it the full moon
With no light of its own
Bright as day tonight

John Petraglia, Napa

Armchair captives watch
Invaders storm the Temple
The birds ignore us

Leaves crunch underfoot
Crispy for want of water
Up in flames they go

Cold wet winter rains
Long awaited freshening
Grass greening the hills

Round White Full and Bright
A lunatic's fantasy
You inconstant orb

Nancy Guarnera, Fremont

HAIKU
Our congratulations
to our three winners, and
thanks to all who partici-
pated. Fourteen independent
judges scored the poems by
giving points for their top-10
best-liked. Every single poem
entered received points, so
congratulations are to be
extended to all!

WT



Baldwin, continued from page 1

But this was 1982, the year cartoonists went on strike. Rob had to cross picket lines to get to work. He reasoned that as an intern rather than an actual employee, he wasn't really a "scab." He met Ron Miller, Walt Disney's son-in-law, in "Uncle Walt's" office!

As an "inbetweener"—someone who draws the pictures that go in-between the animators' drawings—he worked on *The Black Cauldron* (1985) and *The Great Mouse Detective* (1986). At age 22, he had become a Disney animator!

While working on *The Little Mermaid* (1989), he became a character designer. The sea-witch "Ursula" was originally supposed to be a Joan Collins-esque sort of character. But the concept just wasn't working. Rob found inspiration from the iconic drag actor Divine, who appeared in many John Waters films. That inspiration led to the fiendishly delectable Ursula character we know and love today.

But Rob yearned to direct films as well, and so began pitching ideas. His big break came with *The Lion King* (1994), which he co-directed with Roger Allers. *Lion King* was put into production the same year as *Pocahontas* (1995). Up against the more well-known story and being a movie about animals, *Lion King* was not expected to do as well at the box office, and creators were allowed to be more experimental. The experiment worked, and *Lion King* has reigned as a mega-classic ever since, spawning a sequel and a phenomenal Broadway musical.

In 1995, Christopher Finch released the book, *The Art of The Lion King*. Finch just so happened

to be the author *The Art of Walt Disney*—the coffee-table book that had so inspired Rob while-babysitting. Finch was the uncle of the little girls Rob had babysat. Rob eventually saw a new edition of that book—with his own picture now added! "The Circle of Life," indeed.

Rob is currently directing the soon-to-be released *Blazing Samurai*, based on *Blazing Saddles*—which Minkoff wasn't old enough to see when it came out in 1974 because he was only twelve and it was rated R.

What advice did Minkoff impart? That there are no magic formulas. There are rules, and you need to learn them—so that you can ignore them when it makes sense. That, in animation as elsewhere, writing is often the art of rewriting.

Is he a "plotter" or a "pantser"? Animators (referring to the actual drawing) would say "pose to pose" vs "straight ahead." Plotting is preferred, but great animators combine the two. "Pose to pose" goes faster. With "straight ahead," if you get stuck, you have to start again from scratch.

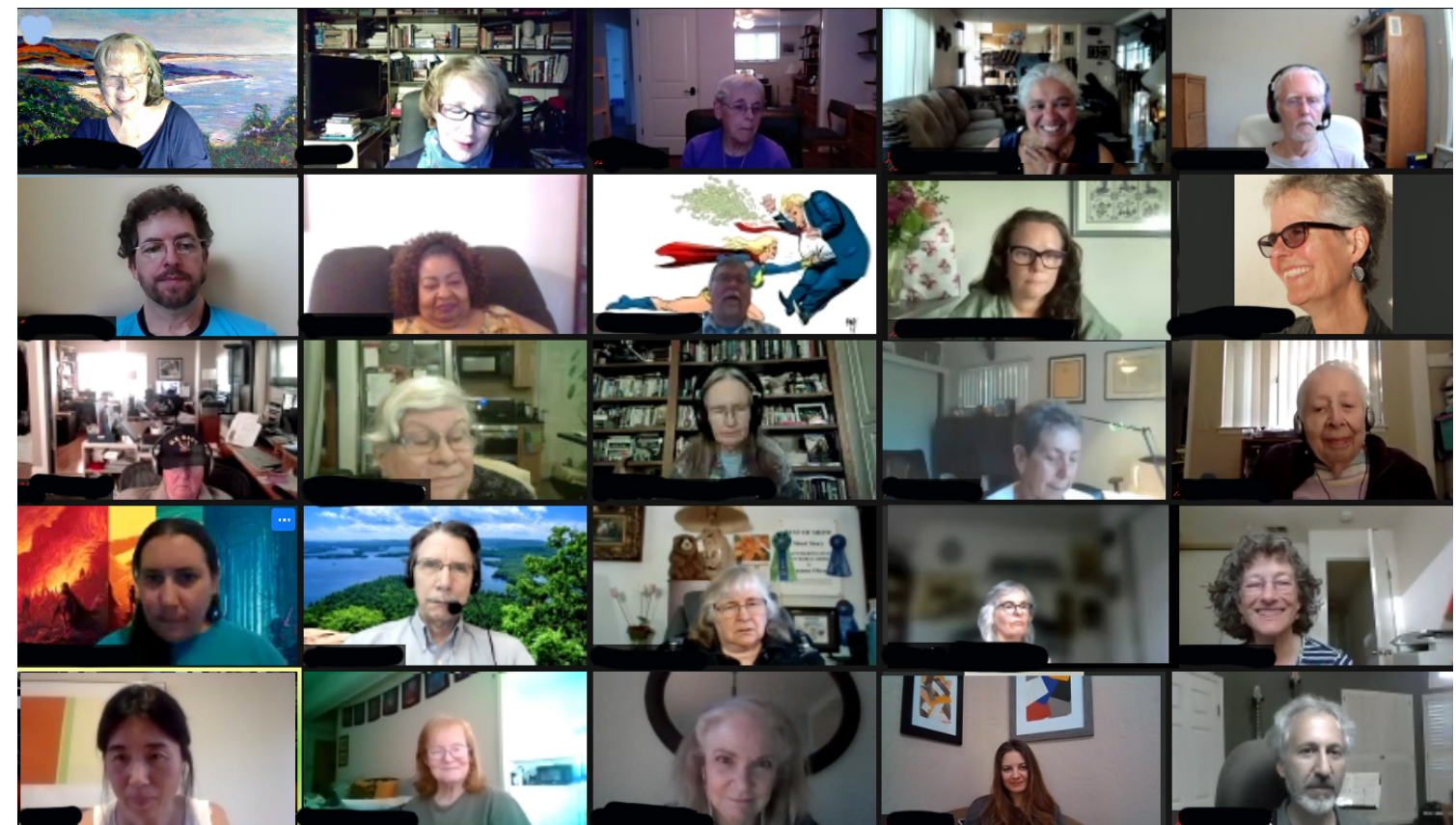
What did I personally learn from Rob's presentation? To quote *Dead Poets' Society* (1989): *carpe diem!* If you love something, reach for it and don't give up. Keep your eyes open and watch for opportunities. Those kids you're baby-sitting may have parents involved in your dream work. Seize the day, and Wish Upon a Star!

And remember: You are not a failure unless you give up. **WT**

MAP MEETING WITH ROB MINKOFF!



Rob Minkoff holds his childhood copy of **The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms** (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1973), the book that started it all for Rob's career in animation and directing.



Fifty attended the May meeting of South Bay Writers, featuring Rob Minkoff, including Tola Minkoff, Rob's mother. Happy Mother's Day! Screengrabs thanks to Carolyn Donnell.

The bookstore

Phyllis Dulaney

B. Dalton Booksellers was a four-story seller of books on Kearny and Post Streets in San Francisco, a few short blocks from the Bank of America building, where I worked as a secretary. Many a lunch hour was spent perusing their books and magazines. On several occasions, celebrities made appearances there.

Lauren Bacall – Ms Bacall sat at a small table on the ground floor signing copies of her new autobiography, *Lauren Bacall: By Myself*, in 1978. She was 54 years old, no longer the beauty she was at age 20, when she starred with her future husband Humphrey Bogart in *To Have and To Have Not*, but still striking in appearance. An older man paced near me as I waited in line to obtain a signature on a book that I planned to give to my mother. “That’s not Lauren Bacall,” he grumbled. “That’s some old lady!” not at all happy with what he was seeing.

Mick Jagger – I spent the better part of my lunch hour wandering the store one day. On returning to the office, one of the younger attorneys, Julia M, very excitedly said, “Hey, did you see Mick Jagger

at B. Dalton? He was just there!” No, I had not. “He is so short you probably couldn’t see him over the stacks of books,” she added.

Patti Smith – Patti Smith was also there signing books. She was on the second level, and a line snaked down the stairs and around the first floor. I was thrilled at the idea of getting close to her. She leaned over the guardrail and called down to us, “I only have time for one more.” She scanned the waiting hopefuls. She pointed to a mop-haired blonde. “You! Are you a boy or a girl? Come on up.” I never did find out.

Andy Warhol – Once again, I found myself waiting in a long line to get a signature from an iconic artist. I waited. And waited. And waited. The line simply did not move. Finally, I gave up and decided I’d at least go up and have a closer look at him. Standing near the table where he was seated, I saw that he was writing endlessly in a single book, covering page after page for one lucky soul. **WT**



*“Pearl Necklace”
(1981), by Phyllis
Dulaney*

Contests & 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).

CONTESTS

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 June.** writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions

L Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest. Prizes every three months: \$1000, \$750, \$500. Annual Grand Prize: \$5000. **Deadline 30 June.** No entry fee. writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest/

Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial Poetry Contest—Judge: Juan Felipe Herrera, Poet Laureate. \$1000 (The Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial Award), \$250, \$100. **Deadline 15 July** (postmark) comstockreview.org/annual-contest/

Red Mountain Press Annual Poetry Prize. Awards \$1000 and publication of a book of poems. Submit a manuscript of 48–72 pages online, **deadline 15 July.** Full guidelines and details at redmountainpress.us/poetry-prize/

Regal House Publishing—regalhousepublishing.com

- **The 2021 Petrarch Prize**, recognizing finely crafted fiction, winner receives \$1000 and publication. **Deadline 15 Jul.**
- **The 2021 Acheven Book Prize**, recognizing finely crafted young adult fiction. **Open 30 Jun–30 Sep.** Winner re-

ceives Book publication by Fitzroy Books and Regal House Publishing in 2023 + \$750 honorarium.

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 31 July.**
- **Quarterly Flash Fiction Contest.** Open prompt, 250–750 words, entry fee \$10, **deadline 31 August.**

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/



2021 Effie Lee Morris Contest. WNBA–SF's own literary contest. Fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. 1st prize \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50 and publication on the WNBA–SF website. **Extended deadline 31 Aug.** wnba-sfchapter.org/2021-effie-lee-morris-contest-get-ready

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/

Winning Writers. winningwriters.com/our-contests

- **North Street Book Prize.** For self-published books. Mainstream/Literary Fiction, Genre Fiction, Creative Nonfiction & Memoir, Poetry, Children's Picture Book, Graphic Novel & Memoir, Art. Total prizes \$13,750. Top winners receive expert marketing services. **Deadline 30 Jun.**
- **Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest.** Total prizes \$8000, accepts published and unpublished work. Special award for verse that rhymes or has a traditional style. **Deadline 30 Sept.**

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

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/

LOCAL & CWC

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

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

ACCEPTING 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 issue open, ends on 15 Jun: “Place.”** Nominal fee. sequestrum.org/submissions

Tillism **طليسم: Magical Words from Around the World.** Seeking submissions of short (500 words), personal posts for this blog. Posts should be inspired by literature, connected to a personal memory, and contain at least one word from a language other than English. tillism.com/submissions/

The Vincent Brothers Review Submissions in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Pays a minimum \$25 per accepted item. **Issue 25 submissions call, themed “Ghosts” (ends 31 May)** vincentbrothersreview.org/submissions/

FOR POETS

Academy of American Poets. List: “American Poets Prizes.” poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes

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

Glass Lyre Press, LLC. “Pirene’s Fountain: A Journal of Poetry.” Submit 3–5 unpublished poems. Reading period thru 30 June. They nominate for the Pushcart Prize and award the Liakoura Poetry Prize with a certificate and \$100. glasslyrepress.com/pf.html

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 palettepoetry.com/submit/

Poetry. 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. 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 contests and deadlines. pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines

Rattle. “If a poem is accessible, interesting, moving, and memorable, if it makes you laugh or cry, then it’s the kind of poem that rattles around inside you for years, and it’s our kind of poem.” Subscribe and receive a new poem in you email every morning. rattle.com/submissions/guidelines/

Thimble Literary Magazine. Quarterly. Primarily a poetry journal but invites submissions on related topics such as artwork, stories, and interviews. “When selecting your poems or prose, please ask yourself, did writing this poem help me create shelter?” thimblelitmag.com/submissions

Trish Hopkinson. “A Selfish Poet.” Blog with lists of markets for poets. trishhopkinson.com 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/

Facebook groups for poets

- California Poets
- Cupertino Poet Laureate
- How Writers Write Poetry Community Group
- Los Gatos Poet Laureate
- Natl Poetry Month 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

GENERAL RESOURCES (* = Internet and FB)

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

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.

GENERAL RESOURCES, *CONTINUED*

Contests:
newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests

Poets & Writers. Contest blogs: pw.org/grants, pw.org/blogs/prize_reporter; 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/
“39 Free Writing Contests: Legitimate competitions with Cash Prizes.” thewritelife.com/writing-contests

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

Writer’s Relief. Keep track of ongoing contests at writersrelief.com/featured-listings-contests-journals-calls-for-submissions/

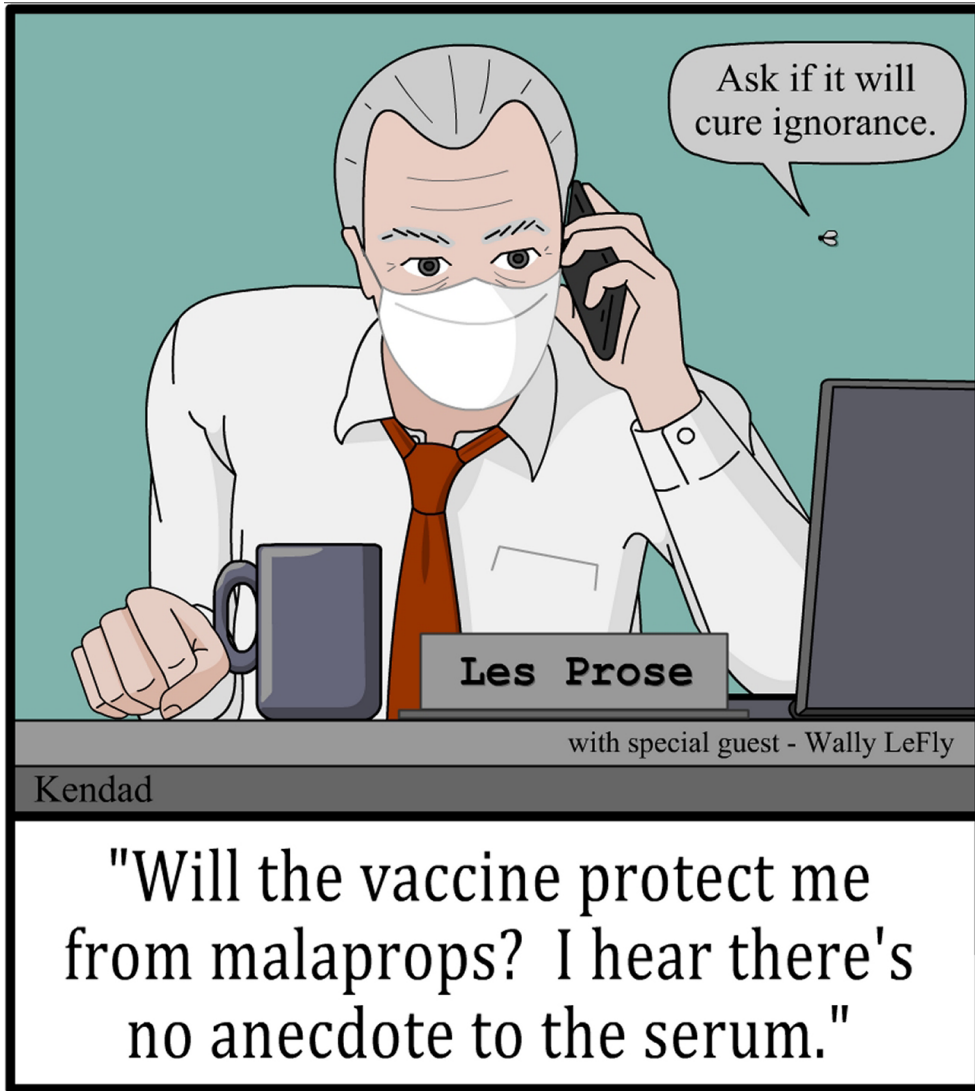
Writers Post No Fee Call for Submissions Facebook group: “Help yourself and other writers”
facebook.com/groups/58414389316

WT



Les Prose Comics

Kendad



2021 Kentucky Derby winners

1. Medina Spirit*
2. Mandaloun
3. Hot Rod Charlie
4. Essential Quality
5. O Besos
6. Midnight Bourbon
7. Keepmeinmind
8. Helium
9. Known Agenda
10. Highly Motivated
11. Sainthood
12. Like the King
13. Bourbonic
14. Hidden Stash
15. Brooklyn Strong
16. Super Stock
17. Rock Your World
18. Dynamic One
19. Soup and Sandwich
20. King Fury

* As of this writing, this result seems to be holding. Medina Spirit was cleared for competition in Preakness despite controversial drug tests following the Derby.

Do these names inspire you to invent racehorse names of your own? We'd love to see your four-legged creations. Once you get out of the gate, it's hard to stop at the finish line.

newsletter@southbaywriters.com



Get *The Harvard Classics* for two bucks

Marty Sorensen

Less than that, actually. \$1.99 on Kindle. And you know you don't need to buy a Kindle itself because you can download it for free on your computer, tablet, or phone. Then, when someone asks you what you're reading you can just tell them and they'll say, What? And you can reply, Well, I didn't want to shell out twelve hundred dollars for the whole set of books. And look at what you get: fifty volumes.

Feeling blue? Read *The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius*. Feeling energetic? Read John Milton's complete poems. Having an afternoon bit of Scotch? Read Robbie Burns's poems and songs. Like some revenge? Read Macchiavelli. Sense a warming? Read Pliny's letters about Vesuvius and Pompeii. Worried about love? Read Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. Is Darwin right? Read *The Origin of Species*. There's *Don Quixote* if you're battling uphill.

You get the idea. Not fifty pieces, not fifty works, but fifty volumes.

WT

Right: Volumes 1–10 of **The Harvard Classics**, originally known and marketed as **Dr. Eliot's Five-Foot Shelf of Books**. Photo by Valerius Tygart, Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=73494667.

Matthews, *Continued from page 2*

delible impression. Today, he has appropriated this unlikely vehicle and is creating an animated version that will be acceptable for minors.

Our early experiences leave vivid impressions that are waiting to be repurposed in our work. These remembrances are fully formed with details, sounds, and smells that provide authenticity. The added bonus is that they are available for us to mold as needed.

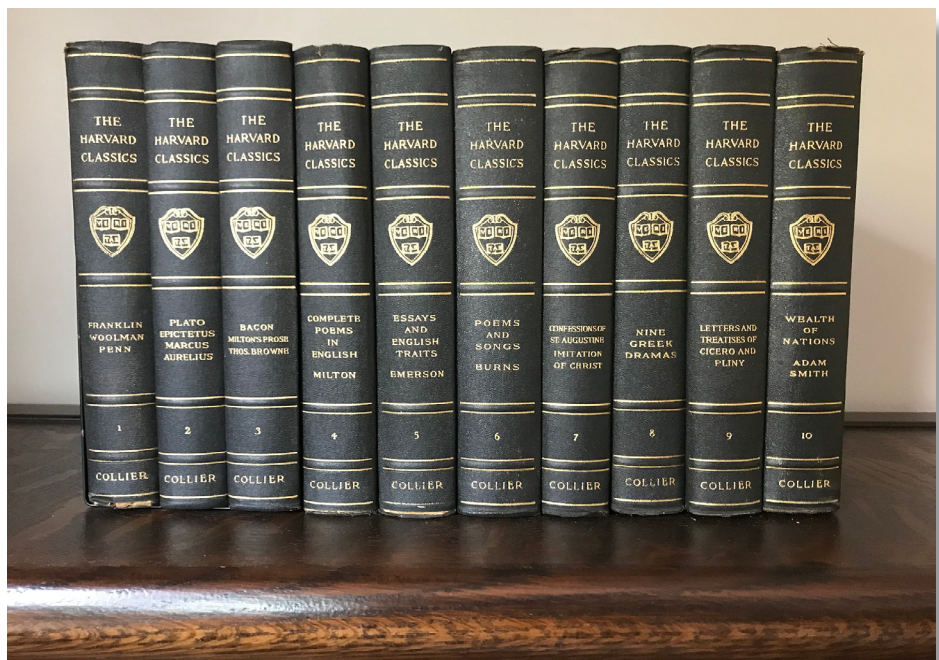
What do you recall of your childhood? Who are the unforgettable characters? Emotions? Dramas? Experiences? Friends? Classmates? Neighbors? Family heritage? What people in your life still resonate?

I'll never forget the fat woman who lived across the street. We referred to her as Old Lady Curtis – though my friend called her Mama Curtis. She sat in a squeaky rocking chair on the porch perusing the neighborhood. Around the corner lived Mrs Feigl, the cat lady. Her house bordered the alley where she kept a teardrop trailer, home to her clan of calico cats. A tall lanky handyman named Marvin frequented the street. He teetered when he walked. Rumor was he'd lost his toes in a trolley car accident. Nearby, two sets of bungalow courts were way stations for new arrivals to LA. On a boring day, I'd stroll over to the courts and see if any new kids had moved in.

Our neighborhood had the compulsory witch's house too. A dark, unkempt structure, secluded by mangy shrubs, hulking trees, and drooping, tangled vines. The ominous edifice sat on a cliff above Echo Park. On Temple Street, a Mexican Deli beckoned us with smells of fresh tortillas and tamales. The tortillas were kept warm wrapped in white cloth. A half-dozen cost eleven cents.

All of us have a wealth of memories waiting to be included in our stories. Take a moment and make a list. Characters? Odd names? Descriptions? Etcetera, etcetera . . .

WT



JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	PRIDE	1	2	3	4 OPEN MIC	5
6	7 VALLEY WRITERS	8	9 SBW BOARD MTG 7 PM	10	11	12 
13	14 VALLEY WRITERS SBW MEETING 7 PM FLAG DAY	15 WRITERS TALK ISSUE CLOSING	16	17	18 OPEN MIC	19  JUNETEENTH
20  FATHER'S DAY MIDSUMMER	21 VALLEY WRITERS	22	23	24 STRONG SUN MOON 	25	26
27	28 VALLEY WRITERS	29 	30			

Ongoing events

Critique groups

Valley Writers Mondays 2-4 PM
via Zoom. Email Marjorie Johnson marjohnson@mac.com

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 narra-

tive, 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
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Santa Clara CA 95055

southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers
June 2021 meeting
(Virtual)
Monday | 14 June | 7 PM**

*Guest speaker
John Brantingham*

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membership, only \$45

southbaywriters.com/join/#submit

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