



WRITERSTALK

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Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

AUGUST SPEAKER

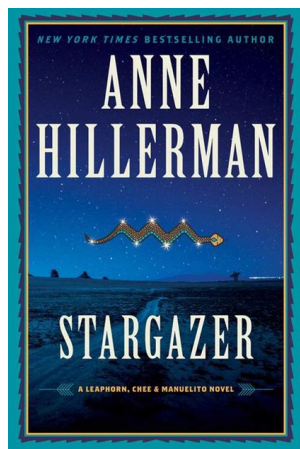
Anne Hillerman Building characters

Jamal Khan

Monday
09 August • 7 PM!



Anne Hillerman and her latest novel, *Stargazer*.



The narrative that's brewing in your mind does not truly come to life until your characters stop speaking to you and start speaking to each other. Only then does the dramatic tension fully manifest, propelling the reader through the pages and delivering a climax that is unexpected, perhaps even to the author. How can you get there? With each of your main characters, you must strike a careful balance between relatability and enhancement. As James Frey notes, a vivid character "has hotter passions and colder anger; he travels more, fights more, loves more, changes more. . . . Even if he is plain, dull,

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JULY SPEAKER RECAP

"The Goldberg Variations"

Bill Baldwin

So how *do* you hold a reader's interest "in the long-term," where "long-term" may not just mean over the course of a novel (from two hundred to over a thousand pages) but over *multiple* novels or through a series of films?

How do you sustain interest over a series of related short stories?

What will keep readers coming back to read the next installment of a story they have already read, in a sense, over and over?

These are the questions **Tod Goldberg** addressed in his July presentation to South Bay Writers. Tod, a professor at the University of California-Riverside, began the evening with a television example that arguably reshaped American culture: the one-minute-forty-seven-second opening credits of *The Sopranos*. This sequence encapsulates the series and ties together a seven-year viewing experience.

We see from the backseat a man driving a car, smoking a cigar, and blowing out lots of smoke. We pass the buildings of Manhattan. Entering the tunnel to New Jersey, our driver rips the toll ticket from the machine. We cross the industrial muck of urban New Jersey—oil tanks, airports, decaying brick buildings, working people heading

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Between the lines

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



The biggest hurdle

We hear it all the time—a bestselling book receives multiple rejections before a perceptive agent recognizes its value. I often wonder, how do those earlier agents feel when they realize their oversight? I suppose if you were feeling vindictive, you could send

them each a postcard saying, “You blew it.” But I digress.

My point is—getting your first book published by a mainstream press is a monumental challenge.

Such was the case of the current hot-selling book *Falling* by T. J. Newman. The novice novelist was rejected 41 times before Shane Solerno of The Story Factory accepted it.

T. J. (Torrie Jan) kept her ambition to herself. In her early twenties, she moved to New York to become an actress. “I fell flat on my face,” she admits. So she didn’t want to inflict her newest struggle on her friends.

When T. J. first returned to Phoenix after her NY disappointment, she went to work at Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe, Arizona.

“That’s where my dream of being a writer really took on legs,” she says. “When I would shelve a book by an author with my last name, I would take my thumb and cover up the first name and pretend it was mine. I would envision what a book would look like with my name on the spine.”

Eventually, she followed in her mother and sister’s footsteps and became a flight attendant for Virgin American. A night owl, her favorite schedule was the red-eye between LA and New York.

During the quiet hours in the air, she conceived the idea for her book. What would a pilot do if his family was kidnapped and would be killed if he didn’t crash the plane?

As passengers slept, T. J. sat on the pull-down seat in the galley and on cocktail napkins jotted down ideas for dialogue, characters, and plot points.

The rejections were discouraging, and several times she considered quitting. But something inside her persevered. She rewrote *Falling* 31 times.

Now she has a seven-figure deal for two books, with foreign rights sold to 24 countries. Universal Pictures has won the bidding war for *Falling*, described as “*Jaws* at 35,000 feet.” Finally, T. J. ended her ten-year stint as a flight attendant.

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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 ingasbwmembership@gmail.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
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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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Time to renew!



Don't waste another minute!
YOUR MEMBERSHIP MEANS A LOT TO US--AND TO YOU AND YOUR WRITING GOALS. RENEW TODAY, BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT!

Go to SouthBayWriters.com/join/#submit
or mail your check for \$45 to CWC-South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara CA 95055.

Now's the time!

View from the Board

Marjorie Johnson



On 07 July, ten of us convened on Zoom for 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, Facebook Admin Carolyn Donnell, and MRMS Admin/Managing Editor *WritersTalk* Renée J Anderson.

We spoke of many things, of shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings, but nary a motion was made.

Edie Matthews On Sunday, 13 September, the famous SBW potluck BBQ will resume. We will resume meeting in person in October at China Stix.

Jamal Khan listed upcoming speakers for SBW on Zoom:

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

Trenton Myers reported still healthy SBW bank accounts.

Renée J Anderson, MRMS: SysAdm access is working now. Anyone with MRMS questions or issues can email MRMS@SouthBayWriters.com. Our officers' list has been updated. Everyone should now have their proper accesses and be able to view their respective statewide PEER email addresses. Let Renée know if you do not know how to do this. **WritersTalk**, Anyone who would like to write feature articles or to help with editing or proofreading, please reach out to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

Bill Baldwin, invites you all to read at **Open Mic**, first and third Friday nights. Contact him at WABaldwin@aol.com (no hyphen). The **CWC-Central Board** will meet in late July.

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

Tatyana Grinenko, Website, check out our new main banner, promoting membership renewal and joining

the club. Members always have questions because our year is not a calendar year, but a fiscal year running 01 July–30 June. The deadline is 30 July, but the technical cut off is 30 October. Please don't wait until October!

Note: On and after 01 October, members 2020–2021 can no longer renew and must rejoin as new members at the standard \$65 fee.

Non-SBW members can get a Zoom meeting invite to speaker events by contacting Tatyana (PR@SouthBayWriters.com), who will add your email to her publicity and Constant Contact lists.

Inga Silva, reported that we have not reached the number of members we had for last year, but when many paid their dues last August. Though the mailbox has only had about one or two checks a week, we are hopeful more will pay soon. It's easy to renew online, or send a check for \$45 to CWC-South Bay Writers, PO Box 3254, Santa Clara CA 95055, or go to SouthBayWriters.com/join/#submit. We'd like to hear from anyone who has unreported publications and would like to upgrade membership from associate to active.

✱ ✱

The SBW Board meets again Wednesday, 04 August at 7 PM, open to any interested club member. Attendance is easy: merely send an email to Pres@SouthBayWriters.com (no hyphen), and Edie will send you a Zoom invitation. Bring us your ideas. **WT**



Off the shelf

Betty Auchard & Edie Matthews

from WritersTalk, November 2011



"Scarlet!" "Rhett?"

In the news

LIBRARY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS **The 2021 Library of Congress National Book Festival** will invite audiences to create their own festival experiences from programs in a range of formats and an expanded schedule over ten days, 17–26 Sept. The spectacular lineup includes authors, poets, and illustrators from America and around the world.

This year's festival offers a variety of ways to access programs, allowing attendees to tailor their experience and interests to their preferred mode of participation. **Festival content will be free**, available online through videos on demand, author conversations in real time, and live Q&A. Join the mailing list to not miss out.

The initial lineup of 2021 National Book Festival authors includes Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Roxane Gay, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Michael J. Fox (pictured at right, clockwise) and many more authors, poets, and illustrators. **WT**

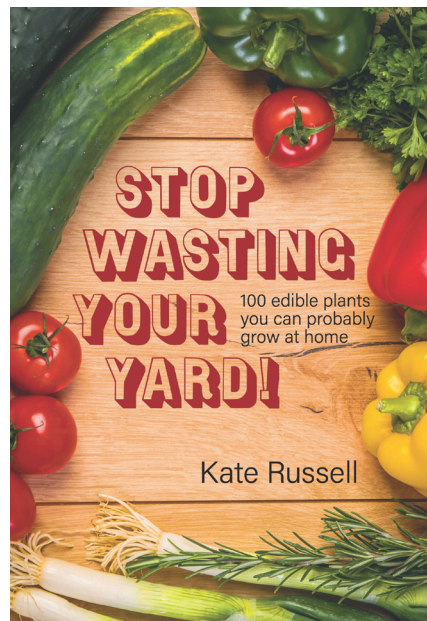
www.loc.gov/item/prn-21-027/



Member News

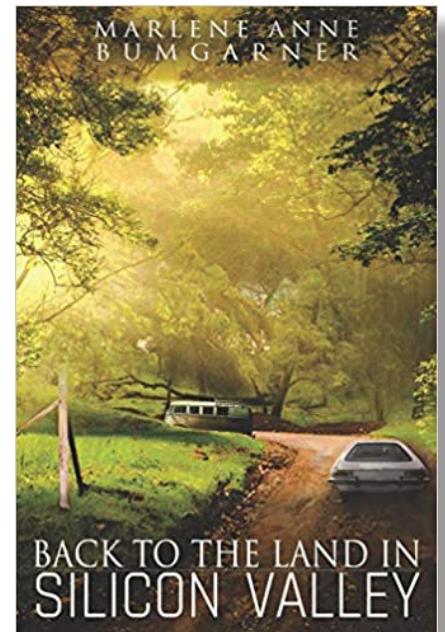
Marjorie Johnson

Kate Russell, garden blogger (thedailygarden.us/) and gardening columnist for *Gilroy Life*, *Metro Silicon Valley*, *Morgan Hill Life*, *San Benito Metro*, *South Valley Metro*, and *Pajaro Valley Magazine* has published her first gardening book: *Stop Wasting Your Yard! 100 Edible Plants You Can Probably Grow at Home* (2021, Solificatio). Looking to the weeds for clues, Kate shows new and experienced gardeners about the surprising number of edible plants that can be added to a landscape and how to care for them. You are limited only by hydration and imagination. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Bookshop.org, you can also order *Stop Wasting Your Yard!* through your favorite small bookstore. katerussell010.wordpress.com.

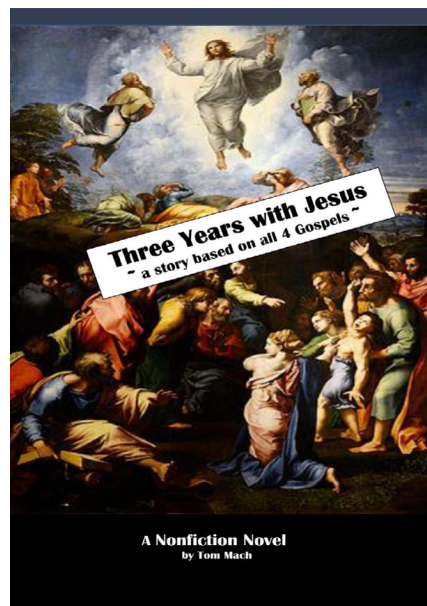


Marlene Bumgarner moved three weeks ago from Santa Cruz to Calabasas in Southern California to be closer to her son and his family. She is hoping to connect with some book groups down there and do some readings from her recently published memoir, *Back to the Land in Silicon Valley* (2020, Paper Angel Press). Meanwhile, She's started writing a mystery. She'd love to connect with a CWC chapter down there. She asks, can anyone connect me with someone? I left a message on the website but never got a reply.

To communicate with Marlene, send an email to MemberNews@SouthBayWriters.com, and I will forward your message to Marlene. SBW doesn't provide personal information about our members. While you are about it, what have you been working on? Do you have any writing news? Please send it here!



Tom Mach, founding President of South Bay Writers (1987), published a new book in May. For those of you who don't know him, his bio appears on the SBW webpage and on tom-mach.com. In retirement, he lives in Kansas and is a member of the Kansas Authors Club. In his recent book, *Three Years with Jesus: A Nonfiction Novel*, all four Gospels are read as a single story, with new information added to make the story of Jesus three-dimensional and real. He weaves the Gospels with revelations received by the Catholic Italian mystic Maria Vallorta, and adds some inspired fiction. Mach takes us back 2000 years to imagine what Jesus probably experienced; the entire story of Jesus' last three years on earth will come alive for you. *Three Years with Jesus* is available from Barnes & Noble, along with twelve other books by Tom Mach.



WT

Road trippin'

Chris Weilert

There are stretches of highways and railroad tracks you may never travel again but when you look out your window you become curious. You might ask yourself, what do people do in this city for a living, what do they do for fun? You try to place yourself there, walking the streets and conversing with the townsfolk. Of course, it happens quite often if you are out on the open road. It might be a town you stopped in for lunch en route, or to fill up your gas tank.

A lot of you have driven US Route 50, the 3000-mile stretch across the USA. It's called the "Loneliest Highway" for a reason. You can drive through long stretches of beautiful vistas and open space. I love these sections where you can easily drift into a trance, unfocused on the sights around you but at the same time at one with everything.

As I crossed Nevada, with the radio broadcasting only one or two AM stations and no CD player, the outside temperature hovered near a hundred degrees. My Jeep had no air-conditioning, only hot wind. A filling station and café appeared in the distance like the clichéd mirage.

I filled up the tank and sauntered into the café for a bite and to cool off. I sat down at the counter and found myself among at least ten to twenty other patrons. Some of these folks looked too comfortable to not be locals. This establishment must be the only place around for miles to get a meal and cool drink. I ordered the standard fare for a roadside diner, burger, fries, and a bottomless iced tea. I devoured the hamburger and was eager to be back on the road to reach Ely by dark.

As I was paying the waitress at the cash register, I almost jumped out of my skin as a low-flying aircraft screamed over the café, the roar of the jet followed by a whooshing sound. The whole place

Her deadpan delivery caught me off guard. All I could do was nod my head as she went about her business.

seemed to shift sideways for a moment. I grabbed the counter and looked at the waitress.

"What in the Hell just happened?"

She gave me the one response I wasn't expecting.

"What?"

I looked her square in the eyes and pointed up, "Ah, come on, *that*."

She laughed unemotionally. "Oh, that happens all the time around here. The spaceships buzz us heading over to Area 51."

Her deadpan delivery caught me off guard. All I could do was nod my head as she went about her business.

I heard a few laughs from inside as I headed out the door. I guessed this was a source of humor for the locals, watching passing-through patrons wet themselves. Later on, I researched the place to see if this could be some sort of UFO destination and whether those were aliens in that café. I did find that the Naval Air Base in Fallon wasn't too far away.

This is why road tripping is the true American pastime, not some sport played by kids and millionaires. The love of the open road is the one thing most all Americans share as a common thread, certainly not religion or politics anymore. The road trip is the last piece of real freedom that cannot be degraded — unless your vehicle blows a gasket somewhere in Green River, Utah.

Long live lonely highways, roadside eateries, friendly locals, and a stereo that works. **WT**



US Route 50, Nevada, headed west. Photo by R Anderson.

Caffè Greco bonus shot

Phyllis Dulaney

A sunny day in August, the 20th anniversary of my arrival in San Francisco, was spent privately celebrating and visiting my former abodes and favorite haunts. Among them was the Caffè Greco.

While having lunch there—a glass of crisp Chardonnay alongside a toasted bagel topped with smoked salmon, cream cheese, tomato slices, arugula, and red onion with a drizzle of peppery vinaigrette, followed by a Greco Grande—I happened to spot a familiar face. At a nearby table sat Francis Ford Coppola.

Or so I thought.

Twice, I had come close to employment at Coppola's Zoetrope Studios, located in the flatiron building at the intersection of Kearny and Columbus. My position as a legal secretary to in-house counsel was lost when someone within the company snatched the job out from under me (after I had already been hired, but hadn't yet started). Later, one of the attorneys at the firm where I did work was accepted into Coppola's fold. I recommended myself to her for the position as her secretary, and she liked the idea. Unfortunately, a purging of staff in the aftermath of the expensive, overblown *Apocalypse Now* cancelled out that position. When Donna refused to accept a pay cut, Coppola offered her an even better position, so she relocated to LA. She must have really impressed him.

The rankings of *The Godfather*, Parts I and II, as two of the greatest films ever made are indisputable. Was this the master himself?



Photo: Phyllis Dulaney, "Caffè Greco," San Francisco, September 2011.

Not at the Caffè Trieste, where he wrote the first *Godfather* script, or the Caffè Roma or the Cavelli, but at my beloved Caffè Greco!

Along with the original Little Joe's restaurant, I was introduced to the Greco around 1976 through friends Dave and Rita. They were avid fans and regular clientele of North Beach and all its cafés

and restaurants. We visited them all. After Dave passed away, Rita even placed some of Dave's ashes in the planter outside the Trieste.

It's not the oldest or most famous in North Beach, but the Greco became my café bliss. Its interior walls are hung with photographs depicting contemporary patrons of café society and vin-

tage posters that encourage partakers from another time to relish a Dubonnet, a Cognac Monnet, or Vermouth Martini. Under glass-topped cases lies an array of tempting desserts and tubs of icy, rich gelati to make one's mouth water. Bottles of brightly colored syrup sparkle like carnival lights as they wait to be mixed into cooling, fruity Italian sodas.

Caffè Greco's coffee concoctions are brewed with imported Illy coffee. Their super-sized "Greco Grande" is a colossal cup of cappuccino—creamy, smooth, and powerful. Best to use both hands to sip this one! The loyal baristas, artists really, delight you with a "Ciao, bella!" as they adorn your cappuccino with a detailed flower, a heart, or a whimsical bunny expertly sculpted in foam.

Whether you sit indoors or out, a parade of colorful locals and underdressed, shortsleeved, sandal-wearing tourists provide the best people-watching in the City, while you peruse the sports pages or finish a crossword puzzle, spooning that last little bit of deliciousness from the cup bottom.

If this was, in fact, Francis Ford Coppola enjoying an espresso and a *New York Times*, who wouldn't

want to gush at him about his transcendent works of art! There sat a gentleman who looked exactly like my idol, and as I sipped my Grande, I wondered what original thing I might say to him if an opportunity presented itself.

But maybe it was a coincidence—a case of mistaken identity. I once had friends who were regularly approached by people mistaking them for Francis Ford Coppola and Meryl Streep, so there still was a chance it was just wishful thinking on my part. One time, Laura actually signed an "autograph" for a fan, but we realized later she'd misspelled Streep.

Preparing to leave, he glanced around the room and our eyes met. Rather than interrupt his solitude, I simply smiled and nodded. He smiled and nodded back. It was then that I noticed "FFC" embroidered on his shirt collar. I couldn't believe my good fortune. As Francis Ford Coppola left the Caffè Greco on Columbus Ave in North Beach on a glorious afternoon in San Francisco, I was more than satisfied with a bonus celebrity sighting on my 20th Anniversary celebration. **WT**



Important information about dues

According to the California Writer's Club for current members, **dues are not calculated by the date a member joined.** They are due once a year by 01 July and are good through the following year to 30 June.

"Active, associate, and supporting CWC members shall pay annual dues of \$45 to a branch. The membership year is July 1 through June 30."

Membership remains current as long as a member pays by the 01 July date (there is a grace period if you haven't paid yet). But after the grace period, a membership is no longer current, and for a member to belong to the club again, **the fee is \$65 to rejoin.**

Please send in your dues or pay on PayPal if you have not renewed. Your membership is important and helps fund such things as guest speakers, the newsletter, and sometimes classes at reduced cost. Thank you.

Inga Silva, Membership Chair
IngaSBWMembership@gmail.com



Why is the logo of *West Trade Review* a hornet's nest? In 1780, the meeting point of two Native American trading paths had only been incorporated as the Town of Charlotte, North Carolina, a mere twelve years. According to local lore, British military officer Lord Cornwallis received such hostile treatment there, he said the trading post was "a hornet's nest of rebellion," and the hornet's nest has been Charlotte's proud logo ever since.

Two hundred years later, a little journal called *Encore Literary Arts Magazine* was founded in Charleston, SC, later relocating to Charlotte. There, it dedicated itself to publishing diverse poets and writers from everywhere in the US, and soon began featuring photography and artwork, as well. In 2009, taking inspiration from one of two original Native American trading paths, modern-day Trade Street, *West Trade Review* was launched.

West Trade Review is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and wants to hear from underrepresented voices of all types (cis and trans women, gender nonconforming, agender, nonbinary, genderqueer, those who are two-spirit, people with disabilities, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+).

Our goal is to simply present to you the best art possible by both emerging and established creative minds.

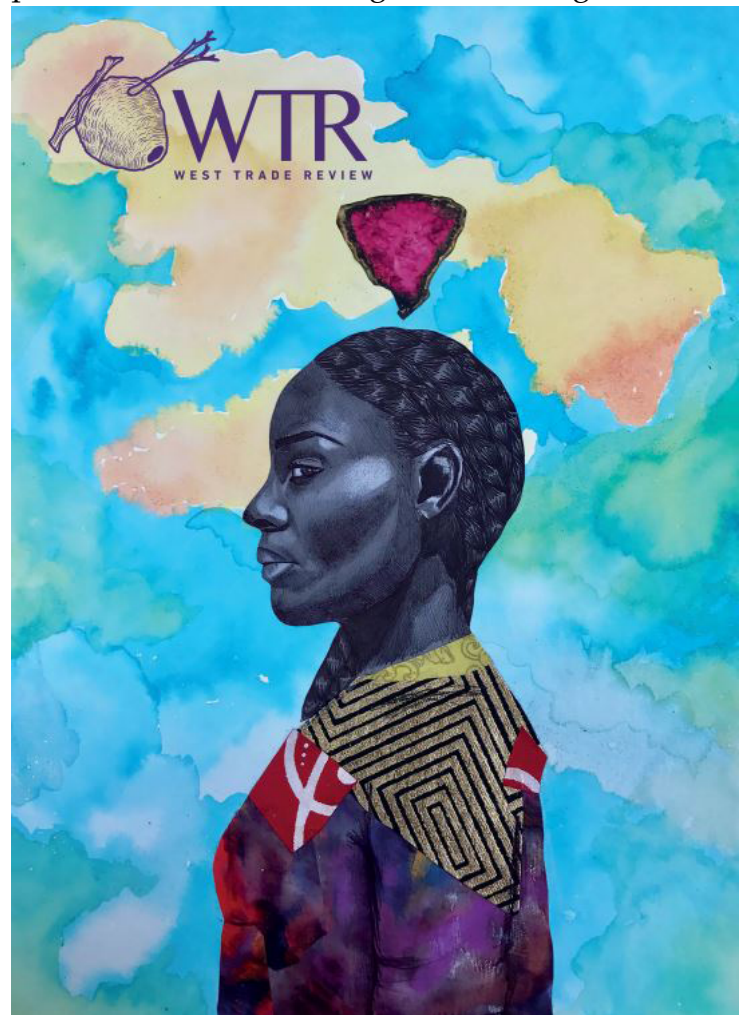
WTR is published quarterly (one print edition each spring, and an online quarterly each summer, fall, and winter), in search of the best contemporary poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction (personal essays and memoir), photography, and artwork, seeking to publish a mix of established and up-and-coming writers and artists from around the world.

Although based in Charlotte, its staff operate in many other locations. **South Bay Writers' own Kelly Harrison** is Associate Editor. "As for *WTR*," she says, "yes, we all work remotely, although there

are some students in North Carolina at the university. There is one faculty member, Kenny Harmon, who is the editor-in-chief and who has been receiving funding from Johnson & Wales University. With any volunteer organization, there's some turnover, but we have a solid group of people doing everything from reading the slush pile, to my job as associate editor, and doing all of the print layout."

Volume 12 Summer 2021 Edition Available Now

Print copies of issues are always available for purchase while supplies last, and some selections are posted to the website for gratis browsing. The sum-



Cover, *West Trade Review*, Summer 2021.

Artwork by Jamea Richmond-Edwards, jamearichmondedwards.com

mer issue is packed, with fiction by Desmond Fuller and Gregory Borse; poetry by Gina Marie Bernard, Monica Mills, Gaven Wallace, Anna Zwade, Yasmina Martin, Ann Weil, John M. Davis, KG Newman, Mara Lee Grayson, Mark Seidl, Kakie Pate, Jessica Hudson, Marc Frazier, and Lance Le Gyrs; creative nonfiction by Amy Bowers, and loads more.

Thinking of submitting?

WTR's reading periods run 01 April–01 August, and then 15 August–15 December. WTR does not accept submissions outside these reading periods. By the time you receive your August *WritersTalk*, you'll still have a healthy couple of weeks to polish that submission before the window opens on the 15th. Everyone is welcome to submit, and WTR never charges a reading fee.

WTR is looking for original and unpublished works of fiction and poetry by both new and established writers and artists. From the website:

“While we publish work of various styles and content, we enjoy writing that is socially engaged and seek to elevate underrepresented literary voices. We are looking for poems that perform Olympian feats with language that leave a reader in wonder while still referring back to the basic things that make us human. We want powerful imagery and enjoy the juxtaposition of images in interesting and unexpected ways.

“We want poems and stories that make the reader think and feel, work that humbles us with its joy, humor, embarrassment, anger, hope, grief, or all of the above. We gravitate toward exquisitely crafted writing that has something important to teach us—something that readers really need to know but might not have understood was a need until the last word of the work.”

West Trade Review lives up to its Charlotte roots as a juncture of diversity: a hornets nest of excellence in writing and art. **WT**



twitter.com/WTRLitmag

West Trade Review submission guidelines

westtradereview.com/submissionguidelines.html

☞ Submit only during the open reading periods: **01 Apr–01 Aug, 15 Aug–15 Dec.**

☞ All submissions must be previously unpublished and must be accompanied by a cover letter.

☞ Submit up to five poems or one prose piece of up to 5000 words. Please submit multiple poems as one submission in a single Microsoft Word file.

☞ Include a clear title of the work.

☞ Double-space fiction. Use single-space for poetry.

☞ A short biography should accompany submission. Work submitted without a biography will not be considered.

☞ If your work is a simultaneous submission, please let us know immediately if it becomes published elsewhere.

☞ Writers may not submit more than once per reading period.

☞ Entries should be submitted to the appropriate genre category at the following link: **westtradereview.submittable.com/submit**

☞ We try to respond to most submissions as quickly as possible, and final decisions typically do not take more than 3–4 months at most.

☞ Our annual print edition is issued in the spring. The summer, fall, and winter quarterly editions are published solely online. Material published in online editions is promoted via our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Gone with the Wind, the Breeze and the Shifting Sands of Time

Marty Sorensen

I am grateful to cousins on both sides of my family who have done the hard work of visiting gravesites and official record offices. And to their relatives who have kept the documents even though they have few among family members who care at all about family history. And of course it was the men who looked at gravestones, and so the stories coming out of this work have been about the men.

There's the Order of the Dannebrog (left, "For God and King," Denmark's version of knighthood) received by Søren Sørensen for community service.



Completely unrelated, I know, but I have to include the Greater Coat of Arms of Denmark (the example pictured right was used 1948–1972 under King Frederick IX). Who else has dirty pictures of ripped cavemen?

There's my uncle Joe Dobler, who died on North Rhodesia Island, the one just after Guadalcanal, when he was out reconnoitering a ravine full of hidden machine gunners.

There are our Danish cousins, what Elvis would call "kissin' cousins." Their family name is Nørgaard. They made up their own surname when the king said they no longer had to keep naming themselves after their own dads. Like many, they took the name from their farm's local handle: *Nørre-* (north) *gaard* (farm). Just like the existentialist philosopher Kierkegaard, whose last name means "cemetery."

Can't you just imagine them sitting around the kitchen table and saying, "What? I can go to Iowa and homestead and get my own land and be my own lord, and future generations can write for *WritersTalk* instead of just reading *ForfatterneTaler*?"

But someone has paid attention to the womenfolk. I just learned about German cousins, and my mom's dad who was a Dobler. And there was a Martin Dobler in Reisenbach all the way back in 1649, and there's still a Martin Dobler selling insurance there in Reisenbach

today. Well, I don't mean the guy way-back-when was selling insurance. Anyway, my mom's dad's mother was a Vogtle. (Be patient, I'm coming to it.) And I never heard of them until a month ago. Okay, so I saw the name on the genealogy chart, but I mean, no stories like for the men.

Well, okay, this is about a man. But, this is the thing. These cousins ended up in Alabama, fought at the Battle of New Orleans, after they went with Colonel Jackson down the Mighty Mississippi' and fired their squirrel guns and made the British run through brambles where even rabbits



couldn't go. But the cousin who wrote about them in the last century, why, he married a woman who had graduated from Whitworth Female College, and then taught school in the area of Tallulah, Louisiana. In the area? Did she even get to go to downtown Tallulah for an ice cream social? Anyway, she was lovely and high-minded, what's not to like? He was a traveling salesman (in the South, so there's a tale or two). But she took care of the kids. She trained them by precept and example (she never smoked), and taught them duty, honor, and Southern Chivalry. (I'm surprised they didn't put that in all caps.)

Now we get to Alvin Vogtle, who has a real story. Sorry to make you wait so long. He was among Alabama's great heroes of World War II. He was at Stalag Luft III and was known as "Big X," for "big escape," because he escaped five times and was only recaptured four times. Well, well, in the movie *The Great Escape* following the book, it took place in Stalag Luft III, and it was Steve McQueen who was Big X, i.e., Roger Bushnell of the RAF. Huh. And he does not make it out, he gets caught.

So now, for me, the question is: Who is Alvin Vogtle, and was he Big X or not? I can tell you this, the answer will not depend on Southern Chivalry.

WT

Fire him

Kendad

Why did lazy Fred get promoted to group coordinator?"
"He outgrew his purpose as a tactical analyst."

"Did the VP sign off on this?"

"Yes. We decided it's the best position for him to handle."

"But Fred doesn't handle anything. He's our most unproductive employee and should be fired."

"Mind your own business."

"This is my business. I have to work with the idiot. Please, terminate his employment."

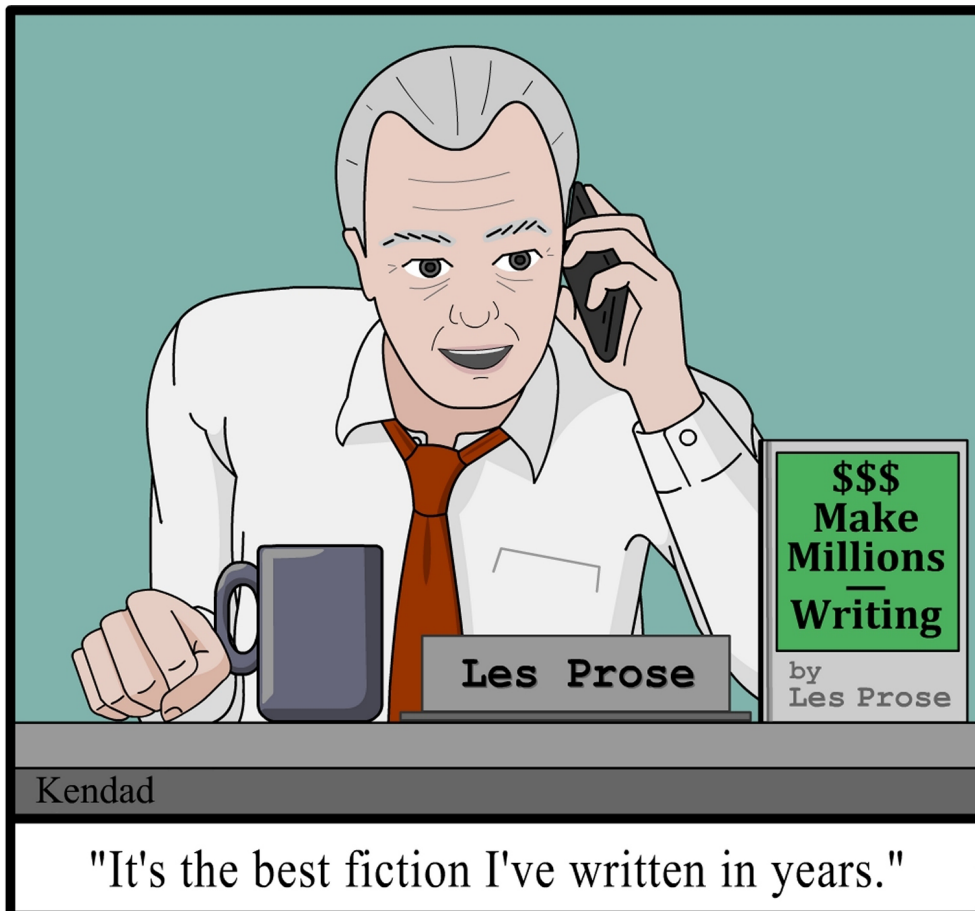
"But I can't. He serves my purpose."

"How can you say that, considering he does nothing?"

"Simple; I give him projects when nothing needs to get done." **WT**

Les Prose Comics

Kendad



Matthews, Continued from page 2

You may wonder, why was T. J.'s work rebuffed? Did the agents actually read her query letter? Did an intern skim the opening and toss it? Were early submissions lackluster?

Too often I see neophytes finish their first book and become impatient to get it published. After a rejection or two, they decide to self-publish. I've read a few of these books. Often they're filled with typos, even on the first page—not to mention clichés, inconsistencies, &c, &c. Other times, the story is engaging, but the writing is weak.

Sadly, you haven't crossed the finish line when you complete the first draft. Sure, celebrate, but there's still ground to cover. Playwright Neil Simon famously said "Writing is rewriting."

If you visit the *Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze*, you can view Michelangelo's original statue of David. Included in the display are a number of his unfinished works. Lots of potential, but these masses of marble lack the detail and polish that create a masterpiece like *David*.

So my fellow writers, when rewriting your drafts, enjoy the process. Escape into the ethereal world of your imagination and savor the visit. Follow in the footsteps of poets. Pay attention to details—and *rewrite*. **WT**

It is a joy to express
my truth.

JULY MEETING

Baldwin, *Continued from page 1*

home. We enter the suburbs, with modest old houses and neighborhood businesses, arriving finally at an impressive, tree-surrounded country manse, where we pull into the driveway. Tony Soprano is home—but still angry, tense, resentful of authority.

Consider this: You see this sequence at the start of every episode. We saw it over and over for seven years. Yet we didn't tire of it.

This is what you see in a series of books: each book re-establishes the franchise.

Tod's own books—*Gangster Nation* and so on—have created separate worlds—but they all connect somewhere.

Consider a fellow-writer whom Tod greatly admires, Tim O'Brien and his Vietnam novel *The Things They Carried*. The book is a collection of interwoven stories based on the mementos American soldiers carried in their belongings during the war. Each story stands on its own—but each story also connects to the greater theme of the book.

That idea, the "theme of the book," is vital in your writing. What is the theme that ties your project together, and where does this theme originate?

For Tod, setting is critical. He be-

lieves that an environment produces characters, which produce events. What is the environment of your project?

In Tod's case, although he was born in Berkeley he has spent most of his life in the Low Desert south and east of Riverside, down to Palm Springs and the Salton Sea. This land inspires Tod's novels: a place where "we are all in the Deep End." His novels share this locale, which shapes the characters and plots.

Conflict

=

contested territory

Remember this as you plan your stories, novels, and screenplays. Imagine a musical theme and variations. Remember that opening sequence from *The Sopranos* that reminded people, week after week, what that series was about. Remember those soldiers in Vietnam, men with individual backgrounds and concerns yet bound to one another by their common predicament. Remember those books where Tod constructs separate stories born from the same stark environment.

Remember this when you write your opening. You will probably



rewrite it many times. You want to set the tone, like *The Sopranos* did. You want to "establish your franchise." What is your theme?

As you write, keep in mind the possibilities inherent in your story. You may not know the theme when you begin, but maintain your focus on what you are doing: you could discover secondary characters that are interesting in themselves, who deserve a novel or two of their own. You may discover a subtheme that could be developed into its own characters and stories. Examine your story's environment: readers want to be led to a place. See what is inherent in your fictional environment and take the reader there.

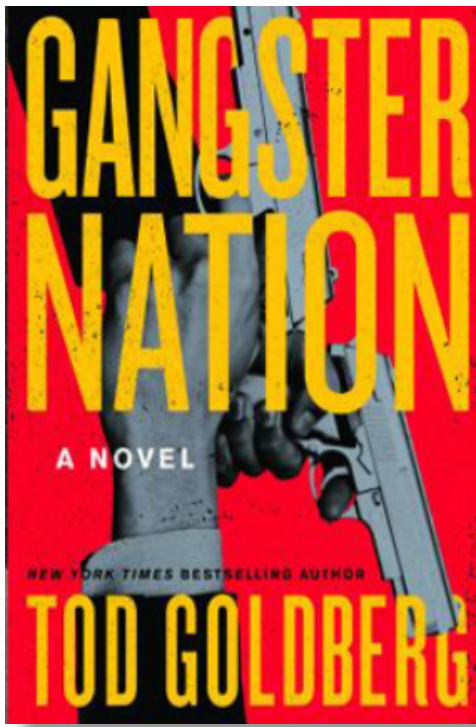
Use secondary characters to mirror the primary characters. Look for variations in the themes. You can return to your themes but still keep them fresh by uncovering what has been implied and come before. There are depths yet to explore in your characters and plots. Harvest these depths and build richness into your work.

Design cliffhangers, but without resorting to cliché. Strive to keep things fresh and new.

With this approach you can spin multiple variations of the same grand theme. Allow your creations to bloom!

WT

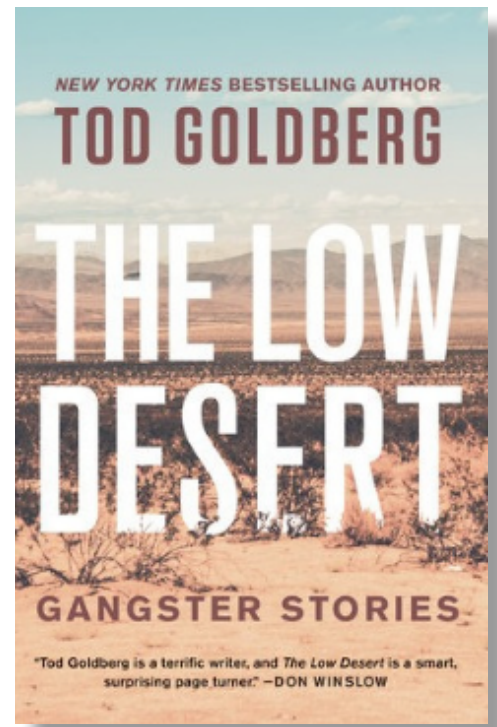




“Out of a place
comes a person;
out of a person
comes a story.”

todgoldberg.com

Tod Goldberg's *Gangster Nation* (2017, book 2 of 2 in the *Gangsterland Series*) and *The Low Desert* (2021, hardcover), published by Counterpoint.



South Bay Writers and guests tuned in on 12 July to hear author Tod Goldberg's hot takes on writing a linked series.
Screengrabs by Carolyn Donnell.

Khan, Continued from page 1

and boring, he'll be more extraordinary in his plainness, dullness, and boringness than his real-life counterparts."

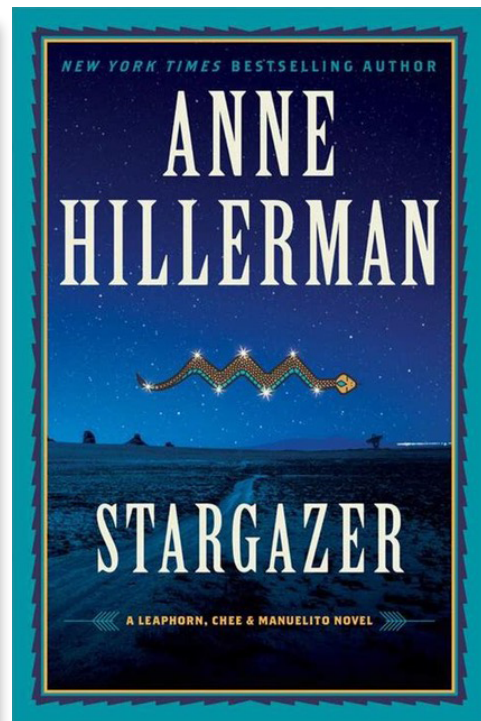
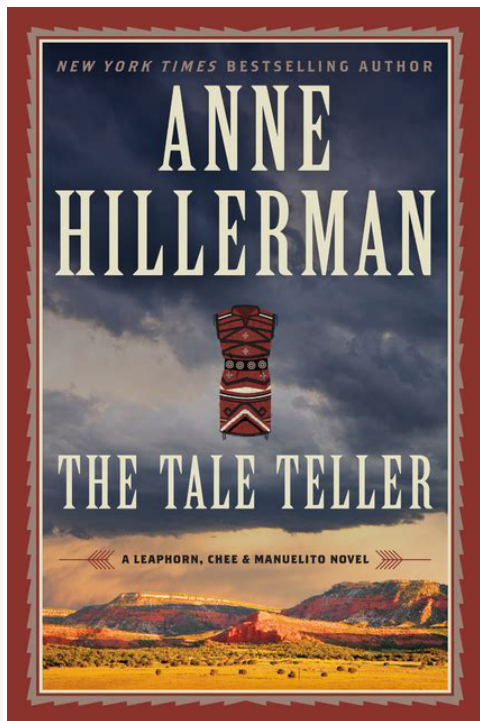
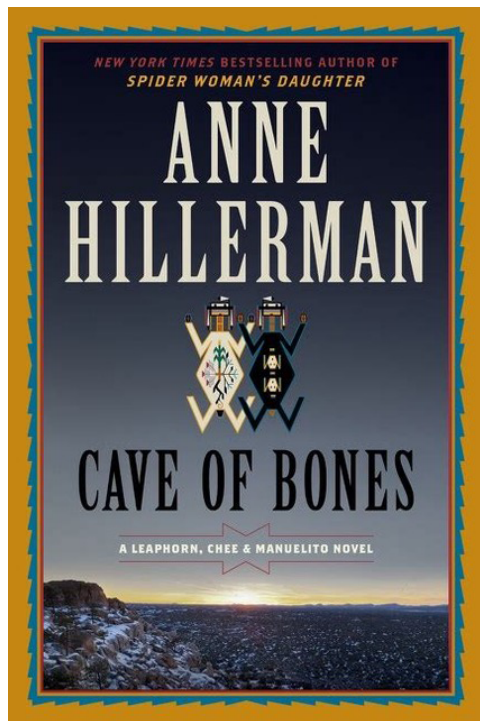
At our meeting on 09 August, **Anne Hillerman** will guide us through a writer's relationship with the characters who will touch, and perhaps also break, the reader's heart. The Santa Fe author continues the Navajo detective stories her father Tony Hillerman made popular. Her debut mystery, *Spider Woman's Daughter*, received the prestigious Spur Award from the Western Writers of America as best first novel. That book and the five novels that followed were all *New York Times* bestsellers. Her sixth mystery, *Stargazer*, was published in 2021. Before she became a novelist, Anne was a nonfiction author and award-winning journalist. When she's not working, Anne likes to read, cook, and travel. She lives in Santa Fe with her dog, Sally. **WT**



annehillerman.com

Join us Monday, 09 August, 7 PM

CWC members from all branches are invited to attend this free virtual event. To request the Zoom link, please write to PR@South-BayWriters.com.



From the *Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito Novel* series, *Cave of Bones* (2018), *Tale Teller* (2019), and *Stargazer* (April), published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins.

Redwood Writers Summer 2021 Prose Writing Contest

Deadline Sunday, 29 August at 9 pm

Spring and Summer—the birds the bees and Love are in the air! June weddings and Honeymoons. . . Well, perhaps not.

Write a love story that ends with: “I’ve made a huge mistake.”

Maybe you fall for your man’s/woman’s sibling. Or you booked a wedding photographer, and it turns out they are The One. You found out your fiancé’s and your family are mortal enemies—a little Romeo and Juliet? Or you kissed him/her and he/she changed back into a toad.

In 2000 words or less, write a love story that begins with “The One” you found, but the results lead you to discovering the “Love of Your Life.”

And, no, it doesn’t have to be a person. It can be a job, family, self, or other dream come true. Use your imagination or tell us a story of how your romance or ideal situation dissolved when you realized “I’ve made a huge mistake.”

Most rules will follow traditional format, but the words or a sentence meaning “I’ve made a huge mistake” must be in the story. Good luck!



**redwoodwriters.
org/2021-terrible-
mistake-contest/**

Local conferences

Lunchbox Stories

Asian Art Museum (Virtual)

Thursdays until 26 Aug, 12 PM

Lunchbox Stories will transport you to the fabulous worlds of giants, dragons, shape-shifters, silly tigers, and more. Dynamic retellings of epic myths and charming folktales from across Asia. Our stories are for all ages, but we'll kick off each meeting with a selection especially for our youngest listeners. **m.facebook.com/events/854023881869027**

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**

2021 Illustrator Day 18–19 September (Virtual)

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and San Francisco South present Illustrator Day: Graphic Novels. Opportunity to submit your portfolio for review (deadline 03 Sept). \$70 for non-members; \$65 portfolio review. **sfsouth.scbwi.org/events/2021-illustrator-day/**



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**

SAVE THE DATES!!

**SBW BBQ
Sunday
12 Sept, 3 pm***

Watch your email for details!



**Return to
China Stix
11 October***

*Covid guidelines permitting



***GET VACCINATED SO YOU CAN ATTEND THE ANNUAL BBQ IN SEP-
TEMBER AND REGULAR MEETINGS RESUMING AT CHINA STIX IN OCTOBER!***

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/cwcbbranches/

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 Magazine. Lists contests, articles, resources, and newsletter. Their current contest, 2021 Summer Flash Contest. 1000 words or less. Grand prize \$1,000 and publication in *The Writer*, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$250 and publication on writermag.com. **Deadline 12 Aug.**

Other contests listed at the site with deadlines in August:

- Dialogue Only Writing Contest, **10 Aug**
- Twist & Twain short story contest, **15 Aug**
- Future Flash Fiction, **20 Aug**
- Faith Poetry Contest, **26 Aug**
- 3 Line Poetry Contest, **28 Aug**

writermag.com/contests/

Writer's Digest

- **9th annual Self-Published E-book Awards.** Honors the best self-published e-book(s) in eight popular categories with \$5000 cash, interview in *Writer's Digest* magazine, and a paid trip to the *Writer's Digest* Annual Conference in New York, NY. All will receive a brief review of their book from one of *Writer's Digest's* competition readers. **Deadlines 16 Aug (early-bird) and 20 Sept.** writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-ebook-awards
- **Short Short Story contest.** 1st place \$3000 and paid trip to the *Writer's Digest* Annual Conference, including a co-

CONTESTS, CONTINUED

veted Pitch Slam slot. 2nd \$1500, 3rd \$500, 4th–10th \$100 and all will be published in *Writer's Digest's* Sept/Oct 2022 issue, 11th–25th \$50 gift certificate for *Writer's Digest* gift shop. **Deadline 15 Nov.**

Redwood Writers 2021 “Terrible Mistake” contest. All CWC members eligible, regardless of residence. 1st prize \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. **Deadline 29 Aug, 9 PM.**

redwoodwriters.org/2021-terrible-mistake-contest/

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. **Ext. deadline 31 Aug.** wnba-sfchapter.org/2021-effie-lee-morris-contest-get-ready



WOW! Women on Writing, Quarterly Flash Fiction Contest. Open prompt, 250–750 words, entry fee \$10, **deadline 31 August.** wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php

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, 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.** winningwriters.com/our-contests

Regal House Publishing—The 2021 Acheven Book Prize, recognizing finely crafted young adult fiction. Winner receives Book publication by Fitzroy Books and Regal House Publishing in 2023 + \$750 honorarium. **Deadline 30 Sep.** regalhousepublishing.com

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

LOCAL & CWC, CONTINUED

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

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 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 25 submissions call, themed "Ghosts" (ends 31 May)** vincentbrothersreview.org/submissions/

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

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

FOR POETS, CONTINUED

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" 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

FOR POETS, CONTINUED

- 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. Requires a subscription (paid), but they do have many activities including 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

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

GENERAL RESOURCES, CONTINUED

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

I align with the creative, abundant energy of the universe.



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

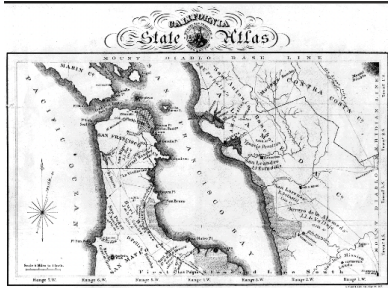
Redwood City redwoodwriters.org

Sacramento cwcsacramentowriters.org

SF Peninsula cwc-peninsula.org

San Joaquin Valley

trivalleywriters.org



CWC events in August

07 AUG: CWC-Coastal Dunes

Author Jordan Rosenfeld: "Writing with Page-Turning Tension." Virtual: Sat, 07 Aug, 10:45 AM write: info@CoastalDunesCWC.com

07 AUG: CWC-Orange County

R.D. Kardon, "Incorporating Technical Expertise without Losing the Reader." Sat, 07 Aug, 10:45 AM. Join the mailing list in advance: calwriters orangecounty.org

14 AUG: CWC-Fremont

Short impromptu writing followed by social time, the more the merrier! You'll receive a Zoom invitation from Scott Davidson the day before the event. For more info: scottfrombay-side@yahoo.com (no hyphen).

14 AUG: CWC-Long Beach

Barbara DeMarco-Barrett, author of *Pen on Fire*, and founder and host of the *Writers on Writing* radio show

and podcast. Write info@calwriter-slongbeach.org for Zoom link.

15 AUG: CWC-Mendocino

Emily Lloyd-Jones presents "Top Ten Myths about Publishing." There are so many misconceptions about how traditional writing/publishing works, so she'll be going through and debunking some of the most popular myths. (No, you don't have to be famous! Also yes, it really takes about two years to publish a book.) She'll discuss everything from writing to finding representation to what happens after the book is published. Sun, 15 Aug, 3 PM. Request invitation by emailing WritersMendocinoCoast@Gmail.com

16 AUG: CWC-North State

Susan Alyworth writes sweet and clean, contemporary romance novels set in small-town America. Mon, 16 Aug, 6 pm, **Free**. Virtual + in person: Veterans Memorial Hall, 554 Rio Lindo Avenue, Chico, CA. northstate-writers.com

17 AUG: CWC-Redwood

In person! Brian Fies, local author of the graphic novel *A Fire Story*, will be the featured speaker. Sat, 19 Jun, 1 PM, Finley Center. \$5 for CWC members. Register here: redwoodwriters.org/meetings/

21 AUG: CWC-Sacramento

Author and journalist Erika Mailman will speak via Zoom. Sat, 21 Aug, 1 PM. **Free**. For Zoom link, stop by cwcsacramentowriters.org.

21 AUG: CWC-Writers of Kern

Cecil Castellucci, American-born Canadian YA novelist, indie rocker, and director. Sat., 21 Aug, **Virtual Workshop**. writersofkern.com

28 AUG: CWC-Fremont

Panel discussion with FAW members Evelyn LaTorre and Mila Patel, and

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



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

Jack London Awards Coming

How to Make a Living as a Writer

Unfiled

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

FAW friend Chris Cook, who will discuss their individual processes of taking their writing from completed manuscripts to published books. Learn more about agents, various forms of editing, and working with publishers first-hand. Sat, 28 Aug, 2 pm. Inkspots@cwc-fremontareawriters.org to request Zoom link. **WT**

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 LUGHNASADH	2 VALLEY WRITERS	3	4 SBW BOARD MEETING 7 PM	5	6 OPEN MIC	7
8 INFINITY DAY ISLAMIC NEW YEAR BEGINS	9 VALLEY WRITERS SBW REGULAR MEETING 7 PM	10	11	12	13	14
15 WRITERS TALK ISSUE CLOSES	16 VALLEY WRITERS	17	18	19	20 OPEN MIC	21
22 CORN MOON	23 VALLEY WRITERS	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 VALLEY WRITERS	31				

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. Jan 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 words. **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

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Monday | 09 August | 7 PM**

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