



WRITERSTALK

Volume 29
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July 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

JULY SPEAKER

Writing a linked story collection with Tod Goldberg

Jamal Khan

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is a contemporary example of a “linked story collection.” Each film stands on its own, delivering a solid three-act structure. Yet carefully threaded through each film are glimpses of a larger saga that is greater than the sum of its parts, culminating in a climactic extravaganza. What if you are itching to create your own such collection, each installment both one-of-a-kind and constitutive of an overarching universe? Would such an undertaking be too complex and unwieldy for a writer who does not enjoy Disney’s vast resources? Not at all. In our meeting on 12 July, **Tod Goldberg** will walk us through the process of crafting twelve stories that stand alone, stand together, and stand the test of time.

Tod Goldberg is a *New York Times* bestselling author of over a dozen books, including *The Low Desert: Gangster Stories* (2021), *Gangsterland* (2014, a finalist for the Hammett Prize), *Gangster Nation* (2017), *The House of Secrets* (2016, co-authored with Brad Meltzer), and *Living Dead Girl* (2002, a finalist for the



*Tod Goldberg, author of **The Low Desert**
and **Gangsterland***

Monday
12 July • 7 PM!

JUNE SPEAKER RECAP

John Brantingham

Bill Baldwin

Have you ever considered writing book reviews? Surprisingly, not many people do. That puts reviewers in high demand. This was the first thing I learned from our June speaker, **John Brantingham**.

John was the first poet laureate of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and his reviews have appeared in literally hundreds of magazines. A fascinating poet and writer, John lives in his own art gallery, the California Imagism Gallery in Ontario, California (californiaimagismgallery.com). His work has appeared in *The Writer’s Almanac with Garrison Keillor* and *The Best Small Fictions 2016* (Queen’s Ferry Press). He also has eleven books of poetry and fiction, and the nonfiction *California Continuum, Volume 1: Migrations and Amalgamations* (2019, with Grant Hier). His poetry anthology *Crossing the High Sierra* was published in hardcover this year. An unflagging supporter of community colleges, he is a professor of English at Mt. San Antonio College near Pomona.

John likes to promote the oft-overlooked Inland Empire, which includes Highway 75, that barren stretch between LA and Vegas often shown in movies, but also

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Between the lines

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



Vino adventure!

Inspiration in BevMo! What? No, I'm not on a bender. I'm trawling the aisles of this huge liquor store seeking the perfect gift for a wine lover.

Bottles of unfamiliar brands crowd the shelves, each vying for my attention.

Next to the posted prices, there are descriptions of the libations. I read:

Spiced stone fruits with a touch of pithy mandarin – Lush pineapple, mango, juicy melon, and even some dreaded passionfruit. A light smokiness gives it an aromatic approval.

I'm taken by the description and reread. I realize "stone" refers to the seed in peaches, cherries, &c, but don't understand the "dreaded" reference. I move to another one.

Alluring notes of Granny Smith apple and crème brûlée. White peach and honeysuckle flavors coat the crisp palate, and a mingling layer of vanilla and baking spice bring hints of pineapple and integrated oak.

Someone can detect all of that! Hmm, I suspect they over-sampled the tasting.

Soft aromas of polished red cherry, licorice, purple flowers, and wet gravel, lifted by carnation and rose, entice the nose of this new selection.

Seriously, "wet gravel"? I can hear the table conversation now:

"Yeah, this vino reminds me of the rainy day I changed a flat tire in the alley."

Enticing aromas of clove, cracked pepper, black cherry, rhubarb, smoke, violets, black olive, and sage lead to an elegant entry on the palate. Flavors with firm tannins and licorice pop on the finish.

The taste buds must be overwhelmed. BTW, "tannin" imparts the astringent taste in red wine. (I looked it up.)

An impressively fruity and balanced wine. Black, juicy fruit explodes in the mouth [Wow!] with a finish of fine-structured tannins.

The 2018 vintage greets with lifted aromatics of wild strawberry, blueberry, cassis, and subtle hints of dried flowers and savory herbs. The aromas carry forward on the palate, the medley of saturated, pure fruit flavors.

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www.southbaywriters.com

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SBW events

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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/Reportage (please submit proposal by 1st of month; draft due 15th of month)
Opinion/Essay/Letters (300 words)
Fiction/Memoir/Narrative nonfiction (1000 words—if longer, must submit proposal)
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

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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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In medias res: Dive in!

Renée J Anderson, Managing Editor



She slipped the book into my hand. "You will *love* this. It takes a while for it to really get going, but be patient and stick with it."

The good-old days. Great books of the past often required a certain patience from readers. But modern publishing has so many gatekeepers in 2021, readers might happily give you the benefit of doubt, but to get your writing into their hands in the first place, you need to grab the attention of the gatekeepers: the agent, the acquisitions editor, the

publisher. Even if your writing style is outstanding, you won't make it in the door unless your story begins with the plot already happening, *in medias res*.

Consider Danish writer Karen Blixen. Her beautiful and clever short stories almost always "take a while to get going." You might spend eight out of nine pages meeting interesting-enough characters in their interesting-enough settings, not quite sure how they all fit together, but the writing itself is so splendid, you happily let yourself bob along. Then the ending drops on page 9, and you are blown away. You must read the story again, immediately, through the new lens of enlightenment, and the story changes on the second go, in marvelous ways. It stays with you for hours, decades.

Today, Karen Blixen would struggle as a first-time author. Few of her stories begin *in medias res*. Yet this is what the industry demands from modern emerging writers. Blixen's stories often start with pages and pages of Telling, not Showing. "The Deluge at Norderney" (1934) opens as follows:

DURING the first quarter of the last century, seaside resorts became the fashion, even in those countries of Northern Europe within the minds of whose people the sea had hitherto held the rôle of the devil, the cold and voracious hereditary foe of humanity.

The narrator is Telling us what to think and believe. *Pages* of lilting narrative follow, narrative that doesn't provide the reader any opportunity to form opinions or be immersed into scene: "The Duke of Augustenburg, with his beautiful wife and sister, who was a fine wit—" We don't actually meet these characters. They are not on the page, not real.

The story starts at last on page 5, but with the narrator still doing all the talking, Telling us: "In the late summer of 1835 a terrible disaster took place at the bath of Norderney." Instead of action, more paragraphs of Telling: "This was a thing that happens only once in a hundred years. . . . It began with an evening of more than ordinarily heavenly calm." "Norderney" unfolds much like the storm itself, gradually, out of "more than ordinarily heavenly calm" and builds to its tempestuous, satisfying end.

In 2021 this wouldn't stand a chance. And while that is a shame, it is some-

Continued on page 5

WANTED



Submissions of all kinds
Names for racehorses
Shower thoughts
things carved on trees & benches

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

View from the Board

Marjorie Johnson



On 09 June, ten of us Zoomed to the SBW Board meeting: President Edie Matthews, VP Jamal Khan, Secretary Marjorie Johnson, Treasurer Trenton Myers, Members-at-Large Tatyana Grinenko and Alfred Jan, CWC Central Board/NorCal Rep Bill Baldwin, Membership Chair Inga Silva, Face-

book Admin Carolyn Donnell, and Managing Editor of *WritersTalk* Renée J Anderson.

Edie Matthews, SBW 2021–2022 elections: This has to be on hold until we meet in person again. All current SBW Board members have agreed to continue their service.

Jamal Khan, listed upcoming speakers for SBW.

12 Jul Tod Goldberg, “Writing a Series”

09 Aug Anne Hillerman, who is continuing the series by her father, Tony Hillerman

13 Sep The famous SBW potluck BBQ resumes.

11 Oct Meeting in person — *Hurray!*

Trenton Myers, reported still-healthy SBW bank accounts.

Carolyn Donnell, Facebook: nothing new. Carolyn continues as administrator of the SBW Facebook Group. Our website is still blocked by Facebook.

Tatyana Grinenko, **SBW website**: Cumulative index updated thanks to Renée and will be kept updated going forward with Carolyn’s help. It is updated in Navigation. View here: southbaywriters.com/writerstalk/writerstalk-index/. Tatyana will be updating the website’s main banner to promote membership renewal. **You can get a Zoom meeting invite by contacting Tatyana** (pr@southbaywriters.com) who will add your email to her publicity and Constant Contact lists.

Bill Baldwin invites you all to read at **Open Mic**, first and third Friday nights. Contact him at WABaldwin@aol.com. **CWC–Central Board** will convene in-person on 17 October in Oakland to hand out the Jack London awards. **CWC Board elections** will be held in July in conjunction with the next board meeting 25 July. 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, oth-

er people could be nominated and elected instead. **The Bulletin** is looking for a new managing editor.

Inga Silva, Membership: reported 114 members through 30 June 2021, but only 27 renewals and 8 new members through 30 June 2022. It’s easy to renew online, or send a check for \$45 to CWC South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara CA 95055. She’d like to hear from anyone who has unreported publications and would like to upgrade membership from associate to active.

Renée J Anderson, MRMS: Hit a few snags, now fixed, while taking over as SBW MRMS administrator. Now Renée will schedule a meeting with Roger Lubeck, Sandy Mof-fett, and Inga Silva to investigate why she still doesn’t have SysAdm functionality and to make sure we are recording renewals and half-year subscriptions correctly in MRMS.



The SBW Board meets again Wednesday, 07 July, at 7 PM, open to any interested club member. Attendance is easy: merely send an email to pres@southbaywriters.com, and Edie will send you a Zoom invitation. Bring us your ideas.

WT



Off the shelf

Edie Matthews



“Wow, you’re a best seller! But, do you regret writing about the mob?”

Khan, Continued from page 1

LA Times Book Prize). His nonfiction and criticism appear regularly in the *LA Times*, *USA Today*, and *Alta*, and have been anthologized in *Best American Essays*. Tod is the co-host of “Literary Disco,” named one of the best literary podcasts by the *Washington Post* and *The Guardian*, and he is a creative writing professor at UC Riverside, where he founded and directs the low-residency MFA program Creative Writing & Writing for the Performing Arts.

Watch your email for Zoom details. Non-SBW members, please write to PR@SouthBayWriters.com to receive the Zoom link.

The event is **free**.

WT

Anderson, Continued from page 3

thing we must internalize.

Hook the reader is today’s mantra. *Hook* them. It sounds crude, but it’s essential. Your opening paragraphs must plunge the reader into story. The vicarious experience must begin immediately—and it must be sustained.

Begin with stakes already high, begin with a protagonist who has a clear desire or goal, and give us a reason to empathize with them, make us *become* them. Don’t waste valuable page 1 real estate describing how they look or dress, where they work, what they’re thinking about for lunch. Don’t have them “walk into” a scene. Begin with them already there, *in medias res*.

Contrast “Norderney” to Blixen’s “The Cardinal’s First Tale” (published 1957), which does begin *in medias res*:

“WHO ARE YOU?” the lady in black asked Cardinal Salviati.

The Cardinal looked up, met the gaze of her wide-open eyes, and smiled very gently.

“Who am I?” he repeated. “Verily, Madame, you are the first of my penitents who has ever asked me that question.”

We want to know more about the lady in black, don’t we? And we already don’t trust this cardinal, do we? Let the games begin.

In medias res plunges a reader into scene. Diving in is what gets *you* through the door.

WT

Member News

Marjorie Johnson

Inna Tsirlin has recently won first place in the *Palo Alto Weekly* Short Story Contest, an annual short story competition that has been conducted by *Palo Alto Weekly* since 1996. This year's contest winners and winning stories will be published online at PaloAltoOnline.com and in print on 25 June. Good to hear from you, Inna. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

The rest of this month's writing news came from the **San Mateo County Fair** website, but because it is not broken into CWC branches, I did a bit of searching. Only three of the SBW winners at San Mateo contacted me. When it's up to my spies to round up the news—who knows what you'll see here? Next month, please tie a string around your finger as a reminder. Send your news to membernews@southbaywriters.com.

2021 San Mateo County Fair Literary Contest: The Literary Stage, sponsored by CWC-Peninsula, is a celebration of writing held each June at the San Mateo County Fair. The mission of The Literary Stage is to encourage local writers to gather for readings, workshops, and other bookish events, while offering writers from around the world an opportunity to compete for cash prizes and various honors.

And the SBW winners are —

- 👑 **Bill Baldwin**
Div. 335-06 Poetry, HM: "Keyboard Kitty."
- 👑 **Carolyn Donnell**
BEST OF SHOW and 1st Place for Div. 333 Short Story/09, Mystery/Thriller, Senior: "Herbal Adversity."
- 👑 **Dave LaRoche**
Div. 330 Short Story/01, Senior, 2nd Place: "Waiting for the Five-forty."
Div. 333-02 Senior, 1st Place: "Expectations."
- 👑 **Vanessa MacLaren-Wray**
Div. 333 Short Story/06, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Senior, 3rd Place: "Solitary Dances."
Div. 330 Short Story/01 Senior, 1st place: "Coke Machine."
Div. 332-01 1st Place: "A Sorcerer in Levoigne."
Div. 335-06 Poetry, 2nd Place: "Cold Trap."



Luanne Oleas

Div. 326-03 Personal Memoir, Senior, HM: "Secrets of a Cropduster's Wife."

Div. 332-01 HM: "When Alice Played the Lottery."



David Strom

Div. 333 Short Story/06, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Senior: 1st Place: "Super Holly Hansson in The Wicked Word Witch!"



Karen Sundback

Div. 326-03 Personal Memoir, Senior, 2nd Place: "Sugar."

Div 333-06 Senior, 1st Place: "What She Said."

Congratulations, all. Great stuff!

WT

Make Marjorie's Day

MemberNews@southbaywriters.com

(That's it. That's the Tweet.)

START NOW TO POLISH SOMETHING FOR THE 2022 CWC LITERARY REVIEW

Elisabeth Tuck, Managing Editor, *Literary Review*

There were 300 submissions to the *Literary Review* this year, with the breakdown being more than 100 poems and the rest narratives. Memoir and fiction were the greatest numbers in narratives, and the tone was lighter overall this year, which was greatly appreciated by the judges and we hope will be by readers.

Around 130 submissions came in close to the April 15 deadline. I recommend you get your submission in *early* next time when the judges are fresh and not pressed for time!

It will likely be late August–early September before the 2021 *LitReview* is published. Although the judging is over, there's still a lot of work to do to get polished pieces printed and mailed.

~ Elisabeth



Podcasts for writers



Write Now with Scrivener. Join journalist Kirk McElhearn as he interviews writers of all kinds about their processes, routines, and how they use Scrivener, the app dedicated to long-form writing. In the first half of the show, writers share their experiences and their different approaches to getting words down on the page; in the second half, they get into the specifics of how they use Scrivener to help them. Whether you're a Scrivener user or just interested in writing, this podcast has something for you.

podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/write-now-with-scrivener/id1568550068



Between the Covers with David Naimon: *Tin House*, a literary radio show and podcast hosted by David Naimon, is brought to you by Tin House and KBOO 90.7FM community radio in Portland, Oregon. These long-form, in-depth conversations have been singled out by *The Guardian*, *Book Riot*, the *Financial Times*, and *BuzzFeed* as one of the most notable book podcasts for writers and readers around. "If you haven't peeped this podcast yet," says poet Morgan Parker, "it's one of my favorite interviews and my mom says it's my 'best one.'"

tinhouse.com/podcasts/

Spoonful of rice

Hi-Dong Chai

(This is a universal story, in free-verse, of a mother's sacrifice for her children, be it material, emotional, or intellectual.)

It was during the Korean War
Father was taken away by the Communists
Months ago
He never returned

Mother and I were left alone
In an island as refugees
Without anyone supporting us

One day
Mother brought a cup of rice
For me to eat
Only three spoonfuls
In the cup

I gobble it up
Without much thought
Feeling still hungry

Mother took the cup in the kitchen
Closed the door

Through a crack
I saw Mother scraping
Scraping the bottom of the cup
For a few grains left
She licked the spoon over and over

How long has she been hungry
To feed me?
I froze
Really froze

I quietly left the room
To a beach nearby
Looking at a horizon
Far, far away
Wanting to swim
Toward the horizon
Until my strength
Saps to nil

So that Mother didn't have to
Feed another mouth

Then a question surfaced
Will she be happy without me
So she can feed herself?

No way
Was my answer
She has already lost
Many of her loved ones
Without me
She will not go on living

I stood
With my heart filled with
Opposing forces
Resumed my walk
Toward Mother



*"Spoonful of Rice" is included in Hi-Dong Chai's forthcoming book, **Poems: Story from My Heart**, to be published later in 2021 by Austin Macaulay.*



Phyllis Dulaney, "Diner Mug." *Last Day Saloon on Clement St, San Francisco, February 1976.*



Upcoming conferences

8th Annual *Catamaran* Writing Conf. 25–29 July (Santa Cruz, 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

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

Elk Grove Writers Guild Conference & Great Read Book Faire, 09 October

City of Elk Grove Center, 8230 Civic Center Drive. The concurrent Book Faire, sponsored by the Elk Grove City Arts Commission, will take place outside on the Avenue of the Arts. Go to: Great Read Book Fair – City of Elk Grove for more information. elkgrovecity.org

Sometimes a cigar is *not* just a cigar

Chris Weilert

I made the trek over to Union Smoke Shop to score a *Romeo y Julieta* cigar, my go-to-choice for the bi-monthly poker game. I refuse to purchase more than one at a time, to keep from over-indulging and getting involved in the whole cigar scene. When you are into it, I mean *really* into it, you end up spending thousands of dollars and have to somehow explain to your significant other that it's not just a phallic symbol and it's a worthwhile endeavor.

When you go down this road to collecting and hoarding cigars you begin upgrading all the paraphernalia that go with the fascination. You feel the need to purchase a fancy cedar wood humidor for storage, which resembles a fine piece of furniture, much nicer than any of your Ashley collection of office furnishings. You relish the opportunity to show your buddies your preserve of quality tobaccos, and hope they marvel at the presentation of how you have them laid out next to each other by length, width, and color. Consequently, there lies your chance to educate their novice minds about how they were rolled in countries like Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. They will no doubt marvel at your expertise and about how much you know in only two months.

After you went online and threw down some big buckaroos for the cigars and a humidor, you will have had to upgrade all that goes with the hobby (fixation). If you are still using a Bic lighter after all the effort, then you are coming up short. You need to pick up one of those lighters that can bring immediate respect when it is whipped out. Such a lighter can double as a welding torch or, in a pinch, cook a meal for the family. One of these flame throwers in hand will make sure your cigar is always lit, but

one must be extra cautious not to singe your mustache or nose hairs.

Just when you thought you had gathered all the necessary items to enhance your cigar experiences, you see what others are doing to bring attention to their game. A must is an ashtray that says, "I am worthy of these cigars." Your cigar has to be laid gently in a position where the ashes are preserved intact. The trick is to smoke that baby down while assembling the longest possible ash, which shows the quality of the roll made by the skilled hands from a third-world country.

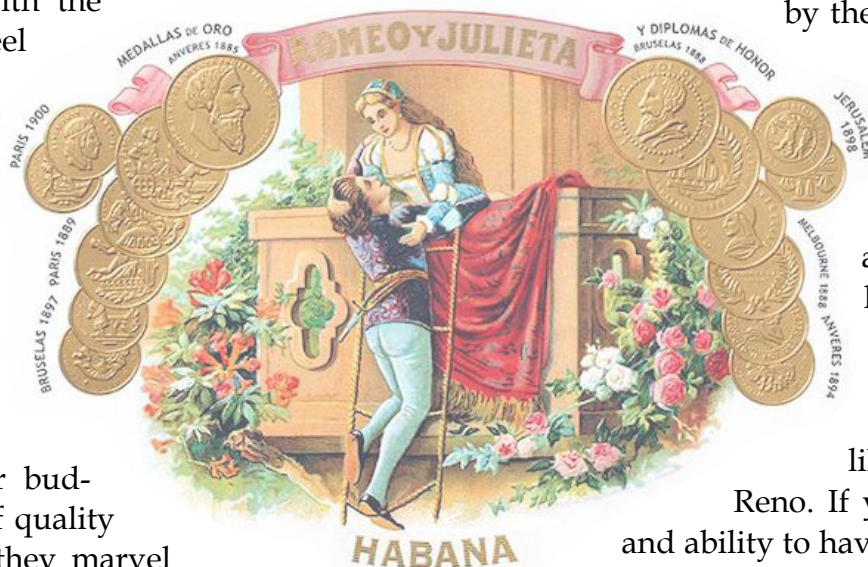
Believe me, this thing can get out of hand when you start thinking about a smoking room in the home. Let's face it, a cigar smells good for about ten seconds, then after that more like a dank casino in

Reno. If you do have the luck and ability to have such a room in your house, the first thing to consider is the air

exchange system. Yes, a window is a requirement, but this will not be enough. An exhaust fan should be installed, to not only eliminate the smoke and the wretched smell but also to avoid seeing mortified faces of non-smokers who dare to enter.

Like any passion (obsession), you can be fully submerged. There is a line that gets crossed when you are in so deep you have changed as a person. Not a better person, but a dude or dudette who only hangs around those who share this same interest. You will find yourself hanging out in smoke shops checking out new stuff to buy while on a first-name basis with the owner. You cannot be swayed from your passion (nuttiness), because you're addicted. I will continue to buy one cigar at a time, because I have other things I need to obsess about, like guitars and power tools.

WT



People doing things in places

Good Sex Awards

What is good sex? What makes a good sex story?

The folks at goodsexawards.com look for Imagination, Consent, Titillation, and Diversity. Finalists are chosen on the additional criteria of writing quality, body positivity, characterization, dialogue, sex positivity, and fit to category.

"The language of sex is evolving. Power dynamics are being challenged, diversity embraced, and consent celebrated. The Good Sex Awards are keen to reward sex writing that explores the nature of 'good sex.' Our judges will be considering not only prose, imagination, and titillation, but body positivity, diversity, and consent. The authors writing great sex are helping the rest of the world live it."

Yes, there are samples:

goodsexawards.com



your calendar to try your hand at the **First Pages Prize** next winter. You can submit the first pages of up to three of your novels. In the meantime, enjoy this year's Long List of 24, Short List of 12, and the five winning first pages — out of 2000+ submissions.

These selected first pages are, quite simply, gorgeous pieces of writing, each unique in style and technique, setting, tension, and stakes, with compelling protagonists and narrative voices. Perfect for pleasurable browsing; an unsurpassed learning experience. Find out why beginnings matter.

firstpagesprize.com

Bad Sex Awards

Each year since 1993, UK magazine *Literary Review* has presented the annual Bad Sex in Fiction Award to the author it deems to have produced the worst description of a sex scene in a novel. The award is symbolically presented in the form of what has been described as a "semi-abstract trophy representing sex in the 1950s."

No award was given in 2020, the magazine citing that people have been "subjected to too many bad things this year" already. The 2021 Bad Sex Award in Fiction will return in December 2021. The 2019 co-winners were Didier Decoin, *The Office of Gardens and Ponds*, and John Harvey, *Pax*.

Yes, there are samples:

literaryreview.co.uk/bad-sex-in-fiction-award



Pulitzer Prizes announced

The 2021 Pulitzer Prize winners in Journalism, Books, Drama, and Music were announced on 11 June.

Winning in the category for Fiction is *The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrich (Harper): "A majestic, polyphonic novel about a community's efforts to halt the proposed displacement and elimination of several Native American tribes in the 1950s, rendered with dexterity and imagination."

See the complete list of winners and runners-up:

pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-year/2021



I Wake with Wonder: A Crowdsourced Poem. As we face re-

entry from COVID-19, we know we've changed. Our world has changed. NPR's *Morning Edition* asked its listeners to contribute to a poem about their own personal pandemic experience, using Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise" as inspiration. Hundreds responded, and resident poet Kwame Alexander curated the lines into a poem titled "**I Wake with Wonder.**" Embedded in the poem's lines emerge the individual voices of nurses, teachers, senior care residents, parents, and more. There is despair, frustration. But also hope, renewal.

The poem is available in its entirety on NPR's website, along with a seven-minute audio listen.

npr.org/2021/05/28/1000234056/i-wake-with-wonder-a-crowdsourced-poem-of-pandemic-pain-and-hope

Ambidextrous

Kendad

Larry awoke with a pang in his left shoulder. The robot standing beside his hospital bed noticed his cringe and spoke in monotone.

"The pain will soon subside. I injected pain relief seven seconds ago."

"What happened?"

"We removed your left arm and replaced it with another."

Larry propped his arm up, shocked. "What the hell did you do with my arm?"

"I told you already."

"I signed up for experimentation because I needed the money, but I didn't expect to turn into Frankenstein's monster. Where's the doctor?"

"The doctor is unavailable at this time. What can I do for you?"

Larry demanded, "You can get my arm back."

"That is not possible. The recipient paid well for your arm and he is quite happy with it."

"What did he want with my arm?"

"You are left-handed, and he is right-handed. He wanted to be ambidextrous."

Larry screamed, "But he's got my arm!"

"Yes, but you have his arm—equilibrium."

"No, it isn't!"

The robot paused, then said, "You are quite right. You are more unique."

"What?"

"He is ambidextrous like many people. But you are the only adult with two arms who is neither right-handed nor left-handed."

Larry's face turned crimson. "I've had enough of this. I'm going to sue you all." He thrust the blanket aside and cried out, "Where are my legs?"

"On back order."

WT

A stark and dormy night

Marty Sorensen

It was a stark and dormy night on campus, as a chemistry lab assistant hugged her professor and exclaimed, "Knowitry in potion," while she watched the phosphorescent-green bubbling beakers, and a dyslexic drama student jumped on the stage of the amphitheater, poured psychedelic paint on Julius Caesar and elocuted, "The cast is dyed," just as on the famed baseball diamond, the legendary coach watched the bullpen warmup and sighed, "A pitcher is worth a thousand nerds."

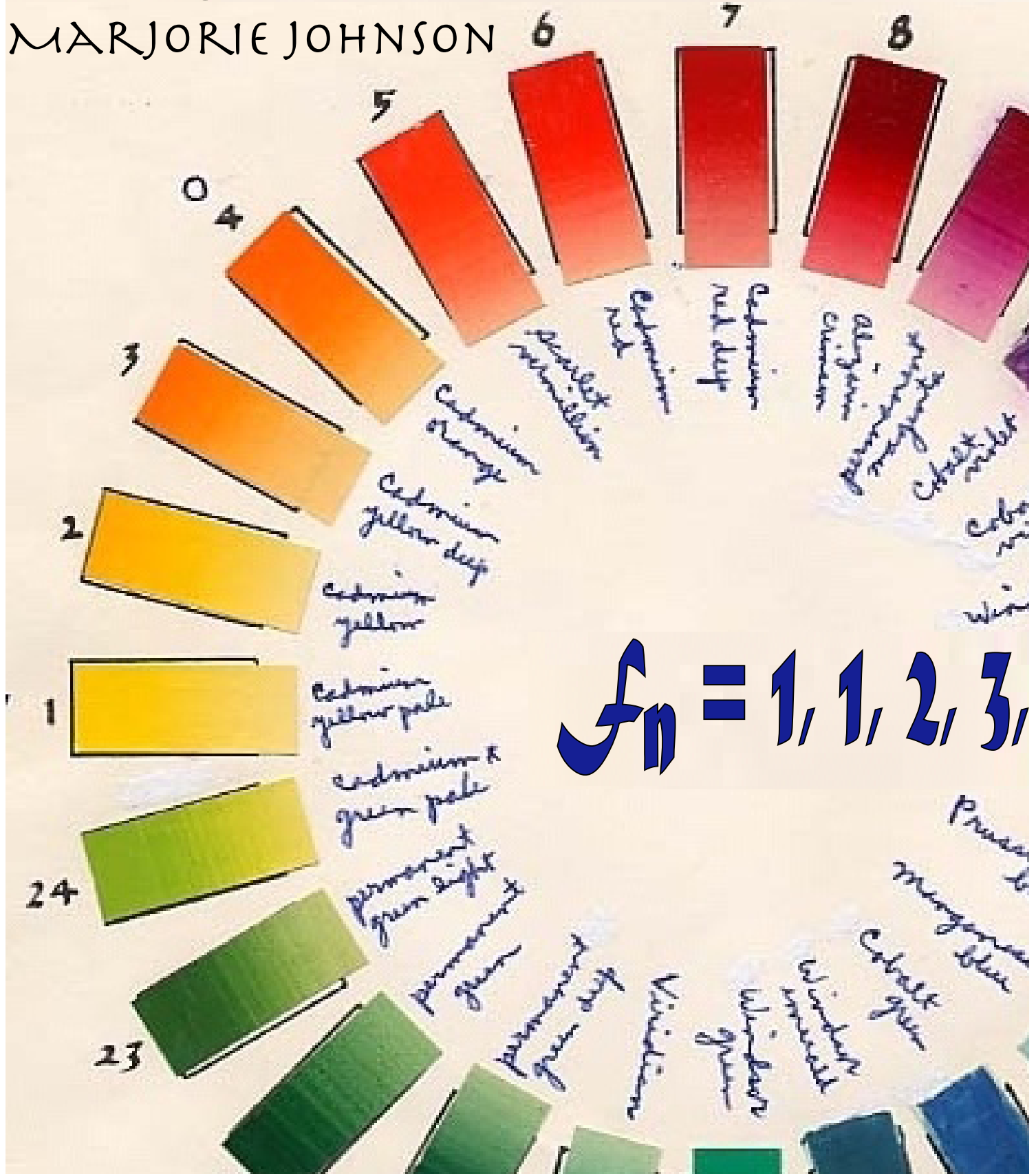
WT



Complimentary Colors

Fibonacci to Bauhaus

MARJORIE JOHNSON



Imitating colors from nature, with many greens and earth tones, makes pleasing color combinations, or at least, gives us what we are used to seeing. But what colors will we choose for an abstract painting?

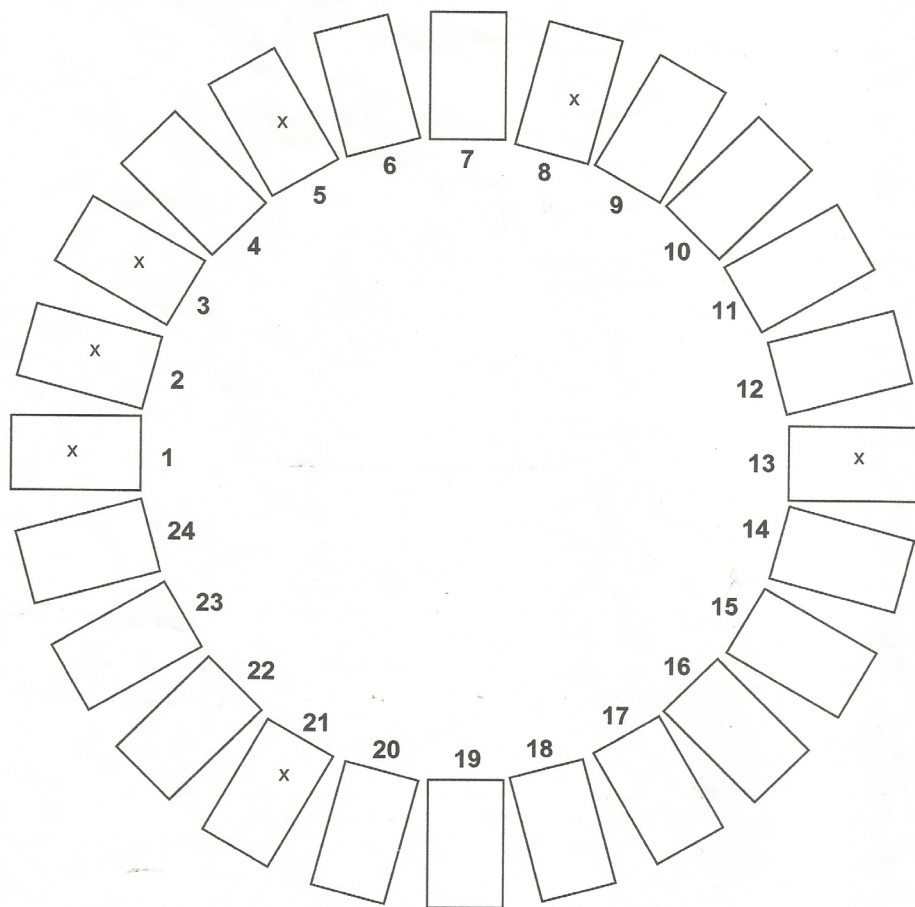
Color science is surprisingly complex. Colors depend upon the medium as well as whether we want them for the web, to print on paper, to dye yarns and fabrics, or to study the spectrum in physics.

Bauhaus: “primary” school

Let’s start with that large box of 64 crayons from childhood. The yellow, red, and blue are called “primary colors,” and, in theory, all the rest can be built from these: red + yellow = orange; red + blue = purple; and blue + yellow = green. Red and green are considered “complementary,” as are yellow and purple, and blue and orange. When mixed together, *complementary* colors make black for pigments or white for a prism or spectrum.

You probably have seen the six-color wheel and know them from the rainbow or a prism, although the prism has seven colors, including indigo between blue and violet.

A century ago, at the *Städtisches Bauhaus* art school in Weimar Ger-



many (“Bauhaus”), avant-garde artists developed abstract expressionism and subconscious-based surrealism. They studied a 24-color wheel and made selections by number, reminiscent of 12-note scales in music, and chord progressions. My ears pricked up to learn that color schemes based upon the Fibonacci numbers were deemed the most pleasing to the eye.

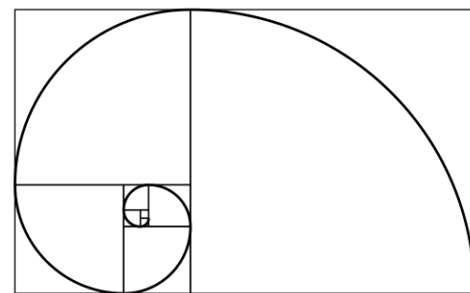
The Fibonacci Sequence

Leonardo Bonacci (~1170–1250 CE), who came to be known as Fibonacci in the mid-nineteenth century, was a mathematician from Pisa. He introduced Europe to the concept of the Fibonacci sequence, which begins 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, &c, each number in the sequence being the sum of the preceding two. The sequence

is found in nature, and is closely linked to geometry and the aesthetic concept of “the golden ratio.” Designing a computer program that produces the sequence is a classic assignment for beginning computer science students today.

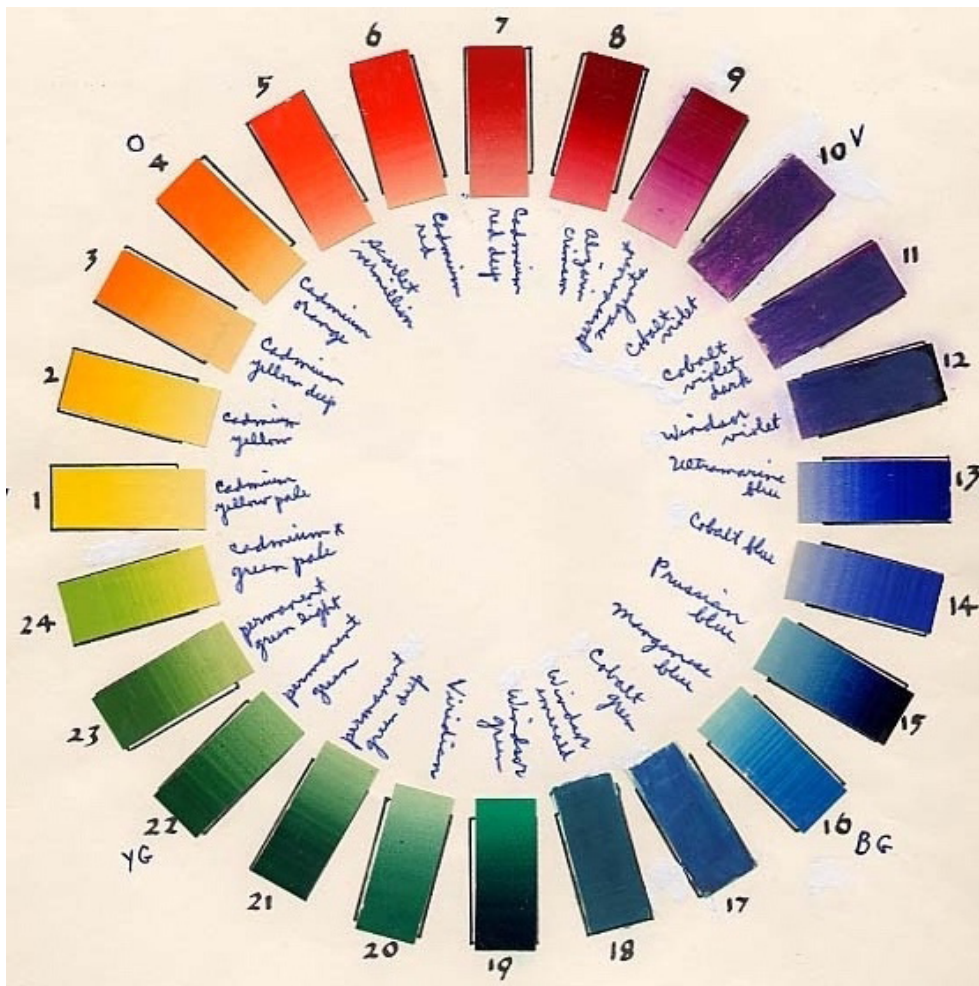
Circle of life in color

How did I hear about the 24-color wheel? No, I didn’t study at the Bauhaus. I met a beginning high school art teacher at dinner with friends. My husband told her that



The Fibonacci spiral, illustrating the golden ratio.





my hobby was Fibonacci numbers. Instead of her eyes glazing over or saying, "I never was good at math," she said, "Oh, Fibonacci numbers. We studied them in my color theory class." Her teacher at CSU Northridge, Fritz Faiss, had studied color theory at the



Franz Marc (1880–1916), **Der Tiger**, 1912.
Color woodcut print on paper.

Bauhaus under Wilhelm Ostwald (Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1909).

In his book, *Die Harmonie der Farben* (1921, "The Harmony of the Colors"), Ostwald discusses color harmonies made from those colors spaced at divisors of 24 in the color wheel, where the four primary colors yellow, red, blue, and green are spaced six increments apart. *Complementary* colors (with an *e*), except for 7 red and 19 green, are not opposite each other; this wheel's emphasis is upon *complimentary* (with an *i*) colors. To see an example of complimentary colors in harmony, have a look at *Der Tiger* by Franz Marc. To enhance your vision of color, do view this issue of WT online.

A perfect color wheel exists only in the imagination, although

Continued on page 16

The Yellow Rose of Texas

Begin with 1 and expose colors numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, and 21. Together, these make a pleasing combination for an abstract painting based upon yellow, with accent color deep green.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1 | cadmium yellow pale | |
| 2 | cadmium yellow | |
| 3 | cadmium yellow deep | |
| 5 | vermillion | |
| 8 | alizarin crimson | |
| 13 | ultramarine blue | |
| 21 | permanent green deep | |



Mural by Federico Archuleta (@el_federico),
2018, Austin, Texas.

Rhapsody in Blue

Rotate the stencil so that 1 is over 13 on the wheel. Expose colors 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 1, and 9: ultramarine blue, cobalt blue, Prussian blue, cobalt green, viridian, permanent green light, cadmium yellow pale, and permanent magenta.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 13 | ultramarine blue | |
| 14 | cobalt blue | |
| 15 | Prussian blue | |
| 17 | cobalt green | |
| 20 | viridian | |
| 1 | cadmium yellow pale | |
| 9 | permanent magenta | |



Johnson, *Continued from page 15*

a near-perfect blank one can be drawn. One wants pure hue—no shades using a touch of black, no tints with a bit of white, no earth tones or browns allowed. The colors must proceed in approximately equal steps of perceived hue difference around the wheel. In your mind, take positions 1, 7, 13, and 19 as yellow, red, blue, and green. Halfway between yellow and red, place orange at 4; similarly, violet at 10; blue-green at 16; and yellow-green at 22. The other colors must proceed by even graduations of hue.

Caveat: Green is the predominant color in nature. Notice that half of the colors here are green.

Recipes for harmony

I tried crayons: hard to mix in-between colors. Acrylic paints work for the yellow part of the wheel, but mixing can cause muddiness. I set up a palette of oils, using chip samples from an art supply store, to make a system that seemed right to my eye, as shown in my 1978 24-color wheel. I chose cadmium yellow for color 1; cadmium red, 7; ultramarine blue, 13; and phthalocyanine green, 19.

Next, the Fibonacci numbers come into play. To study a particular color harmony, cut out the rectangular shapes in a blank wheel, but only those for the group you are studying. Place the stencil over the color wheel, hiding all the colors not under study. For the Fibonacci numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, cut out those numbered rectangles; place the “1” over the color where your sequence starts. My favorites start with yellow or blue. To see this in action, have a look at the examples on page 15.

In using Fibonacci color schemes, part of the trick is to use

proportionally more of colors 1, 2, and 3, and to make color 21 an accent color. Fritz Faiss called that a “proportional progression.”

I needed a term paper for an art history class, so I searched through works by twenty experts in the world of color. I even went to the Bavarian State Library in Munich, where I ran down Wilhelm Oswald’s *Die Harmonie der Farben*. Of all these references, only the self-published book *Concerning the Way of Color: An Artist’s Approach* by Fritz Faiss (1977) mentions the Fibonacci sequence in terms of color.

Thirteen years later, I tried the then-new application Adobe Photoshop. The colors in my CMYK 24-color wheel seemed muted, but Photoshop’s RGB web colors were so brilliant that I made sets of transparencies for a presentation to my Fibonacci friends at the 2004 biennial conference.

I colored the same picture of a parrot several ways using a Fibonacci scheme and titled my lecture “Purple Parrots.” On the big day, the overhead projector broke down, forcing the use of an older, opaque projector. Although I put a white sheet of paper under each transparency, everything projected in varying shades of brown!

As to the Bauhaus, the Nazis closed it down in 1933 and declared its avant-garde art “degenerate.” Fritz Faiss’s works were burned. He spent time in a concentration camp and started over in the United States after WWII. Faiss painted using encaustics made by adding pigments to hot beeswax. I never saw his 24-color wheel.



Marjorie Johnson:
“Yellow-green parrots” (top) and
“Purple parrots” (bottom)

Marjorie Johnson is South Bay Writers’ current Secretary. She helped found *The Fibonacci Quarterly Journal* (1963), served on its editorial board for 46 years, and published ninety mathematical papers.

Meditation for writers

Marty Sorensen

Here is a selection of websites dedicated to helping writers through guided meditation. Descriptions below are taken from the websites.

awai.com/meditation/

Meditation for writers at the American Writers & Artists Institute. A 21-day journey of highly focused, goal-oriented, daily meditation designed specifically for creative professionals.

forthewriterssoul.com/

"For the Writer's Soul." Get back in touch with what matters, nurture your writer-self, and let your light shine. Make the commitment to incorporate weekly Monday Meditations for the Writer's Soul into your life, and see what this gift can do for you.

bookarchitecture.com/meditation-for-writers/

Breathe in and out ten times. Count at the beginning of each breath (1, 2, 3, &c). When you get to ten, go back to one. Stop counting, and focus instead on the point where the breath enters your body (the tip of your nose, above the top lip . . .). Focus on the full length of your breath, starting from where it enters your body and following it all the way down to your lower stomach.

writingisasuperpower.com/meditation-for-writers

It's important not to try when you are meditating. Meditation is not about achieving anything. It's about simply existing in your body and the present moment. It's about *being*. Many schools of meditation have accumulated excessive rituals around the practice. If ritual helps you, use them, but rituals can be burdensome and complex. To meditate, all you have to do is sit quietly and watch your thoughts as if you are watching clouds.

practicalcreativewriting.com/creative-writing-tips/meditation-for-writers/

Meditation is well known for its ability to calm the mind and still the thoughts, but . . . did you know meditation can improve your creativity and writing? Meditation can also be a useful practice for when you're stuck, or feeling blocked. If the words won't come or if you are struggling with a difficult scene or paragraph, meditation can allow the solu-

tion to arise. It's the stopping of the struggle that gives this the space to happen.

thedailymeditation.com/mindful-writing

This site describes meditation techniques, meditation poses and positions, guided meditation scripts, mantras, mudras, Taoist and Buddhist meditation, yoga and chakra meditation, mindfulness, and more.

meditationforwriters.blogspot.com/

"Meditation for Writers" has been created to supply some steerage for writers, particularly original article, journal, or book authors. This exercise can facilitate relaxation and improve concentration, creative thinking, and consciousness. Writing is thought of as a 'tough' art and it's not everybody's cup of tea. It needs creativeness. Meditation calms the mind so new ideas can flow. Your creative thinking and writing skills improve day by day.

writersinthestormblog.com/2021/05/the-value-of-writer-meditations-my-struggle/

Writers have an advantage when it comes to mindfulness. It's kind of our superpower. This term refers to being aware of one's surroundings, and then accepting them. As writers, we pay close attention to our five senses, taking notes on the smells and sounds around us, and noting what our characters might hear and see in our manuscript settings. Mindfulness often comes to writers as easily as breathing, which is also a component of this method. So, what do we have to lose? If people-watching were an Olympic sport, writers would bring home those precious medals.

writersdigest.com/be-inspired/the-secret-to-overcoming-writers-block-meditate

Only editorial comment: just do this one. Move to Bali and there you have it. Megan Mulrine is a writer, editor, and meditation teacher living in Bali, Indonesia. Her guided meditations for overcoming writer's block can be found on Spotify, and she's currently hosting Writers' Workshop Retreats in Bali to help other writers experience the deep flow state achieved through meditation.

WT

ROXANE GAY BOOKS

Renée J Anderson

Rising star Roxane Gay insists she still receives rejections on a regular basis. But can one really call her a rising star in the literary world when so much of her energy is spent fostering and promoting the work of *other* rising stars?

In her weekly newsletter, *The Audacity*, with its “Emerging Writer Series” and book club, the “Audacious Book Club,” *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Bad Feminist* (2014) has elevated the careers of such brilliant writers as Gabriela Garcia, Brandon Hobson, and Dantiel W Moniz.

Now she is launching her own publishing company, Roxane Gay Books, an imprint of Grove Atlantic. Submissions will open 01 July to both agented and unagented authors via gay.submittable.com.

Gay states, “I am going to publish books I love from interesting writers. That could, of course, mean anything. I am looking for beautifully written, compelling books that challenge, delight, and entertain readers. I love literary

fiction, but your story has to have an interesting plot. Things have to happen! I want books I simply cannot put down and that, when I finish, I can’t stop thinking about. I love stories about difficult women. I welcome your so-called unlikable protagonists. I enjoy dark, gritty stories but I am also open to happy, joyful but unsentimental stories that reflect faith in the overall goodness of humanity: “Ted Lasso,” but a novel.”

This is not Roxane Gay’s first foray into the publishing arena. In 2010 she founded Tiny Hardcore Press, a micropress that produces “small but mighty books that could fit in your pocket or purse.” Coming into the business of publishing as a writer, she had a steep learning curve. She says, “I learned a lot of painful lessons, many of them at the post office, but I published some incredible books from generous writers who entrusted their work with me, no small thing.”

Gay accurately points out that the U.S. publishing industry as a

Roxane Gay Books prioritizes excellent writing from under-represented writers and does so proudly – Black writers, writers of color more broadly, queer writers, writers with disabilities, working-class writers, women writers, all of us who live at the intersections of these identities.



Roxane Gay reading at “Fall for the Book,” 2014.

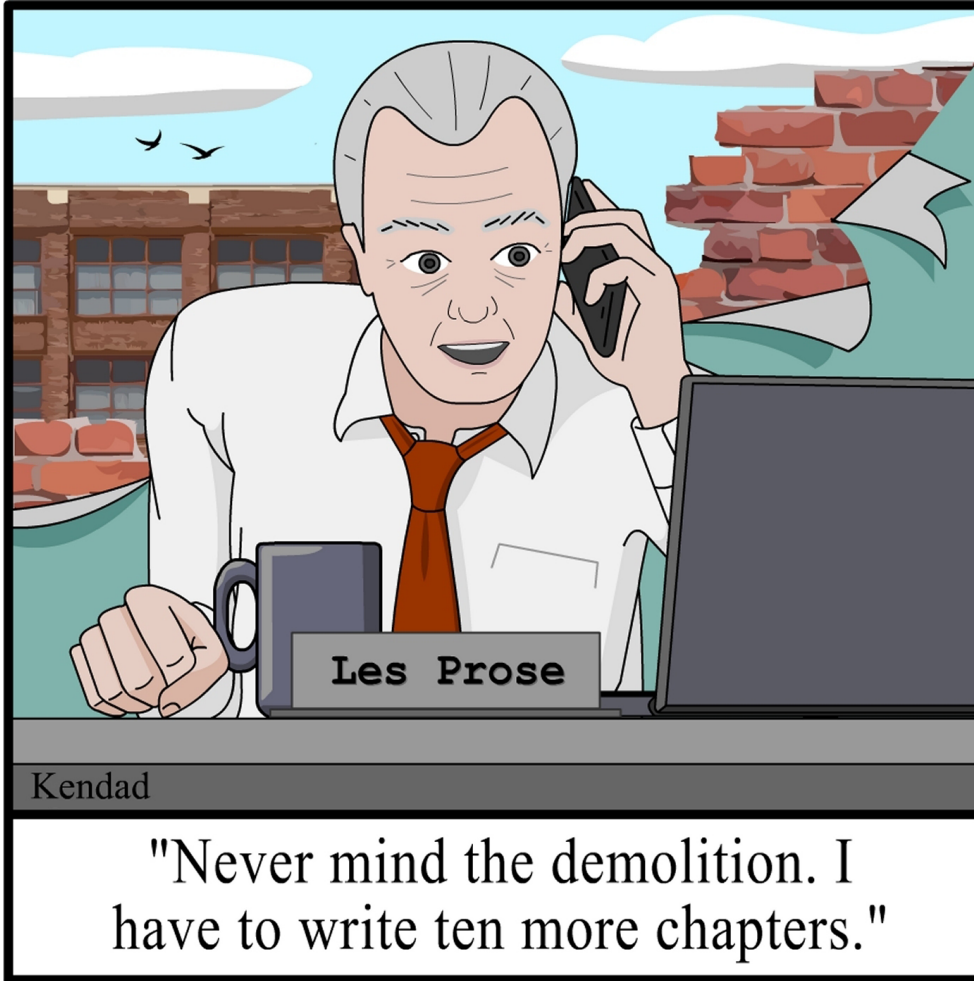
whole is less than diverse, populated largely by people from upper-middle-class backgrounds, and that although women occupy the majority of the jobs, they do not tend to occupy the top executive positions.

Breaking down barriers and seeking out the joy in life and in writing, are why Roxane Gay is already a shining star in the modern literary universe.

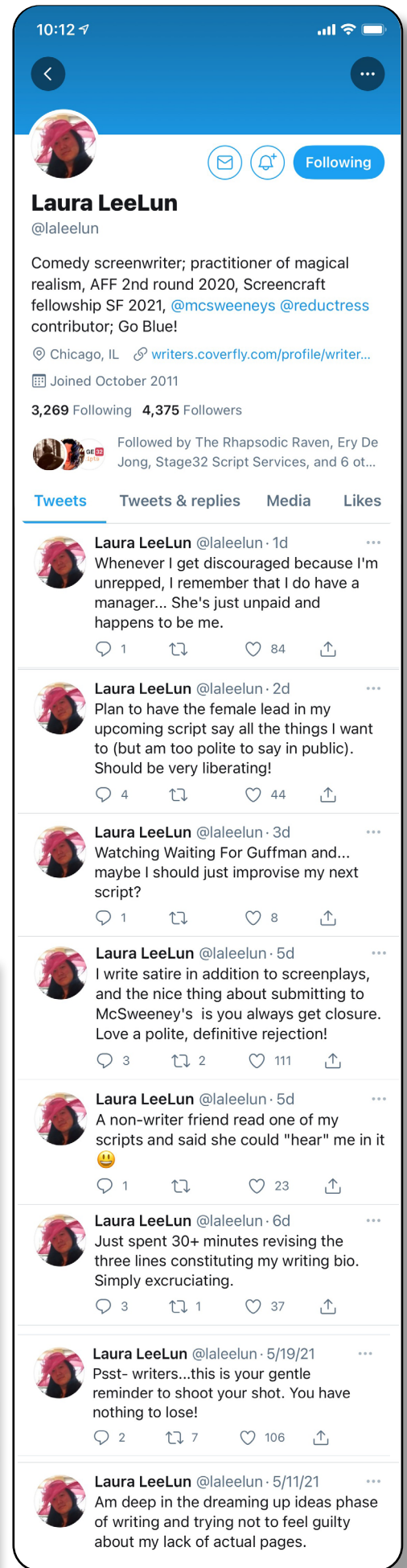
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Les Prose Comics

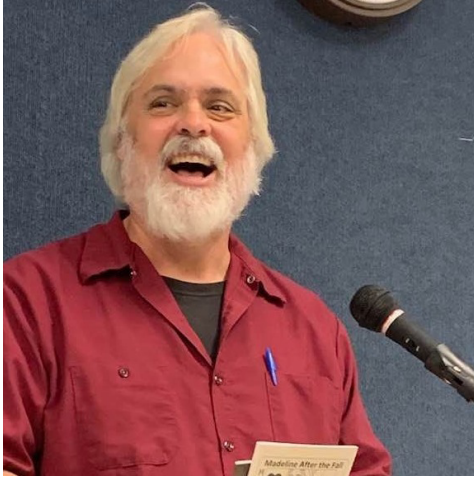
Kendad



From the Thought-You-Should-See-This Department (Twitter, June 2021)

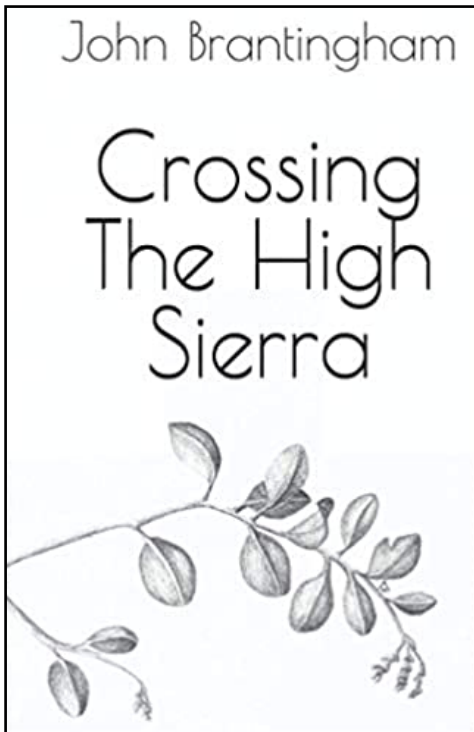


MAY MEETING WITH



John Brantingham

Source: californiainmagismgallery.com



John Brantingham's latest poetry compilation, published Feb. 2021, *Cholla Needles Arts & Literary Library*. Cover art by Ann Brantingham.

Baldwin, Continued from page 1

includes Joshua Tree National Park and the Mohave National Preserve. John gently digs that the Inland Empire is "as under-respected as Bakersfield."

He grew up just west in San Dimas, LA County, the town made famous by the *Bill & Ted* (1989) film franchise, and which had viewers everywhere copping Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter's unique speech. John says, "Until *Bill & Ted*, I didn't realize I had an accent!" John keeps the focus of his writing on art, nature, relationships, and the subtle beauty of the Inland Empire. He writes about what he knows.

In addition to the high demand for book reviews, there are multiple reasons you might consider writing them. They are *not* just a "throw-away" project. Writing reviews can raise your visibility and enhance your presence. Doing reviews makes publishers aware of you. Reviewing books that interest you can definitely create a buzz.

John summarized his own approach to reviews:

To review books, you first have to *read* them! John believes in only reviewing books that he likes and finds interesting. He looks for books that he can learn from, grow from—books he can dive deeply into. He searches for the heart of the book, what the author is trying to say, then attempts to help people understand it. He looks to stay current, usually reviewing books that have come out in the last year, aiming

for fifty reviews a year. Yes: that is roughly one review *every week*—which also means he is reading a book a week!

John searches for the heart of the book, what the author is trying to say, then attempts to help the reader understand it.

Clearly, you will learn a lot if you adopt John's approach!

John has his own sense of ethics for his work, and generally writes only positive reviews. If a book doesn't appeal to him, he won't review it. "The *Harry Potter* series is a work of genius," he says. "It's just not for me."

One exception: he will write negative reviews of books he considers "dangerous." For example, he has given negative reviews to video games involving bears, because he believes such games encourage people to mistreat or kill them.

He never gives thumbs-up/thumbs-down reviews *à la* Siskel & Ebert. Binary reviews seem to cast a book as either "good" or "bad." John seeks out the book's spiritual center, believing that a great review explains what the author is attempting to do, and evaluates how successful the author was in that attempt.

If you decide to write book reviews, consider what form to adopt. Generally, you can take the academic essay approach. What

JOHN BRANTINGHAM

is your review actually about? What is Art? What does it mean to be *human*?

John notes that a review is not a press release. To what extent will you make – or avoid – value judgments? If you'd like to do something beyond a simple book review, you could also review an author's complete body of work.

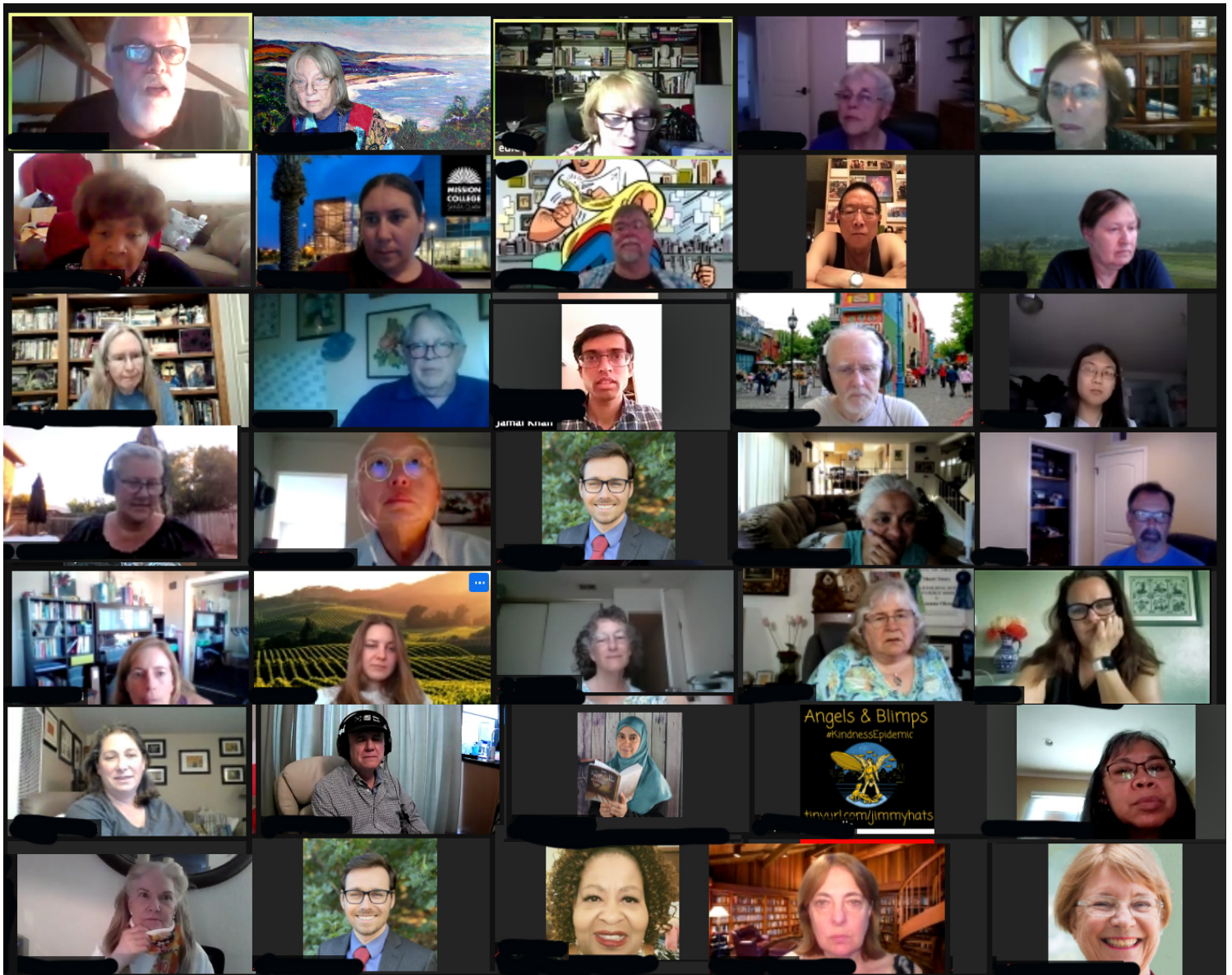
As for getting your review published, it helps to develop a relationship with publishers and their publications. But where to start? Find your market. Who do you want to publish you? John recommends *Tears in the Fence* (tearsinthefence.com), an

independent, international literary magazine. John tries to keep to 500–800 words for a review, usually sending his work via Submittable. *WritersTalk* is always happy to consider your book reviews (newsletter@southbaywriters.com).

Again, not many people write book reviews, so why not give it a try? Even well-known authors like Neil Gaiman do book reviews, so you will be in good company.

Thanks, John, for an entertaining, informative talk!

WT



South Bay Writers turned out Monday night on 14 June to hear John Brantingham (top left). Screengrabs thanks to Carolyn Donnell.

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

The Writer, contests with July deadlines
writermag.com/contests/

- Lune Poetry Contest, **09 July**
- Two Line Poem, **23 July**
- Short Story Competition, **31 July**
- The Laramie Awards, **31 July**

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/

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/

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 July**.
- **The 2021 Acheven Book Prize**, recognizing finely crafted young adult fiction. **Deadline 30 Sep**. Winner receives

CONTESTS, CONTINUED

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

Voyage: A Young Adult Literary Journal. Summer 2021 First Chapters Contest. 1st place \$3000 and an hour-long consultation with a literary agent, 2nd \$300 and publication, 3rd \$200 and publication. Finalists will also receive written feedback from a literary agent. \$20 reading fee. **Deadline 18 July**.
thevoyagejournal.com/contests/

Writer's Digest Self-Published E-book Awards. Honors the best in eight of the most popular categories with \$5,000 in cash, a featured interview in *Writer's Digest* magazine, and a paid trip to the ever-popular *Writer's Digest* Annual Conference in New York City. All entrants will receive a brief review of their book from one of *Writer's Digest's* competition readers. **Early-bird deadline 16 Aug**. writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-ebook-awards

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 Aug**.

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

- **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/submissionguidelines.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. lumiereview.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. **Open themes: long-form (≤40,000 words, deadline 15 Aug) and “Visual Arts.”** Nominal fee. sequestrum.org/submissions

Tillism طلسم: **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, non-fiction and poetry. Pays a minimum \$25 per accepted item. **Issue 26 submissions call, themed “Housekeeping” (ends 31 Oct).** 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

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

FOR POETS, *CONTINUED*

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

FanStory: FanStory requires a paid subscription, but does have many contests and other activities. fanstory.com/contestsall.jsp

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

Jerry Jenkins: Your Ultimate Guide to Writing Contests through 2022. jerryjenkins.com/writing-contests/

GENERAL RESOURCES, *CONTINUED*

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/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



Matthews, Continued from page 2

“Cassis” (kə-ˈsēs) is a syrupy liquor made from black currants used to flavor and sweeten.” (I looked that up too.)

Sporting strawberry, pomegranate, floral, and leather aromas and flavors, this vibrant style is harmonious and structured, yet more elegant than powerful.

Does liquid have structure? I suppose. And all this fruit, but no mention of grapes . . . ?

Offers terrific aromas of raspberry, currant, and medicinal herbs, revealing hints of anise, tobacco, and earth, all backed by a firm, vibrant structure.

Hmm, not keen on the “medicinal” reference—though now that I think about it, most cough syrups have alcohol in them. A good dose will put you to sleep or make you loopy. Thus, the warning when ingested: “Do Not Drive.”

So who’s writing these ditties? Is this how out-of-work poets supplement their income? No matter, I was intrigued. How many times have I struggled to conjure up a lyrical description of a sunset, a gown, or a kiss?

My hunt in BevMo! transported me back to my days as a wine steward—or, as we say in the biz, *sommeliere*. I wanted to earn money for college, and my friend suggested, “A cocktail waitress makes good tips.”

Though I had no experience, I applied at the Hyatt Hotel, believing a high-class establishment would be safe and profitable. The only opening was for a wine steward. I admitted that I didn’t drink. The HR woman said, “Just tell them Blue Nun goes with everything.” I suspect she hired me believing I wouldn’t drink the stock. She was right.

The Hyatt provided a uniform: white blouse, black velvet vest, and matching long skirt with a slit. Those were the days patrons still smoked in restaurants, and I always went home reeking of cigarettes. I hung up my clothes in the garage.

After mastering opening a bottle (the pros use a double-hinged corkscrew), I learned the correct pronunciation of the inventory: Cabernet Sauvignon (kab-er-nay soh-VIN-yohn), Pinot noir (PEE-noh nwar), Gewürztraminer (geh-VAIRTZ-trah-mee-ner), Pouilly-Fuissé (poo-yay-free-SAY).

Today, the aisles of BevMo! are filled with an onslaught of new wines with quirky names: Frog’s Piss, Ball Buster, White Trash, Sassy Bitch, Spatzendreck (“sparrow shit”), Down the Rabbit Hole, Cat’s Pee on a Gooseberry Bush, Fresh Blood—Vein Ripened, Eat Drink and Be Scary, Witch’s Brew, Dearly Beloved (flowery skull label), Vampire Merlot (capital V dripping blood), Poison (w/skull and crossbones), and the ever-popular Big Ass Red Table Wine.

Since the recipient of my gift is Italian, I skipped those funky choices and selected a pricy Brunello di Montalcino imported from Tuscany and Concoxon, a Monterey Cabernet, aged in bourbon barrels.

After my vino adventure, I left BevMo! thinking that a bottle of “Old Fart and Old Tart” (actual name) may not be your first choice for Thanksgiving dinner, but I guarantee it will get the conversation started.

WT



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 cwcmt Diablo.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 July

03 JUL: CWC–Orange County

Jeri Westerson, “Author’s Journey Series.” Jeri has had an incredibly successful career as a writer from a dozen books in the popular Crispin Guest Medieval Noir Mystery Series to Paranormals to Young Adult Mysteries. Join the mailing list in advance: calwritersorangecounty.org

10 JUL: CWC–Coastal Dunes

Diane Smith presents “Tips on How to Read and Present your Work.” Sat, 10 Jul, 10:45 AM write: info@CoastalDunesCWC.com

0 JUL: CWC–High Desert

Gregory Cumming, PhD, Resource Archivist and Staff Historian, Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, and author of *The Symbionese Liberation Army* and *Patricia Hearst, Queen of the Revolution*. Dr. Cumming will talk about the challenges and opportunities of writ-

ing a historical account of a famous person. Sat, 10 Jul, 10 AM. **Free**. Get Zoom link here: hdcwc.com/club-meetings---upcoming.html

10 JUL: CWC–Long Beach

Deborah A. Lott, “Writing About Trauma: Art from Adversity” Her most recent novel, *Don’t Go Crazy Without Me*, was released in April 2020. It is a tragicomedy story of a girl growing up under the spell of a charismatic yet completely psychotic father. Sat, 10 Jul, 3 PM. More info here: calwriterslongbeach.org

120 JUL: CWC–Central Coast

Susan Breen presents

“How to get a Literary Agent.” Finding a literary agent to represent your work is a challenging task, but not impossible. In this presentation, learn how to identify where your book fits in the publishing market, find agents looking for books like yours, and write an effective query letter and pitch.



Susan Breen

Susan Breen is the author of *The Fiction Class* and the *Maggie Dove* mystery series. Her short stories have been published widely, most recently in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. 6 PM. **Free, but donations go toward annual high school writing contest**. Request Zoom link: info@centralcoastwriters.org.

17 JUL: CWC–Redwood

Bestselling humor writer and freelance editor Chuck Sambuchino. His “Guide to Literary Agents” blog was one of the biggest blogs in publishing. His first humor book, *How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack*, was featured by *Reader’s Digest*, *USA Today*, *Buzzfeed*, and more. Sat, 19 Jun, 1 PM, \$5 for CWC members. Register here: redwoodwriters.org/meetings/

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?** cwcncorcalwriters.org



THE BULLETIN
California Writers Club
Vol. 7 No. 1 Spring / 2021

Zoom Rooms
Select Honored Members to Receive Recognition

Zoom Invitation Goes Statewide
James Scott Bell to Speak April 10
Hosted by High Desert Branch
M any of you have heard James Scott Bell lead at workshops and as guest speaker, north and south. This time High Desert will host the well-travelled Bell on Zoom in a limited viewing of 100 registrants.

Scheduled for April 10 at 10am, people must register for this one! The link, furnished here, will be to register, not the link to attend. Register today. Prior to the actual meeting, all the registered people will be sent a link to attend by VP Mike Apodaca of High Desert.

His topic is “How to Make a Living as a Writer.” To register, go to this website and answer 3 sign-in questions. This is a free event. Depending upon how many slots we have open will be the number who get to attend.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSb1yY4A3kX5m10pRwecCHNkx6PUAK6EOVlterJ0eG3a/viewform?usp=sf_link

How to Make a Living as a Writer
For centuries very few writers have been able to support themselves by the quill or the keyboard. Not anymore. With the rise of ebooks and indie publishing there are now more opportunities than ever for writers to generate income from their work. And there is still a traditional publishing industry that needs new talent to keep growing. — James Scott Bell

In this event, Bell will break down the eight essential practices you need to master if you want to write for profit and increase your chances of making a living wage. As Bell puts it, “It’s the best time on Earth to be a writer.”

CONTRIBUTORS
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Secretary: Elizabeth Turk
Treasurer: Anthony Becker
Member-at-Large: Joannella Fratto

Branches: 22
California Writers Club
PO Box 201
Danville, CA 94526

Facebook discussion group

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

17 JUL: CWC–Writers of Kern

Nancy Ellen Dodd, “Story + Character Arcs = Tension.” writersofkern.com

19 JUL: CWC–North State

Joey Garcia will present “How to Get Interviewed,” Mon, 19 JUL, 6 pm, **Free**. Zoom link will be posted at northstatewriters.com

JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 OPEN MIC	3 FRANZ KAFKA'S BIRTHDAY
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 VALLEY WRITERS 2-4 PM	6	7 SBW BOARD MEETING 7 PM	8	9	10 NATL CLERIHEW DAY
11 E B WHITE'S BIRTHDAY	12 VALLEY WRITERS 2-4 PM SBW REGULAR MEETING 7 PM	13	14 BASTILLE DAY	15 WRITERS TALK ISSUE CLOSING	16 OPEN MIC GURU PURNIMA	17
18 DAY OF ARAFAH TISHA B'AV	19 VALLEY WRITERS 2-4 PM	20 EID AL-ADHA	21	22	23 BLESSING MOON	24 ALEXANDRE DUMAS' BIRTHDAY
25 CWC-CENTRAL BOARD MTG	26 VALLEY WRITERS 2-4 PM	27	28	29	30	31 HARRY POTTER'S BIRTHDAY

Ongoing events

Critique groups

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

Evening Zoom writing group

Small supportive group of experienced writers has room for more. We meet **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM**. Focused on short stories and novels. 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

Wednesday before regular SBW meeting, 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

VOLUNTEER BETA READERS SOUGHT

Jac Fitzenz has completed a draft of his novel, *Finding Fitzpatrick*. A devastated Bostonian writer who has lost it all finds adventure in Ireland writing for a sports magazine. 66,000 wds. **jac@drjac.com**

Ads in CWC's The Bulletin

Bob Isbill (760) 221-6367
The Bulletin accepts writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices.

See **calwriters.org** for details.



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch
PO Box 3254
Santa Clara CA 95055

southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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

Guest speaker
Tod Goldberg

Time to renew your South Bay Writers
membership, only \$45

southbaywriters.com/join/#submit

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