



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 29  
Number 9  
September 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

## Dan White

Jamal Khan



September speaker Dan White

simple and startling, hooking the reader and drawing them in. Then, gradually add layer after narrative layer, each lively enough to provide ample entertainment value in its own right, while simultaneously laying the groundwork for a bigger payoff to come. **In our South Bay Writers meeting 13 Sept, Dan White will guide us through the process of holding a reader's attention from the first page to the last.**

Dan White is the author of *The Cactus Eaters: How I Lost My Mind and*

Monday

13 September

7 PM!

AUGUST SPEAKER RECAP

## Anne Hillerman

Bill Baldwin

**L**et your characters speak! Anne Hillerman – journalist – wrote stories for Santa Fe newspapers while her photographer-husband provided the accompanying pictures. Entirely nonfiction, “just the facts.” Then her father died.

Tony Hillerman, longtime successful author of mystery thrillers set in the tribal areas of Four Corners Arizona/New Mexico, passed away, leaving behind his serial legacy. Fans asked Anne whether her father had any works-in-progress, any notes for future projects. Readers loved the characters Tony had created and wanted more.

Anne had never written fiction, but decided to continue her father's stories. As the novels had grown out of the Four Corners locale, she began to visit those areas. Since 2013, she has published a new book every year – until last year, *The Year of the Pandemic*.

Continued on page 17

Continued page 15

## Inside

President's message, <i>E Matthews</i> ....	2
Denmarkian graffiti, <i>R Anderson</i> .....	3
View from the Board, <i>M Johnson</i> .....	4
Off the shelf, <i>E Matthews</i> .....	5
A message from Roger Lubeck, CWC President.....	5
Member news, <i>M Johnson</i> .....	6
Other news you can use .....	7
Les Prose Comics, <i>Kendad</i> .....	7
Wasting away: Palo Alto style, <i>E Preston</i> .....	8

The big Halloween issue.....	9
Better-than-sex desert recipe .....	10
Library of Congress National Book Festival.....	11
For Marta, <i>V C Culp</i> .....	12
August SBW meeting.....	14
Upcoming conferences .....	16
<i>Litquake 2021</i> .....	17
Contests & markets, <i>C Donnell</i> .....	18
CWC activities in September .....	22
September calendar .....	23

## POTLUCK CANCELED

Due to the increase in COVID cases among those who are vaccinated, and out of concern for our members' health, SBW has **CANCELED** this year's potluck BBQ. We will hold our regular meeting via Zoom Monday, 13 September, 7 PM.

Sincerely,

*Edie Matthews*, SBW President

# Between the lines

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



## Facts of life

Sex is an enticing topic. But what's often overlooked is the humor it can provide. Some people learn the facts of life from their friends—and in the process, a lot of misinformation. Even though my mother provided the details, I drew a few incorrect conclusions.

My mother was protective of me, her only daughter; consequently, I was quite innocent as a child. Despite my parents having their differences, there was little arguing, and they never swore. In the third grade at Our Lady of Loretto, I heard my first curse word—the big one, the F-word.

Rumors flew among the kids that a boy was in trouble. Several times I asked why, but no one would say the word aloud, only spell it. Since I had never heard it before, I had no idea how to pronounce it or what it meant. I memorized the spelling and when I arrived home, it was the first thing I asked my mother.

Shocked, she asked, "Who said that?"

I explained about the boy.

She either modified the definition or didn't know herself. She said it was a boy's privates. She never pronounced the word, and I didn't hear it again for two years.

In the fifth grade, while walking to Logan St. School, I ran into a girl in my class. She asked if I knew what the swear words meant. I was hesitant to admit my ignorance. It didn't matter—she was eager to share her knowledge. So, under the tutelage of another ten-year-old, I heard curse words I'd never known before, along with a rudimentary definition of the F-word.

In the sixth grade, they showed "that movie" to the girls—the one about periods. Rumors flew among the girls, and I didn't let on that once again I was clueless. Parents had to sign a consent paper before their daughters could view the film. This is what prompted my mother to give me "the talk."

The evening before I was to see the film, my mother said, "Let's go for a walk." Unaware, my brothers stayed home watching TV. I thought it was a bit odd, but didn't complain and accompanied her on a stroll through the neighborhood. She was always chatty, and I was content to listen. After about thirty minutes, it dawned on me what she was explaining.

"You mean—"

"Yes," she interrupted.

Her explanation was so clinical that I concluded the process had to take place in the hospital. I didn't think of my parents. I could only

*Continued on page 10*

## California Writers Club South Bay Branch

[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

### SBW officers

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### SBW events

Open mic—Bill Baldwin  
[WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

### 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](mailto:ingasbwmembership@gmail.com), sign up online at [SouthBayWriters.com](http://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

### Managing editor

Renée J Anderson

### Deputy editor

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

### Contributing editors

Carolyn Donnell  
DeWayne Mason  
Ken Roberge  
Marty Sorensen

### 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

ingasbwmembership@gmail.com

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## Denmarkian graffiti

Renée J Anderson, Managing Editor



Greetings from Copenhagen, Denmark. I'm taking a much-too-long-awaited opportunity to visit my grown children and reacquaint myself with the city I've lived in since August 2000, minus the years my husband and I have spent here in Cali.

It was in Copenhagen I developed an appreciation for graffiti, an art form that, in its highest incarnation, can be compared with cherry blossoms in the Spring. I mean that sincerely. Its beauty lies in its fragility and impermanence. Yet somehow it is also

tough, rugged, raw. It speaks to the human sense of injustice and self-assertion. Famed pieces often exist only as photographs and legend.

American street artist Shepard Fairey (best known for his iconic portrait of Barack Obama) visited Copenhagen in 2011 and donated two murals, one to inaugurate a new park in the rough-and-tumble neighborhood of Nørrebro (my home) and a second, larger work to commemorate and sympathize with the notorious *Ungdomshuset*, a hangout for young atheist squatters that was cleared and demolished in 2007 amid rioting that rivaled the streets of Lebanon in the 80s.

Locals enjoyed Fairey's murals for a brief, shining moment. But in the time it takes a Dane to say "*Hold kæft!*" Nørrebro (known by its residents as "Nørre-Bronx") did its thing: the Counterfriction had its say and the murals were vandalized and soon obliterated. All this may seem like the Wild West, but to me, it's just another form of communication, and lest we forget, art.



I'm writing from the living room of our old apartment, currently inhabited by my son and his girlfriend. I can hear the 5C bus lurching by, a jackhammer across the street, an argument in Serbian down on the sidewalk. Around the corner from the apartment is a vacant lot where a kindergarten used to be. While the lot awaits its new, inevitable owner, Nørre-Bronx has done its thing again. The weeds from the sidewalk have advanced outward in waves of primary succession. Someone decided the place needed a working upright piano, and others have plastered the newly exposed walls with sentiment and color. Ah Denmark, don't ever change.

WT

WANTED



Spooky, moody, tantalizing pieces for a Halloween issue for the ages!  
Due latest 15 Sept!

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

# View from the Board

Marjorie Johnson



On 04 August, eight of the faithful Zoomed to the SBW Board meeting: President Edie Matthews, VP Jamal Khan, Secretary Marjorie Johnson, Members-at-Large Tatyana Grinenko and Alfred Jan, CWC Central Board/NorCal Rep Bill Baldwin, Mem-

bership Chair Inga Silva, and Facebook Admin, Carolyn Donnell. As last month, we had merry discussions but entertained no motions. Board reports are distilled in what follows.

**Edie Matthews** On Sunday, 12 September, the famous SBW potluck BBQ will resume. We will resume meeting in person in October at China Stix. *UPDATE: the BBQ has been canceled.*

**Jamal Khan** The following three speakers have been contacted but not confirmed:

Lyzette Wanzer, MFA: "Keys to Successful Submissions"

Lisa Lerner: "Writing Children's Books"

Thaisa Frank: "Seven Tools for Writers"

**Trenton Myers** reported still-healthy SBW bank accounts.

**Renée J Anderson, MRMS**, no news. **WritersTalk**, Let's make October a special Halloween issue, celebrating the season like the holiday issue last December. Send submissions in any category to newsletter@southbaywriters.com by 15 Sept. Also see page 9!

**Bill Baldwin**, invites you all to read at **Open Mic**, first and third Friday nights. Contact him at WABaldwin@aol.com (no hyphen). He also reported on the **CWC Central Board** meeting on 25 July: Incoming President Roger Lubeck would like to increase our membership statewide. (Of course, California Writers Club is a state organization, of which SBW is a branch.) He wants to expand the breadth and depth of the club and sponsor all-branch speaker events via Zoom.

Bill also represents us at **NorCal**, the Northern California branches of CWC. **Jack London Awards** will be presented live on 17 October in Oakland, along with

our next Central Board meeting. This meeting will also celebrate California Writers Week.

*The Bulletin*, CWC's publication, needs a new editor! Our incoming president Roger Lubeck wondered whether branch editors might form a team for this important part of CWC.

**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 through 30 June. I'm allowing people to "sneak in" under renewal this week, but plan to take down the option to renew by Saturday, 14 August. **You can get an SBW meeting invite 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 numbers have improved. We have Active, 48; Associate, 35; Life, 1; Supporting, 4; and Student, 1. Total: 89.

✱ ✱

The SBW Board meets again **Wednesday, 01 Sept** 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**



Slotsholmen, Copenhagen.  
Photo by R Anderson



# Off the shelf

Edie Matthews



## MARK ANTONY STRUGGLES WITH HIS SPEECH

*"Friends, folks, and fools, listen up!" No, that's not right. . . . "Bystanders, buddies, and baby-kissers, lend me your drachmas?" Don't I wish. "Countrymen, chattel, and chums, check it out!" Hmmm. . . . "Patricians, philistines, and peons, get the wax out of your ears!" Waxy ears, maybe not. "Romans, rogues, rubes, and riffraff, wise up!" Romans is good—I'll keep that in.*

## News from the CWC State Board President

### *Roger Clarke Lubeck, PhD*

Roger Lubeck's vision is for the CWC to be not only one of the oldest writers' clubs in the US but also to be recognized as one of the best. To that end, Roger plans to develop a system to track, recognize, and reward members for their development as writers and their literary achievements in terms of publications and awards. The recognition will be done in the branches and by the CWC.

Roger would like to see the CWC offer or sponsor several statewide speakers or workshops for all members on Zoom. Also, he is committed to developing a new system to help the club recruit, renew, track, and report on branch members—MRMS 2.0.

Roger says his role is to promote and support a re-energizing, revitalization, and renewal of the club's branches and members. His term began 01 August.

As a personal objective, he plans to use Zoom to meet with all CWC reps, branch presidents, and boards. Where possible, he plans attend at least one meeting in every branch, either via Zoom or in person, to listen to boards and members, and to develop new, innovative programs within the CWC.

Finally, Roger encouraged all CWC boards, branches, and members to take seriously the threat posed by COVID-19. Writing might be a solitary job, but writers love to socialize and talk about the craft and their achievements. The CWC is the ideal forum for writers gathering together and helping one another. In doing so, we must follow state and county requirements and be guided by science. We want all of our members to have a safe environment where they can celebrate being writers.

**WT**

# Member News

Marjorie Johnson

This month's Member News is short but sweet. Evie hasn't let the summer doldrums slow her down, and Bill's announcement has been years in the making.

**Evie Preston** published an opinion piece on *Palo Alto Online* 12 August, with link: [paloaltoonline.com/news/2021/08/13/opinion-wasting-away-palo-alto-style](https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2021/08/13/opinion-wasting-away-palo-alto-style). You can read it on page 8 of this month's issue of *WritersTalk*.

**Bill Baldwin** has released his second book. "This book," writes Bill, "contains all my previously published stories and poems, chronologically according to topic, reflecting the general sweep of my life. It also contains previously unpublished material, some joyful and some painful, that has contributed to the person I have become."

*Autumn Leaves, Spring Rain...Lightning! (Poems, Stories, Provocations)* by William Albert Baldwin is available from Amazon.com. Book announcement:

From the hazy Alleghenies and Blue Ridge—ancestral homelands—down to the Chesapeake Bay and onwards to the rocky coast of New Hampshire, the mountain lakes and waterfalls of northern Japan, and the fairytale castles of Bavaria—a boy grows into adulthood, faces challenges, and finds his calling in words, music, and visions. Here are some of his offerings—many award-winning—from Cold War times to the present: Poems, stories, memoirs, manifestos, and visions.

Congratulations, Bill! Great to see your piece, Evie!

Let's hear from more of you. We live vicariously when we help you celebrate your writing accomplishments. Please send your writing news to [membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com)

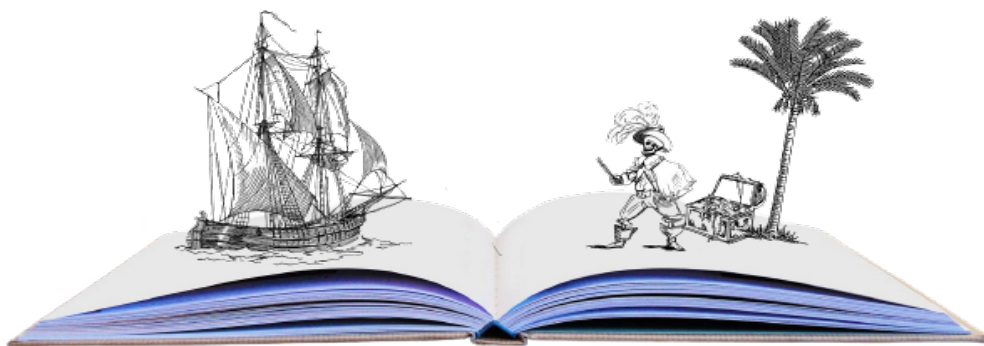
**WT**



Evelyn Preston



*Autumn Leaves, Spring Rain...Lightning!*  
*Poems, Stories, Provocations*  
published June 2021 by William Albert Baldwin.  
Cover art by Linda Judd.



Pixabay: artwork by Tumisu.

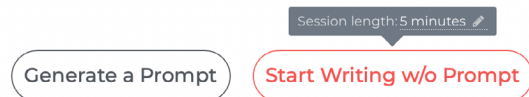


## News you can use

**WIRED** Did you know *Wired.com* has a news section dedicated to all things writerly? You'll need to create a free account for yourself to enjoy the articles and features there, but it's well worth it. For curated selections of interviews with screenwriters, *LOTR* Q&A, sadistic apps that delete your work if you stop typing for five seconds (see below), and pointers on how to find your tribe, get with the cool kids and check out [wired.com/tag/writers/](https://www.wired.com/tag/writers/)

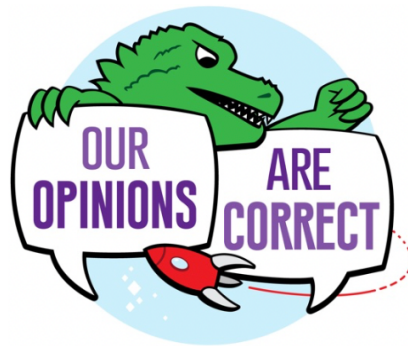
## The Most **Dangerous** Writing App

Don't stop writing, or all progress will be lost.



**Writer's Block?** Though some may insist writer's block isn't really a thing, if you are having serious trouble getting the ball rolling, try this free app that will *delete your progress* if you hesitate for even five seconds. Set the timer for increments of five minutes (up to sixty, if you're a glutton for punishment), with or without a prompt. The edges of the screen will turn red if you stop writing for one second. Just don't stop, or your progress will vanish! You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish.

[squibler.io/dangerous-writing-prompt-app](https://squibler.io/dangerous-writing-prompt-app)

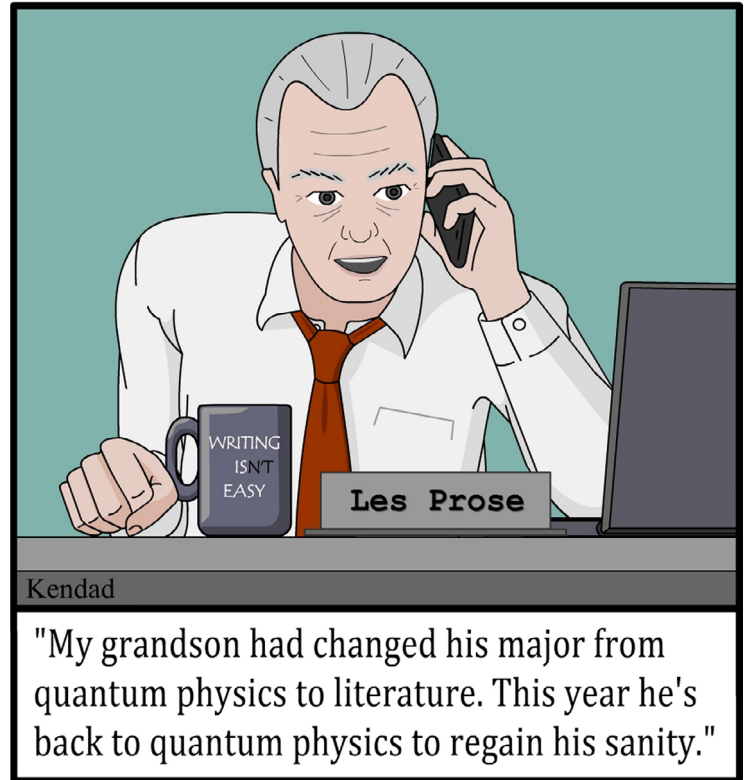


**Podcast: "Our Opinions Are Correct."** Explore the meaning of science fiction, and how it's relevant to real-life science and society. Your hosts are Annalee Newitz, a science journalist who writes science fiction,

and Charlie Jane Anders, a science fiction writer who is obsessed with science. Every two weeks, they take deep dives into science fiction books, movies, television, and comics that will expand your mind – and maybe change your life

## Les Prose Comics

Kendad



**Santa Clara County has an open call for applications for the 2022–2023 Poet Laureate**, an honorary two-year position in service to the community. During their term, the Poet Laureate will act as an advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts, and contribute to Santa Clara County's poetry and literary legacy through public readings and participation in civic events. The Poet Laureate will receive a stipend of \$4000 per year, with a budget of \$1000 per year for reimbursable expenses related to their activities. All application materials will be submitted through the **SVCREATES** online application portal. **Application deadline 24 September.**

[svcreates.org/poet-laureate-program](https://svcreates.org/poet-laureate-program)

## Wasting away: Palo Alto style

Evelyn Preston

Published on *Palo Alto Online*, 12 August 2021

I'm so excited . . . nope, not for a long-awaited vacation or my grandson leaving for college, or even a fancy restaurant meal indoors. Very soon, I'm due for one of Palo Alto's twice-yearly, free garbage cleanup days. For this homeowner, who once shamelessly begged, "I'll pay double, just hurry!" for an instant pickup of an old critter-infested chair, free "anything goes" via GreenWaste beats winning the lottery.

Palo Alto has always been ahead of its time—open space, open classrooms, bike lanes. Though not everyone has agreed on the city's priorities, you won't find a sane citizen who doesn't applaud a gratis garbage run. Now we've got two a year.

Our town faced the garbage glut early on via modern design. Built on slab foundations, mid-century, Eichler and Eichler-style homes pushed "less is more" clean designs, window walls, and breezy carports. These off-street parking areas were inexpensive and shady. Best of all, they precluded environmental overload—there were no garages.

Instead, a modest, shed-like structure hugged one side of these carports for minimal storage—room for a fold-up lawn chair and cooler, a few pots and garden spades, and perhaps a small set of everyday tools. What else did a family of four or five really need back then? Costco had yet to con buyers into actually paying a fee for the privilege of a five-year inventory of napkins, pretzels, and paprika. "Hoarders" hadn't grown into the guilty little TV show secret for a generation of viewers.

Fast-forward to the age of conspicuous consumerism when "We need

a garage!" became the middle-class mantra of suburban homeowners.

No matter that these protruding structures marred curb appeal, or were packed with worn, useless, ill-used, never-used, may-someday-be-used stuff. Inside, forgotten on shelves and in corners hid the broken, battered, and bent, the unfixable, unfashionable, and unneeded featherings from our nests. Garages "archived" term papers, yearbooks, photos, 45 rpm records, and bills paid long ago. And while crammed garages provided access to buggies, trikes, and bicycles, they rarely had room for an actual car.

Lest you think I'm pointing fingers about garage clutter, I have a confession to make: my family, too, succumbed to the middle-class mantra. Years ago, we decided to create a partial second story, and after much banging and jackhammering that could have severed the continental shelf, the extra rooms rose over our new garage!

The next mantra, which started not very long after the garage addition, became a variation on the theme of "Who's going to help clean the garage?" This ritual—the begging, not the work—continued until finally a definite date was inked on the "Must Do" calendar. When "this time we mean it, Mom" day arrived, lame excuses and sudden disappearances canceled my best-laid plans. Whether from family or the garbage company, there were no free cleanup days.

Renewed vows to declutter surfaced regularly as more stuff vied for additional space.

"Maybe it's in the garage" became a familiar refrain.

No more! With the pandemic and progressive trends to save the planet, the attic atmosphere of garages has now morphed into a home office, a mini-ADU, a family room, a studio and maybe even a man cave.

## **"Who's going to help clean the garage?"**

My own trash has been tamed, and my mismatched bins and banker boxes sit aligned and legibly labeled. My car fits with room to spare.

Usable stuff still remains in the garage—holiday decor, pool equipment, a barbecue grill, and dishes saved for the college-bound grandkids. I admit to having a second fridge. Also in its special place, rolled up by the side door and easy to retrieve, stands my trusty American flag, ready to be unfurled to fly on national holidays.

On the next free pickup day, we'll likely only save special memorabilia that reek of Americana: old baseball mitts, an out-of-print United States history book, a Rosie the Riveter poster.

Like other dated fashions of clothing and decor, vintage is "in," and retro often finds a way of roaring back. So I'll hang on to the old emblems, wait for a probable comeback, and continue to let Old Glory wave outside our newly decluttered garage.

**WT**





# The Big Halloween Issue

JUST SEND US  
YOUR SPOOKY  
STUFF.

Calling for for moody, nostalgic, joyous,  
haunted, frightening, tantalizing,  
hallowed & wicked sweets for the senses

Photos, artwork, memoir, nonfiction, fic-  
tion, how-to, poetry – all welcome!

Needed by **15 September** for publication  
in the October issue of *WritersTalk*

[NEWSLETTER@SOUTHBAYWRITERS.COM](mailto:NEWSLETTER@SOUTHBAYWRITERS.COM)

visualize the fat old lady across the street. I imagined the procedure must have required lifts and pulleys and a lot of coordination from nurses and doctors.

I didn't share my new knowledge with anyone, and the next day we watched an animated film that tastefully covered the subject of periods. The shocker was when they rolled the credits: it said "Walt Disney Studios."

Several weeks later while walking through the park, my friend asked me. "What would you do if you saw someone here doing it?"

"I would hurry away," I replied.

"I wouldn't," she said. "I'd try to identify them."

I thought this was hilarious. A nosy kid trying to get a closer look at a couple in the heat of passion. But she was quite serious—as though it was her duty as a law-abiding citizen.

Skip to high school, when most of us were still pretty innocent. Oh, there were dates and smooching, but the majority of us were virgins—and in those days, the girls who weren't swore they were.

I was on the swim team and in water ballet. One evening af-

ter practice, the girls gathered around the dressing room and the topic of sex came up. We all listened intently hoping to learn something.

One of the junior girls pontificated, "They say every time you have sex, you burn 700 calories."

Everyone's jaw dropped except mine.

"That can't possibly be true," I said.

"How do you know?" asked another girl.

"Because," I reasoned, "there are too many fat whores."

After a moment of consideration. Others nodded in agreement.

Sex has always had its funny side. I recall in the 70s reading an article about rejuvenating your love life by taking a Jell-O bath with your partner. This became an enticing topic of conversation at parties among us women.

One gal asked, "Do you add sliced bananas?"

We laughed.

Then another logical thinker like myself piped in, "But who wants to clean up that mess!"

Don't overlook spicing up your writing with "funny" sex. **WT**

## Better-than-sex dessert A 1980S POTLUCK PLEASER

- 1 c chopped pecans
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1 c flour
- 1 c powdered sugar
- 3 c Cool Whip (divided)
- 1 8-oz. pkg cream cheese, softened
- 1 pkg vanilla instant pudding
- 1 pkg chocolate instant pudding
- 2 c milk
- 1 Tbsp almond slivers
- 1 Tbsp shaved chocolate

Combine pecans, butter, and flour and press into a 9x13" glass baking dish. Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes, then let cool.

Combine powdered sugar, cream cheese, and 1 c Cool Whip, and spread over cooled crust.

Combine both puddings together with milk; beat. Spread over Cool Whip layer.

Spread remaining Cool Whip atop the other layers. Sprinkle with slivered almonds and chocolate shavings.

Refrigerate several hours before serving. **WT**





# Create your National Book Festival experience over 10 days in multiple formats

2021 festival set for  
17-26 Sept, features  
Michael J Fox,  
Diane von Fürstenberg,  
Roxane Gay,  
Kazuo Ishiguro,  
Silvia Moreno-Garcia,  
Marcus Samuelsson

**loc.gov**



*Above: LeVar Burton will host the special "Open a Book, Open the World: The Library of Congress National Book Festival" which premieres 12 Sept on PBS, PBS.org, and the PBS Video app. Photo credit: Robyn Von Swank*

*Right: "Open a Book, Open the World," 2021 Library of Congress National Book Festival poster by Dana Tanamachi*

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**  
**NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL**

**2021** September **17-26**  
**VIRTUAL**  
**loc.gov/bookfest**

**NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL BOARD CO-CHAIRMAN**  
**David M. Rubenstein**

**FESTIVAL VICE CHAIR**  
James Madison Council

**CHARTER** Institute of Museum and Library Services  
National Endowment for the Arts · National Endowment for the Humanities · The Washington Post

Captioning provided for all on-demand videos, live virtual presentations, and in-person ticketed events. Sign language interpreting provided for all in-person ticketed events.

FESTIVAL POSTER BY DANA TANAMACHI

For Marta  
Vivian Claire Culp



Four  
it's four in the morning  
don't know where I'm going  
guess I'm going to find my way home

I  
I don't know what becomes of me  
when you move too fast  
I'd rather walk alone

I don't remember the last time I walked this way  
maybe last year, but it was maybe yesterday  
I don't know

Friends  
where did all my friends go  
let's pretend that I don't know  
that I leave them all behind

Them  
I can hear them calling so I  
think about Allen and I  
should buy some more

The liquor aisle is littered with demons and so I just  
buy a beer and I  
take it over here and I  
compose a cheers to all my friends of old

You  
you are the reason I  
got hanged for treason  
and I don't know whether you made me  
end or begin

The last time I saw you I couldn't speak and I just  
wanted something please  
just look at me you talk too much about nothing  
just hold me  
hold me once more before you let me out the door  
I'll let it happen  
like every time before

Four  
it's four in the morning  
don't know where I'm going  
guess I'm going to find my way home      **WT**

Photo: KELLEPICS Pixabay.com



# August meeting

with

# Anne Hillerman



*More than fifty attended our SBW meeting to hear Anne Hillerman on 09 August 2021. Screen captures thanks to Carolyn Donnell.*

**Baldwin, Continued from page 1**

As she extended her father's stories, she noticed opportunities to develop the characters in new directions. One female character, an entirely competent investigator, had never been allowed to actually solve a crime! Even when it was obvious that she had figured the whole thing out, Fate (i.e., the original author) had denied her the glory. Anne now remedied that.

She learned as she wrote. Our July speaker, Tod Goldberg, also discussed the writing of a series: You want to build on what has come before—the brand—but you also want to let the series evolve. Tony Hillerman had provided his daughter with a memorable cast of characters and stories. Anne started from there—but the key word is *started*.

Like the woman who was never allowed to solve a crime, characters and settings may contain potential not yet realized. Authors need to watch for overlooked possibilities. Have you neglected facets of your characters' personalities that could lead to new developments? Is there

potential humor you have missed? Anne discovered she had become more interested in the people involved in the stories than the actual solving of the crime *per se*.

How do you decide who will be the villain in a crime story? Is it possible you have chosen the wrong person? Might someone else make the story more interesting?

Could you make the story richer by showing the main characters interacting with families and friends? Make your characters originals, with their own strengths and weaknesses. Give them room to breathe, grow, make mistakes. Let them interact with each other, annoy one another. Let them be grumpy if they want to be. Don't create perfect characters—create interesting ones!

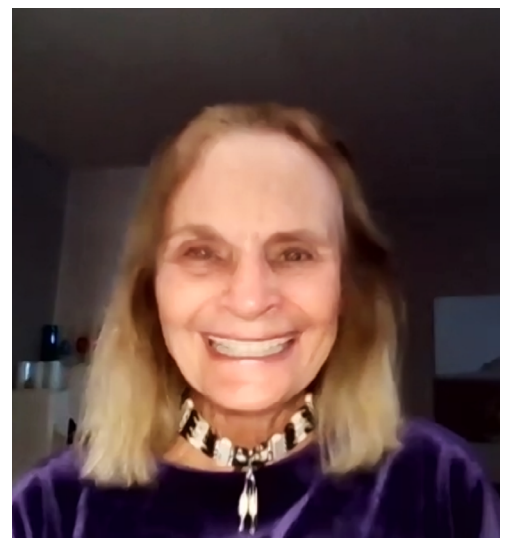
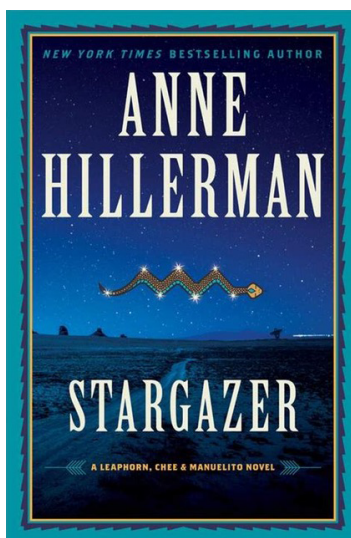
And let those characters talk to you. That's when characters come alive. When characters are not talking to you, something is wrong. Listen to them. Give the voices a chance to speak. **WT**

**Make your characters originals, with their own strengths and weaknesses. Let them interact with each other, annoy one another.**

**Let them be grumpy if they want to be.**

**Don't create perfect characters—create interesting ones.**

**annehillerman.com**



*Anne Hillerman and her latest novel, Stargazer.*





## CWC–Tri-Valley Writers 2021 Conference

**Saturday, 16 October** at the Four Points by Sheraton in Pleasanton, CA. A full-day event on the art and business of writing, featuring three tracks: Craft, Marketing, & Self-Publishing, and *New York Times* bestselling author Rhys Bowen as the keynote speaker.

This conference is a great way to network with authors, marketers, and publishing innovators who share a passion for writing. The presenter lineup includes: **Cara Black, Matthew Félix, Joey Garcia, Linda Lee, Laurie McLean, Jordan Rosenfeld, and Brooke Warner.** The day will include a continental breakfast, lunch, and a no-host reception with authors signing books.

Seating is limited. \$120 early-bird rate for CWC members (before 24 Sept; registration closes 12 Oct).

**[trivalleywriters.org/conferences](http://trivalleywriters.org/conferences)**

## Local and virtual conferences

**Gold Rush Writers (in person)**  
**1–3 Oct, Mokelumne Hill CA**  
\$240, panels, specialty talks, workshops, and celebrity lectures. [goldrushwriters.com](http://goldrushwriters.com)

**Women Writing the West Conference (virtual)**  
**7–9 Oct**, celebrates literature that recognizes the role of women in the history of the American West. \$225. [womenwritingthewest.org/conference](http://womenwritingthewest.org/conference) (no hyph)

**CWC–Tri-Valley Writers Conference (in person), Saturday, 16 October, Pleasanton CA**  
(See coverage at left.) A full-day event on the art and business of writing. It will feature three tracks: craft, marketing, & self-publishing and *New York Times* bestselling author Rhys Bowen as the keynote speaker. [trivalleywriters.org/conferences/tri-valley-writers-conference-2021/](http://trivalleywriters.org/conferences/tri-valley-writers-conference-2021/)

**Litquake (in person), 07–23 Oct, San Francisco CA**  
The largest independent literary festival on the West Coast. Includes the famous **Lit Crawl** through the Mission District. Read more, next page. Full schedule available 07 Sept [litquake.org](http://litquake.org)

**The Power of Words Conference (virtual), 28–31 Oct**  
This intimate, 4-day virtual conference celebrates and champions the use of spoken, written, and sung word to effect change. \$200–\$248. [tlnetwork.org/conference](http://tlnetwork.org/conference)





Mark your calendars! Litquake will return in 2021 as a hybrid festival, with 2+ weeks of activity both in-person (outdoor and indoor) and online, **07-23 October 2021.**

In partnership with Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, Litquake be hosting in-person events at the Museum of African Diaspora, 111 Minna, Contemporary Jewish Museum, California Historical Society, American Bookbinders Museum, Children's Creativity Museum, and a whole weekend of BIPOC & LGBTQ+-led events on the outdoor stage at Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade. Returning are such partners as Grace Cathedral, Vesuvio Cafe, and Hotel Emblem; and the St Joseph's Arts Society join the list of new partners.

There will be virtual events throughout the festival, including virtual editions of **Kidquake** and **Words Around the World**, a program for works in translation.

All will culminate with an in-person **Lit Crawl San Francisco** on Saturday, 23 October, taking place throughout the Mission District.

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's headliners. The full schedule and ticket sales go live on 07 September.

Although this remains a deeply uncertain and stressful time, Lit-

quake is committed to your safety and will follow all health and safety guidelines. They'll be updating periodically as understanding of the best protocols takes shape in the coming weeks.

Whether you join in-person or screen-to-screen, the organizers of Litquake are excited to see you, hear from you, and build community around books and the power of storytelling with you.

### Volunteer opportunities

From [litquake.org](http://litquake.org): "Nothing happens without our team of brilliant, talented, cunning, and good-lookin' volunteers.

"As a Litquake volunteer, not only will you get to shepherd artists, measure the accuracy of your extra-sensory perception, test your organizational skills, and lift heavy objects (either literally or figuratively), but you'll also brighten the lives of children, dogs, literary agents, bartenders, readers, and writers."

[www.litquake.org/volunteer.html](http://www.litquake.org/volunteer.html)

### About Litquake

Litquake seeks to foster interest in literature, perpetuate a sense of literary community, and provide a vibrant forum for Bay Area writing as a complement to the city's music, film, and cultural festivals. 2021 dates: 07-23 Oct.

[litquake.org](http://litquake.org)



### San Francisco Writers Conference has launched a Discord server.

Help SFWC create the same kind of vibrant, supportive, educational environment you know and love at SFWC live. The Discord server is brand new and just waiting for you to come join. As we get closer to SFWC 2022, take the opportunity to network and connect with fellow attendees and presenters in a new digital community. It's free to join.

[discord.com/invite/YKFgcdmRz7](https://discord.com/invite/YKFgcdmRz7)

### Khan, Continued from page 1

*Almost Found Myself on the Pacific Crest Trail* (2008, Harper Collins), a Northern California independent bookstore bestseller and *Los Angeles Times* "Discovery" selection, and *Under The Stars: How America Fell In Love With Camping* (2016, Henry Holt & Co), which Cheryl Strayed described as "the definitive book on camping in America." His writing has been published in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Outside*, *Poets & Writers*, *Catamaran*, and the *Washington Post*. He teaches Zoom-based memoir, personal essay, and fiction-writing classes from his home in Santa Cruz.

Free! Non-SBW members, write [PR@SouthBayWriters.com](mailto:PR@SouthBayWriters.com) to join our mailing list and receive a Zoom link.

**WT**

# 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](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com) and any new stories, poems, and articles to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto: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/](http://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](https://facebook.com/groups/5486894361)).

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY POET LAUREATE

Serving the Santa Clara County Library in their effort to celebrate the art of poetry and make poetry more accessible in the everyday lives of Santa Clara County residents, Poet Laureate programs grow public awareness in the literary arts, foster cross-cultural understanding, and connect us to our heritage and to each other. **Deadline 24 Sep.** [svcreates.org/poet-laureate-program](http://svcreates.org/poet-laureate-program)

## 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. **Deadline 20 Sept.** [writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-ebook-awards](http://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 coveted 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. **Early-bird deadline 15 Nov; regular 15 Dec.**
- **Poetry Awards.** \$1000 in cash & poem published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's July/August 2022 issue and to a worldwide readership on [WritersDigest.com](http://WritersDigest.com), plus a

## CONTESTS, CONTINUED

20-minute consultation with Editor Robert Brewer. **Early Bird Deadline 01 Oct; regular 01 Nov.** [writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/poetry-awards](http://writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/poetry-awards).

**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/](http://sfwriters.org/2021-writing-contest-overview/)

**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](http://regalhousepublishing.com)

**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](http://winningwriters.com/our-contests).

### *The Missouri Review*

- **Jeffrey E Smith Editor's Prize.** Submit one piece of fiction or nonfiction up to 8500 words or any number of poems up to 10 pages. Fee per entry \$25. Winners receive publication, invitation to a reception and reading in their honor, and \$5000. **Deadline 01 Oct.** [missourireview.com/contests/jeffrey-e-smith-editors-prize/](http://missourireview.com/contests/jeffrey-e-smith-editors-prize/).
- **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/](http://missourireview.com/contests/audio-contest/).

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

**WOW! Women on Writing, Quarterly Creative Nonfiction Contest.** 200–1000 words, must be a true story. Entry fee \$10, **deadline 31 Oct.** [wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php](http://wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php).

**16th Annual Black Orchid Novella Award.** 15,000–20,000 words, unpublished only. Entries must be postmarked by **31 May 2022.** Rules and submission guidelines at [nerowolfe.org](http://nerowolfe.org); write to Jane Cleland with questions: [jane@janecleland.com](mailto:jane@janecleland.com). See full description on page 21.

## 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](http://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](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers)

**CWC—North State Writers** is planning a fourth anthology. The last one accepted all CWC members. Keep an eye on the status:

[northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html](http://northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html)

**MWA NorCal Chapter.** Mystery Writers of America, the country's oldest organization of professional mystery writers. Events, podcasts, blog. [mwanorcal.org](http://mwanorcal.org)

**Women's Natl Book Assn—San Francisco.** Events, lecture series, Pitch-o-Rama, Effie Lee Morris writing contest & more. [wnba-sfchapter.org](http://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/](http://kosmosjournal.org/contribute-to-kosmos-quarterly/)

**The Lumiere Review.** Accepts poems and prose, encouraging emerging writers, BIPOC, LGBTQIA, and disabled. No fees. [lumierereview.com/](http://lumierereview.com/)

**Second Chance Lit.** Submissions must have been previously rejected. No payment, but will promote. Max 1000 words. [secondchancelit.com/submit](http://secondchancelit.com/submit)

**Sequestrum: Literature & Art.** A competitive, paying market that publishes high-quality short fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual arts. Usually previously unpublished—any print or online format. But **reprints accepted until 15 Dec** for “Theme: Reprints.” [sequestrum.org/theme-reprints](http://sequestrum.org/theme-reprints)

**Tillism** طلسم: **Magical Words from Around the World.** Seeking submissions of 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/](http://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/](http://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](http://westtradereview.com/submissionguidelines.html)

## FOR POETS

**Academy of American Poets.** List: “American Poets Prizes.” [poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes](http://poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes)

## FOR POETS, CONTINUED

**Everywriter.** Article, “The best poetry prizes” [everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes](http://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](http://glasslyrepress.com/pf.html)

**The Literary Nest.** Online publication for poetry and visual arts. Accepted poetry appears on blog; issues released quarterly. [theliterarynest.org](http://theliterarynest.org)

**Palette Poetry** No fee, contributors receive \$50. Monthly contests, open submissions [palettepoetry.com/submit/](http://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](http://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](http://poetrypacific.blogspot.com)

**Poetry Society of America.** The nation's oldest poetry organization, founded in 1910. Celebrating its 110th anniversary. [poetrysociety.org](http://poetrysociety.org)

**Poets & Writers.** Lists contests and deadlines. [pw.org/content/upcoming\\_contest\\_deadlines](http://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/](http://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](http://thimblelitmag.com/submissions)

**Trish Hopkinson.** “A Selfish Poet.” Blog with lists of markets for poets. [trishhopkinson.com](http://trishhopkinson.com) Facebook group, “No fee calls for poems” [facebook.com/groups/860877037424122](https://facebook.com/groups/860877037424122)

**Up the Staircase Quarterly.** Poetry & art. No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork OK. [upthestaircase.org/submit](http://upthestaircase.org/submit)

**Writing Matters.** Article, “34 Publishers of Poetry Books & Chapbooks” [randallssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/](http://randallssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/)

**Facebook groups for poets**

- California Poets



## FOR POETS, CONTINUED

- 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](http://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](http://authorspublish.com)

**Electric Lit.** Article, “Free or cheap resources for emerging writers.” [electricliterature.com/free-or-cheap-resources-for-emerging-writers](http://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](http://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](http://freedomwithwriting.com)

**Funds for Writers.** Up-to-date listing of contests, submissions, grants. Free weekly newsletter.  
[fundsforwriters.com/contests](http://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](http://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](http://newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests)

## GENERAL RESOURCES, CONTINUED

**Poets & Writers.** Contest blogs: [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants), [pw.org/blogs/prize\\_reporter](http://pw.org/blogs/prize_reporter); List of 1200+ literary magazines (filterable): [pw.org/literary\\_magazines](http://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](https://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](http://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](http://blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests)

**The Write Life\*** “Tools, Courses & Resources for Writers.” [thewritelife.com/tools-for-writers/](http://thewritelife.com/tools-for-writers/)  
“39 Free Writing Contests: Legitimate competitions with Cash Prizes.” [thewritelife.com/writing-contests](http://thewritelife.com/writing-contests)

**The Writer** Upcoming contests, articles, resources, and you can subscribe to the newsletter.  
[writermag.com/contests](http://writermag.com/contests)

**Writer’s Relief.** Keep track of ongoing contests at [writersrelief.com/featured-listings-contests-journals-calls-for-submissions/](http://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](https://facebook.com/groups/58414389316)

WT

CREATIVITY  
IS THE WAY I SHARE  
MY SOUL WITH  
THE WORLD.  
-BRENE BROWN

# BREW A FEW PINTS OF CLASSIC CRIME

## THE Wolfe Pack ✦ Alfred Hitchcock's MYSTERY MAGAZINE

### Proudly Announce THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL Black Orchid Novella Award Contest

Each entry must be an original, unpublished work of fiction in the traditional deductive style exemplified by the Nero Wolfe series that:

- Does not include characters from the original series
- Emphasizes the deductive skills of the sleuth
- Contains no overt sex or violence

★ **First prize:** \$1,000 and publication in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine\*

Entries must be 15,000 to 20,000 words in length, and must be postmarked by May 31, 2022. The winner will be announced at the Wolfe Pack's Annual Black Orchid Banquet on December 3, 2022. Please visit [www.nerowolfe.org](http://www.nerowolfe.org) for official rules and procedures to submit your novella. With questions, contact Jane K. Cleland: [jane@janecleland.com](mailto:jane@janecleland.com). \*If no acceptable candidates are received, AHMM and The Wolfe Pack reserve the right to declare no winner in any given year.



#### Bitter Script Reader

@BittScrptReadr

Staff Writer: SUPERMAN & LOIS. aka Adam Mallinger. Writer of CRISIS ON INFINITE TEEN DRAMAS. Author of MICHAEL F-ING BAY [amazon.com/dp/B00P1SQC90/](https://amazon.com/dp/B00P1SQC90/)

📍 Los Angeles 🌐 [thebitterscriptreader.blogspot.com](http://thebitterscriptreader.blogspot.com)

📅 Joined August 2009

733 Following 51.5K Followers

Followed by Doug Allen, Aline Brosh McKenna, The Black List, and 17 others

**Bitter Script Reader** @BittScr... · 14h ...  
as our #SupermanAndLois finale approaches, I just want to say that despite a year and a half marked by personal tragedy and a global pandemic, getting to write for this show, with this set of writers, has been one of the greatest experiences of my life.

**Bitter Script Reader** @BittScr... · 2d ...  
Sometimes the most difficult character to have in your script is the one whose function is only to fight the premise of the show. Even if they're providing conflict you HAVE to find an additional way to make them compelling or the audience will hate them

**Bitter Script Reader** @BittScr... · 2d ...  
GREAT example. I remember JJ talking about how the audience hated him for the first half of the season because his investigation kept putting Sydney in danger... and then they loved him once he was brought in on the secret

**Pat Casey** @Pat\_Kc · 2d

You talking about Bradley Cooper on Alias?

**Bitter Script Reader** @BittScr... · 6d ...  
\*looks down at watch\*

\*shakes head\*

(I \*really\* need a GIF of this.)

**Mister Hazners || BLM** @Joh... · 6d

My mother lives in Hackensack...

💬 2 🔄 🍷 10 📌

**Robert Watkins** @rwatkins829 · 6d ...  
Hackman is so good. He can be goofy and still credible as a cold hearted villain.

💬 1 🔄 🍷 1 📌

**Bitter Script Reader** @BittScr... · 6d ...  
His lighter side makes him feel even more dangerous because you don't see it coming.



# CWC around the Bay

**Berkeley** [cwc-berkeley.org](http://cwc-berkeley.org)

**Central Coast** [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

**Fremont Area**

[cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

**Marin** [cwcmarin.com](http://cwcmarin.com)

**Mendocino** [writersmendocinocoast.org](http://writersmendocinocoast.org)

**Mt Diablo** [cwcmtdiablo.org](http://cwcmtdiablo.org)

**Napa Valley** [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net)

**North State** [northstatewriters.com](http://northstatewriters.com)

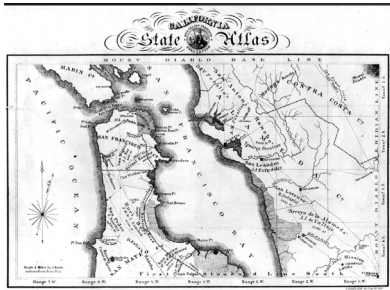
**Redwood City** [redwoodwriters.org](http://redwoodwriters.org)

**Sacramento** [cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://cwcsacramentowriters.org)

**SF Peninsula** [cwc-peninsula.org](http://cwc-peninsula.org)

**San Joaquin Valley**

[trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org)



## CWC events in September

### 04 SEP: CWC–Orange County

Gayle Carline, “Rhythm, Pace and Amusement” Sat, 04 Sep, 10:45 AM via Zoom. Join the mailing list in advance: [calwritersorangecounty.org](http://calwritersorangecounty.org).

### 11 SEP: CWC–Coastal Dunes

Jeanette Fratto, mystery author and CWC Central Board member will speak via Zoom. Sat, 11 Sep, 10:45 AM Email [info@coastaldunesCWC.com](mailto:info@coastaldunesCWC.com) to join the mailing list and receive Zoom invite.

### 11 SEP: CWC–Fremont

Social Write-In on Zoom. 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: [scottfrombayside@yahoo.com](mailto:scottfrombayside@yahoo.com).

### 11 SEP: CWC–Long Beach

P.J. Collando, who calls herself “a walking exclamation point,” will present “I Write Funnny and So Can You.” Free via Zoom. Write to [info@calwriterslongbeach.org](mailto:info@calwriterslongbeach.org) for link.

### 11 SEP: CWC–Mt Diablo



Alan Brennert

Alan Brennert, “Researching your Novel: Reality Matters.” Alan Brennert will cover the many techniques he has used to ensure his award-winning historical fiction novels conform with the historic records Sat, 11 Sep, speaker begins 11:15. \$5 for CWC members. [cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/](http://cwcmtdiablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/)

### 12 SEP: CWC–San Fernando

Freelance writing expert and entrepreneur Carol Tice on Sun, 12 Sep, 1 PM: “Writing for Magazines and Other Freelance Opportunities.” Free via Zoom. Request invite from VP/Zoom Host Monte Swann by 6 PM, 11 Sep at [cwcsfvhost@gmail.com](mailto:cwcsfvhost@gmail.com).

### 19 SEP: CWC–Mendocino

Elizabeth Rozner talks on “Writing about Trauma” Sun, 19 Sep, 3 PM. Request invitation by emailing [WritersMendocinoCoast@Gmail.com](mailto:WritersMendocinoCoast@Gmail.com).



Elizabeth Rozner. Photo Credit Judy Dater

18 SEP: CWC–Redwood Virtual and in person! Jeff Somers will talk about “Short Stories for Fun and Profit,” Sat, 18 Sep, 1 PM, Finley Center. \$5 for CWC members. Register here: [redwoodwriters.org/meetings/](http://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?** [cwc-norcalwriters.org](http://cwc-norcalwriters.org)



## Facebook discussion group

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

### 18 SEP: CWC–Sacramento

Author and instructor C.S. Lakin will speak via Zoom. Sat, 18 Sep, 1 PM. **Free.** For Zoom link, stop by [cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://cwcsacramentowriters.org).



### 18 SEP: CWC–Writers of Kern

Featured Speaker: Graphic novelist Henry Barajas. Sat, 18 Sep, **Virtual Workshop.** [writersofkern.com](http://writersofkern.com)

### 22 SEP: CWC–Marin

Catriona McPherson will present “Warm on the Outside: Adding Humour to Your Writing” Wed, 22 Sep, 6 pm. \$5. RSVP here: [cwcmarin.com/rsvp-for-september-meeting/](http://cwcmarin.com/rsvp-for-september-meeting/) **WT**



Catriona McPherson



# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 SOUTH BAY WRITERS BOARD MEETING, 7 PM	2	3 OPEN MIC	4
5	6 VALLEY WRITERS  LABOR DAY ROSH HASHANAH	7	8	9	10	11
12 SOUTH BAY WRITERS BARBECUE CANCELED	13 VALLEY WRITERS SBW MEETING 7 PM (ZOOM)	14	15 WRITERS TALK ISSUE CLOSING YOM KIPPUR	16 OPEN MIC	17	18
19	20 VALLEY WRITERS  HARVEST MOON SUUKOT	21 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE	22 AUTUMN EQUINOX	23	24	25
26	27 VALLEY WRITERS	28	29	30		

## 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](http://southbaywriters.com)

**MAIL TO**

Address Correction Requested

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**South Bay Writers  
September 2021 meeting  
Monday | 13 September | 7 PM**

*Dan White*



Special Halloween Writers Talk  
Deadline for submissions 15 Sept

Details inside!



**...when it can protect  
you & others.**

[covid19.ca.gov](http://covid19.ca.gov)

