



WRITERSTALK

Volume 30
Number 2
February 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

FEBRUARY SPEAKER: ELIZABETH KRACHT

A Literary Agent's Guide to Sharpening Your Manuscript

Jamal Khan

The bad news: even really good manuscripts have weak spots that can garner rejections from agents and publishers. The good news: most of these problems are easy to fix—once the writer knows how to identify them.

Over her career, literary agent Elizabeth Kracht noticed many submissions had similar problems, so she made a list of common pitfalls. During our meeting on February 15, Elizabeth will walk us through the most salient items on her list, drawing from cautionary real-world examples, so our work is truly ready for agents, publishers, and readers.

Elizabeth Kracht is a literary agent at Kimberley Cameron & Associates. She represents both literary and commercial fiction as well as nonfiction, and brings to the agency her experience as a former acquisitions editor, freelance publicist, and writer.

In fiction, Elizabeth represents literary, commercial, women's lit, thrillers, mysteries, historical, and crossover YA. In nonfiction, she is interested in high concept, health, science, environment, prescriptive, investigative, true crime, voice- or adventure-driven memoir, sexuality, spirituality, and animal/pet stories. She thrives on working closely with authors to build their careers.

When: 7 pm, Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Where: Zoom Online Platform

NOTE: new registration procedure

See page 4.



Elizabeth Kracht

SPEAKEER RECAP: GERI SPIELER

Taking Aim at the President

Bill Baldwin

Geri Spielier provided an entertaining and fascinating talk on the adventure of book-writing; exciting, for one thing, because she had *never been interested in writing a book*. Her background was investigative reporting and journalism. *Articles* she was comfortable with—1,500 words; but an *entire book*?? Too much work! Too much time!

Then she met Sara Jane Moore a year or two after Moore had tried to kill President Gerald Ford in San Francisco in 1975. Spielier had written an article on prison reform in Los Angeles, and Moore—who was to be transferred there from northern California—wrote and asked to meet her. Spielier had never met a would-be assassin and thought, “Why not?” Moore seemed charming enough; this began a twenty-year-plus correspondence.

Spielier lost her job in 2003. Moore immediately suggested she now had time to write a book about her.

Spielier performed a “secondary research” (a search of what people knew from the media). When she asked Moore about her childhood in Charleston, West Virginia, Moore asked, “How do you know about *that*?” Moore wanted Spielier to only use information *she* gave her. *Red Flag!*

When Moore found out that Spielier also knew about a Berkeley priest who had befriended her, she insulted Spielier and cut off all communication.

What now? Spielier had collected a lot of material; she pursued the project anyway!

Continued on Page 5

Between the Lines

Edie Matthews

President, South Bay Writers



Still Zooming Along

We expected to begin in-person meeting in 2022, and then COVID threw us a curve ball. I guess we were lucky to slip in the Christmas Party in December before the surge. So here we are continuing on Zoom.

Our monthly meetings continue to draw viewers. In addition to SBW members, other branch members tune in, as well as guests who learn about us. The number ranges from 40+ to 92. Fifty-two attended our January meeting featuring Geri Spieler. I'm sorry if you missed her compelling presentation. She explained how she came to write *Taking Aim at the President*, about Sara Jane Moore, the middle-aged woman who attempted to assassinate President Ford.

I encourage everyone to attend as many of our meetings as possible. I can assure you that it doesn't matter who the speaker is, the genre, or the topic, the program will enrich you. Even if the person isn't one of our dynamite speakers (which is rare), ask yourself: "How would I have improved that presentation if I were giving it?"

Luckily, the situation hasn't affected our membership. In fact, we have continued to grow, be it slowly. Current membership is 108. Other branches have not been so fortunate. Several of the 22 branches of California Writers Club are on hiatus.

I attribute the success to our dedicated and talented board members. We are a varied group—young and old, male and female. Experienced board members bring knowledge of club procedures, and younger board members bring enthusiasm and technical skills that keep SBW up-to-date.

No one expected the lockdown to last this long. Our branch is lucky that we had a healthy treasury to sustain us in the past 22 months. This results from the profit earned by the four East of Eden Writing Conferences. However, after our treasury dropped \$7,000, and in-person meetings are still in limbo, we will begin charging a minimal fee for Zoom meetings: \$5 for members per meeting and \$10 for nonmembers. (See Page 4 for details.)

Attendees can also pay for all of 2022 meetings in advance and save. Personally, I will take advantage of the bargain rate and will mail in a \$35 check to cover the remaining 9 meetings this year. (\$40 if you use PayPal). There is no charge for the Holiday Bash or the summer BBQ. Guests can pay in advance too, double what members pay, so I encourage you to join up. More details are in this newsletter, on our Facebook page, and on our website.

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South Bay Branch
www.southbaywriters.com

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SBW Mission

Educating 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 June 2022. Dual membership, \$25; student membership, \$20. New or lapsed member, \$65. Contact ingasbwmembership@gmail.com, sign up online at southbaywriters.com, or send a check to CWC-South Bay Writers, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055

WritersTalk

The monthly newsletter of South Bay Writers, the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club

email: newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Interim Editor

Marjorie Johnson

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Carolyn Donnell

DeWayne Mason

Ken Roberge

Marty Sorensen

Deadline

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

Submissions

SBW encourages writers at all levels of expertise to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. All submissions should be sent to the above email address in the form of text or an attached MS Word file (sorry, no hard copy submissions can be accepted). Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. Use Times New Roman 12-font; no tabs; no colors; no page breaks. Send graphics separately as jpg files, with separate instructions for placement in the submission if placement is important.

All submissions will be copyedited. Titles and headlines subject to change. Managing Editor reserves the right to selection.

Suggested word limits (less is more):

Member Achievement / News (200 words)

News Items (400 words)

In My Opinion (300 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

Creative Works

Short Fiction/Memoir (1000 words)

Poetry (200 words)

Essay/Nonfiction (1000 words)

Reprints

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

Announcements

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

Advertisements

Advertising of workshops, conferences, and events is accepted from other branches of California Writers Club. *WritersTalk* does not accept unpaid advertising of events or services that benefit an individual. Advertise in *CWC Bulletin* or in the *Literary Review*. (see page 14). No political advertising.

Change of Address: Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com

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Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Interim Editor



The Writer's Journey

What makes a great story, one so great that it endures for centuries?

Joseph Campbell spent twenty years researching that question and studying myth and legends around the world. Christopher Vogler, as a consultant for Disney Studios, used the patterns found in Campbell's *The Hero's Journey* to influence production of *The Lion King*.

Christopher Vogler, author of *The Writer's Journey*, was the Guest Speaker on a free zoom meeting hosted by the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club on December 21, 2021. Many writers have heard of *The Hero's Journey* (Joseph Campbell 1904 – 1987), and perhaps even read Vogler's book, *The Writer's Journey*. I tuned in early and had fifteen minutes to get personal insights with the man who wrote the book! (Both books are on a shelf in my office.)

Christopher Vogler is a veteran Hollywood story consultant known the world over for his landmark book *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers*, now in its 25th Anniversary Edition. Vogler began his career as a documentary filmmaker for the US Air Force's space program. After graduate studies at the USC film school, he entered the Hollywood studio system as a story analyst at 20th Century Fox. While working in the Disney story department, he wrote a memo on the mythological *Hero's Journey* pattern that became part of Hollywood story legend and influenced Disney's *The Lion King*. As a consultant, he has influenced the stories of many productions including Disney's *Aladdin* and *Fantasia 2000*; Fox's *Thin Red Line* and *Courage Under Fire* as well as many films for other studios. He consults with major corporations on storytelling and branding and presents workshops globally on the power of stories to change minds and lives.

Vogler's *Writer's Journey* builds upon Campbell's *Hero's Journey*. Campbell's *The Power of Myth* is based upon the interviews with Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers, the acclaimed television series that played on PBS in 1988. Campbell presented his ideas about comparative mythology and the ongoing role of myth in human society; his main theme – the universality of myths that occur throughout the history of humankind.

Vogler's *The Writer's Journey* belongs in every fiction writer's library.

I recommend that members of South Bay Writers check websites for programs at other branches of California Writers Club. SBW members are always invited to attend, and many Zoom meetings are free. I have grown to love the Zoom format. The only thing that would be better: listening as part of a live audience with other writers. — WT

Gerri Forté is the new Editor of *WritersTalk*. I'm pinch-hitting for Gerri because she has a nasty case of COVID, and I don't want to steal her thunder. I updated my portrait photo above; the old one was fifteen years old. The picture you now see was taken in Paris in December 2018 when I traveled with a group from Opera San José. One trip highlight: I attended a Latin mass at Notre Dame with light steaming through the stained glass rose windows and the grand sounds of a pipe organ. No, I'm not Catholic; I just love beauty.

View from the Board

Marjorie Johnson

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7 p.m. on January 5. SBW Board members are listed on page 2 of *WritersTalk* with their emails, the better for you to contact them.

Meeting began 7:15 PM.

Approved the previous meeting's minutes. Unanimous approval as corrected by Marjorie Johnson: delete "I am changing" and replace with "We should change" so that sentence reads: **We should change *WritersTalk* to digital only, the same as the newsletters of all other CWC branches.** This issue was not resolved, only kicked down the road. Members who have indicated a preference for the printed word receive a hard copy of WT by US mail; all others receive a PDF copy — yes, this means that everyone is sent a PDF of the current WT or a link to it. It is difficult, confusing, and archaic to maintain two separate mailing lists. Keeping a separate list for the hard copy is bad enough. MRMS is an all or none list.

Edie Matthews, President

Upcoming Speakers:

February speaker: Literary Agent Elizabeth Kracht, Zoom platform

Need to charge \$5 for meeting attendance: Trenton Myers moved, Tatyana Grinenko seconded, a motion to charge \$5 for SBW (or CWC members) and \$10 for nonmembers for meeting attendance to cover speaker costs. Passed unanimously. Directions on how to pay will appear later in this issue of WT. Trenton and Tatyana to work out PayPal details; otherwise attendees have to mail a check.

Tatyana Grinenko, PR and Web Editor

January Speaker promotion: I sent four email meeting memos, focusing on reminding that the January meeting was on Tuesday, a special date because the speaker couldn't come on Monday.

WritersTalk: I realized I've never sent out *WritersTalk* itself before, only reminders. I emailed members a link to our PDF on our site, along with where they can find past issues (as I don't think most people would know unless they've navigated our site before) and also a reminder about submitting by the 15th for the next issue.

You can get a zoom meeting invite by contacting Tatyana Grinenko (pr@southbaywriters.com) who will add your email to her publicity and Constant Contact lists.

Bill Baldwin. Open Mics continue on first and third Fridays and still use Zoom. Attend this popular venue by contacting Bill Baldwin at WABaldwin@aol.com Bill has requested an alias email address.

Central Board has not met since our last SBW Board meeting.

NorCal will meet next Sunday. They will sponsor a Leadership Conference on or before July 31, 2022, to include leadership training for branch officers such as presidents, treasurers, and membership chairs.

The February San Francisco Writers Conference has been postponed until July. Drat! It seems as though COVID will never go away.

Carolyn Donnell. Facebook: Nothing new. Our website is still blocked by Facebook. Check out our cumulative index for *WritersTalk* on our website. It goes back to 2006 and lists submissions published in WT, all sortable by author or title or dates.

Meeting ended 8:30 PM. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, 09 February on Zoom. Next speaker meeting: 15 February 2022 on Zoom. Note: The meeting's on Tuesday again because the speaker couldn't do Valentines Day. Drat again: no chocolate. — WT

Continued from Page 2

Still Zooming Along

The money will help cover our expenses that include the website, *WritersTalk*, Constant Contact, Meetup, Zoom, and the speakers' stipends.

We do have a few miscellaneous expenses, too. The prizes for both writing and Halloween costume contests, beverages for the Holiday Bash, and the chicken and beverages for our summer BBQ. Oh, I don't want to forget the two-pounds of See's Candy we have for our February meeting. (The latter will resume once we're meeting in person.)

So, my dear friends, I wish you inspiration, perseverance and success reaching your writing goals and a safe and happy 2022 too!

BTW, I especially want to thank the generous members who have sent in donations to help sustain the club. — WT

Meeting Registration Required

Edie Matthews

South Bay Writers was delighted to continue free meetings the past 22 months during this challenging time. However, to survive and cover our expenses (website, newsletter, constant contact, meet-up, speaker fees, etc), we need to require a small fee. To receive a Zoom link, registration will be paid in advance. Directions will follow by email after the website links are set up. We hope to be able to offer payment by PayPal and registration online at southbaywriters.com

For now, we ask for donations. California Writers Club is a 501(C)3 nonprofit corporation registered with the IRS. Your cancelled checks are proof of donation for an income tax deduction.

Pay for one meeting: Members \$5 per month (nonmembers \$10). Or, pay for all of 2022 in advance and save! Members: \$35 for 9 meetings (nonmembers, \$70).

Make out your checks to CWC South Bay Writers and mail to:
CWC-SOUTH BAY WRITERS

PO BOX 3254

SANTA CLARA, CA 95055

Note: Mail checks at least one week in advance of meeting. If sent later, email Edie at pres@southbaywriters.com

We hope you've benefitted and enjoyed the previous meetings that included agents, authors, and instructors, and will continue participating as a member or a guest. — WT

Spierer went to Berkeley to meet the priest. She contacted the FBI and eventually met an agent in Walnut Creek to review Moore's files. Facts came out that the government had previously kept quiet.

Spierer travelled to Charleston, West Virginia, to interview Moore's high school acquaintances.

But Spieler had no experience writing a book, no background with literary works. She had never heard of Creative Nonfiction. She knew nothing about the book industry. "An agent? What's that?"

But she knew about the California Writers Club. She attended some of the Jack London conferences hosted by the Peninsula Branch. She put a profile on *firstwriter.com*. She learned how to work with agents. It took time and money — there were multiple setbacks. But *Taking Aim At The President* came out in 2018. Not only that; it was optioned as a movie, and then as a television series. The Pandemic put all of this on hold, but movement is expected this August. Spieler has learned much since starting this project.

One moral of the story: take advantage of opportunities offered by your California Writers Club chapters (including South Bay Writers). And, of course, persist. Never give up. Watch for opportunities (the chance to meet convicted assassins?), don't be afraid to invest some time and money, learn from the people who know, and DON'T GIVE UP!

Geri Spieler is now President of California Writers Club, San Francisco Peninsula Branch. She shares her writing expertise in *The Monthly Missive*, a newsletter of SF Peninsula. Their website is cwc-peninsula.org

Thank you, Geri, for a very personal and thought-provoking presentation.
— WT

Geri Spieler has published a series of useful writing tips on Twitter

@GeriSpieler

Recent articles include "How to write a sales pitch" and "Why you need an elevator pitch."

Member News

Marjorie Johnson

Carolyn Donnell's poems "Holy Ground" and "Stolen Soul" have been accepted for our upcoming book, *Words for the Earth – A Poetry Project*. — JK Larkin, Literary Manager and Editor of *The Red Penguin Collection*.

Carolyn's illustrated poem "Holy Ground" appears on this page.

Celebrating Black History Month, **Geraldine Cynthia Forté** will take part in a discussion, "The Power of Storytelling," on February 16 on Zoom. (Gerri was unable to finish this issue of *WritersTalk* because she fell victim to COVID.)

David M. Strom's story "The God Glove" is published in CWC San Francisco Peninsula's anthology *Fault Zone: Reverse* (out on Amazon). Dave packs the equivalent of the Marvel Cinematic Universe Infinity Gauntlet multi-movie story arc into 3000 words. See Super Holly Hansson tempted with the power of godhood!

Congratulations, all three of you. May viewing your good news inspire us all. Please send your writing news to membernews@southbaywriters.com. — WT

Holy Ground

Carolyn Donnell

This is Holy Ground,
You have desecrated
our Holy shrines.

Words said throughout the ages
to excuse Mankind's warring
and destructive ways.

But what is Holy Ground?
Where battles were fought,
or won or lost?

What is a holy shrine?
Where a person was born,
or lived, or died?

Is Holy Ground a man made thing?
Or is it forests, mountains
and teeming seas?

Look at the universe far and wide.
Where else can mankind live?
Nowhere we have found.

Our precious blue planet,
humanity's only Holy Ground,
is all we have.

How much more death, war,
and destruction has to come
before we learn?



Will we reach out to one another,
to rescue, to preserve this,
our solitary refuge?

Or will we persist in slaughtering
people, animals, plants,
and lose the true Holy Ground?

We can preserve this rare and shining orb.
Or piece by piece destroy,
our blue and living Earth.

Time grows shorter every hour.
Leaving us with less and less.
What will you do?

Today?

Writers Block

Writers block
wraps it sticky tentacles
around my mind.
Slow setting cement
clogs creative paths.
Wait for sunny breezes
to thaw the channels
of inspiration.

— Carolyn Donnell



Lucky Rainbow

Michael A Shipp

Softly petting a kitten teaches us how to be gentle
Petting a dog gives us friendship
Pet isn't quite the right word for family

I think my cat, Lucky, is the reincarnated soul of my dog, Rainbow
Lucky is a black tuxedo with a white throat patch and four white mittens
Rainbow was a black lab, who in her old age had white whiskers on her chin and paws

They both sat on the same spot on the carpet to beg for food
They both knew how to open the sliding screen door to go into the backyard and lay in the sun
And Lucky comes to me and nudges his head under my hand to get petted just like Rainbow did

One time my neighbor asked, "Hey, what's up with that cat that follows you around like a dog?"
Are cats cooler than dogs?
No ... They just think they are.

I've never seen anyone take their cat to the beach
I miss when Rainbow used to take me to the beach
She used to run down to the sand and chase all the seagulls off of HER beach

I promised her I would bury her on the beach at Moss Landing, but didn't
Her ashes are in a cedar box at my house
I should have kept my promise

Off the Shelf

— *Edie Matthews*



"Oh, no, boys, close your eyes and hold your breath!"

South Bay Writers January 11, 2022

Collage by Carolyn Donnell



Contests and Markets

by Carolyn Donnell



Let us know if you have any success with any of the contests listed in Writers Talk. (Or any other contest for that matter.) Send your writing victories to member-news@southbaywriters.com

You can check other branches for their current contests, submission, anthology, and/or requests. See a list of other CWC branches at www.calwriters.org/cwcbranches/ and on page 14 of this newsletter. Members of our Facebook group—**South Bay Writers Club**—see contest postings and other notifications on the Facebook group.

Listings are for information only. **NO VETTING** has been done by South Bay Writers Club. 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 any experience you have with them. Good or bad.

LOCAL (PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS) AND OTHER CWC BRANCH RESOURCES:

North State Writers: They are planning a fourth anthology. The last one accepted all CWC members. Keep an eye on the status at <http://www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html>

West Trade Review: Our Kelly Harrison is an associate at <https://westtradereview.submittable.com/submit>

The Literary Nest—A local online publication. See details for future submissions at www.theliterarynest.com/ Also visual art in high res jpeg, gif, or png format to the literarynest@gmail.com

Fremont Area Writers lists many resources on their page under Writers Resources tab. www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org/

Redwood Writers: Some contests welcome other CWC branch members. <https://redwoodwriters.org/contests/>

North State Writers lists many resources at their site. <http://www.northstatewriters.com/writer-s-resources.html>

Catamaran Literary Reader—West Coast quarterly literary/visual arts journal. Fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and fine art. Submissions year-round with quarterly production cycle. www.catamaranliteraryreader.com/

AWP Association of Writers and Writing Programs: See at <https://www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview>

Other Contests and Submissions:

Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition now open. Deadline May 6, 2022. <https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition>

WOW! Women on Writing now hosts two quarterly contests: one for fiction writers and one for nonfiction writers. See information at www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php

Trish Hopkinson: A blog with many resources. www.trish-hopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/

Writer's Relief: Ongoing contests at writersrelief.com/featured-listings-contests-journals-calls-for-submissions/

Winning Writers: Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest: All styles and themes, fiction and nonfiction. Submission period: Oct 15-Apr 30 Total prizes: \$8,000. **Accepts published and unpublished work** <https://winning-writers.com/our-contests/tom-howard-john-h-reid-fiction-essay-contest>

Chicken Soup For The Soul has ongoing submission requests. More information at <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines>

The Write Life: 31 Free Writing Contests. <https://www.thewritelife.com/writing-contests>

Fanstory: Fanstory requires a subscription (paid) but has many activities <https://www.fanstory.com/contestsall.jsp>

Poets & Writers contests/deadlines: www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines

Association of Writers and Writing Programs www.awp-writer.org/contests/overview

Publishedtodeath: A blog that lists literary magazines accepting reprints <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2016/01/163-literary-magazines-accepting.html>

NewPages.com is news, information, and guides to literary magazines, independent publishers, creative writing programs, writing contests, and more. www.newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests

The Writer Magazine: Lists contests, articles, resources and newsletter. www.writermag.com/contests/

The Blue Nib: Essays/Journalism, Reviews, Poetry, and Fiction. They pay for items accepted for print but not for digital at this time. www.thebluenib.com/submit-to-the-blue-nib-2/

The Vincent Brothers Review: Fiction, non-fiction, poetry. Pays a minimum of \$25 per accepted item. www.vincentbrothersreview.org/submissions/

The Lumiere Review accepts poems and prose from all writers, emerging writers, as well as those who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA, or disabled. One \$100 prize each for prose and poetry. No fees. www.lumierereview.com/

Imagine 2200 Grist's solutions lab. short story contest. Climate change theme. 1st prize \$3,000, 2nd and 3rd \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. www.grist.org/fix/climate-fiction-writing-contest-imagine-2200-prizes/

Jerry Jenkins blog: guides to writing contests and other resources <https://jerryjenkins.com/writing-contests/>

Electric Lit: For Emerging Writers www.electricleadership.com/free-or-cheap-resources-for-emerging-writers/

OTHER RESOURCES

* On both the Internet and Facebook

***Poets & Writers:** www.pw.org/grants, www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines

***MWA NorCal Chapter:** Mystery Writers of America: www.mwanorcal.org/

***Women's National Book Association:** San Francisco Chapter www.wnba-sfchapter.org

***The Write Life:** Includes L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future contest, more. www.thewritelife.com/writing-contests/

Funds For Writers: Contests, submissions, grants, etc. See www.fundsforwriters.com/contests/

***Freedom With Writing:** Submissions, contests, jobs, and more. www.freedomwithwriting.com/ See also <https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom-uncategorized/50-1000-for-short-stories-10-calls-for-submissions/>

***Authors Publish:** <http://www.authorspublish.com/>

The Best Writing Contests curated by Reedsy www.blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/

Hidden River Arts: Book award deadlines listed at www.hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com/

New Pages: Lists many contests www.newpages.com/

Writers Post No Fee Call for Submissions * Facebook only

POETRY CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES

SEE regular contest list as well.

Academy of American Poets: <https://poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes>

Writing Matters: 30 Publishers of Poetry Books & Chapbooks www.randallsanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/

Up the Staircase Quarterly: Submit 3 to 6 poems in a single document. Submit up to 10 jpgs for art. No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork is okay. www.upthestaircase.org/

Poets & Writers: Lists poetry and other contests. https://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines_43

Poets & Writers: Also lists over 1200 literary magazines. www.pw.org/literary_magazines

Poetry Society of America contest: <https://poetrysocietyofamerica.submittable.com/submit>

The Thimble Magazine: A quarterly online journal, primarily poetry www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/

Authors Publish: Poetry Manuscript Publishers, no reading fees. www.authorspublish.com

Poetry Foundation: www.poetryfoundation.org

Poetry Pacific: Literary e.zine. Two issues per year. Published and unpublished. www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/

Everywriter: The Best Poetry Prizes. www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/

Prospectus: A Literary Offering. Submission Periods: June 1st-Aug 31st & Dec 1st-Feb 28th. They welcome unpublished or little-published poets as well as short prose pieces and fine-art images. See information at <https://www.prospectusliterary.com/submissions2020.php>

Some FACEBOOK Poetry Groups

- Poetry Center San Jose PCSJ
- Willow Glen Poetry Project
- Cupertino Poet Laureate
- Santa Clara County Poet Laureate
- Los Gatos Poet Laureate
- National Poetry Month: write a poem a day challenge
- Coffee House Perculator Writing Group
- California Poets
- How Writers Write Poetry Community Group
- No Fee Calls for Poems
- SF Creative Writing Institute-drop-in poetry workshops
- Rattle: Includes online critiques.

2022 San Francisco Writers Conference Postponed to July 21 - 24, 2022

The San Francisco Writers Conference is an annual gathering that draws 600+ participants to the Bay Area including bestselling authors, literary agents, publishers, editors (both from traditional publishing houses and indie editors), and both traditional and self-publishing industry professionals. The presenters from the West Coast, New York City, and beyond – come to the event looking for new talent, to share their expertise with the attendees, and do some quality networking themselves. For more information about the 2022 San Francisco Writers Conference, go to: www.SFWriters.org.

Les Prose Comics

Kendad



News from California Writers Club

Ads in CWC Bulletin

by Bob Isbill (760) 221-6367

Want to increase your visibility? Sell your service? Promote your book? Increase speaker engagements? Pump up your web traffic? Or just send a greeting?

Each issue of *The CWC Bulletin*, published three times a year, reaches 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 21 CWC branches throughout the state and is published on www.calwriters.org

Now we are accepting writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices. See calwriters.org for details and how to format your ad. -WT

You may advertise in the CWC Literary Review or The CWC Bulletin

Go to www.calwriters.org for details



CWC NorCal

Central Coast: 3rd Tuesdays, 6 pm, Juice n' Java, 599 Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove. centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont: 4th Saturdays, 2 pm, Zoom. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Marin: 3rd Wednesdays, 6 pm, Zoom. cwcmarin.com

Mendocino: 3rd Sundays, 3 pm, Zoom. writersmendocinocoast.org

Mt Diablo: 2nd Saturdays (except July & August), 8:30 am, Zoom + in-person, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. cwcmtdiablo.org

Napa: 2nd Wednesdays, 7 pm, Zoom. napavalleywriters.org

North State: 3rd Mondays, 6 pm, Veterans Hall, 554 Rio Lindo Ave, Chico. northstatewriters.com

Peninsula: 3rd Saturdays, 10 am, Zoom. cwc-peninsula.org

Redwood: 3rd Saturdays, 1 pm, Finley Center, 2060 W College Ave, Santa Rosa. redwoodwriters.org

Sacramento: 3rd Saturdays (except July, August, & December), 1 pm, Zoom. cwcsacramentowriters.org

San Joaquin: 2nd Saturdays, 12 pm, Zoom. sjvalleywriters.org

Tri-Valley: 3rd Saturdays (except July & August), 2 pm, Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.org

CWC South

Coastal Dunes: 1st Saturdays, 10:15 am, Community Room, Nipomo Library, 918 West Tefft Street, Nipomo. coastaldunescwc.com

High Desert: 2nd Saturdays, 10 am, Community Church at Jess Ranch, 11537 Apple Valley Rd, Apple Valley. hdcwc.com

Inland Empire: 4th Saturdays, except December, 10:30 am, Zoom and in-person, Ovitt Family Community Library, 215 E. C Street, Ontario. iecwc.com

Long Beach: 2nd Saturdays, 3 pm, Zoom. calwriterslongbeach.org

Orange County: 1st Saturdays, 10:45 am, Zoom. calwritersorangecounty.org

Ridge Writers: 1st Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church, 633 W Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest

San Fernando Valley: 1st Saturdays, 1 pm, Zoom. cwc-sfv.org

Writers of Kern: 3rd Saturdays, 9:15 am, Hodel's Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Drive, Bakersfield. writersofkern.com

CWC-South Bay Writers

SBW regular meetings: 2nd Mondays, 7 pm. southbaywriters.com Watch your email for Zoom login details. SBW Board meetings: Wednesday before regular SBW meeting, 7 pm. Write to Edie, pres@southbaywriters.com, to request Zoom invite.

Open Mic

South Bay Writers Open Mic: Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. First and third Friday evenings, Zoom. Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email WABaldwin@aol.com

Ongoing discussion groups

Facebook Group: Members of South Bay Writers can join our Facebook group—South Bay Writers Club.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2022				7	8 Open Mic Zoom	5
6	7 2PM Valley Writers	8 7PM SBW Board Zoom	9	10	11	12
13	14 2PM Valley Writers	15 7 PM SBW Zoom Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>	16	17	18 Open Mic Zoom	19
20	21 2PM Valley Writers	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 2PM Valley Writers					

END-OF-THE-YEAR NEWS FROM CWC NORCAL

Carole Bumpus, CWC NorCal Chair

The **NorCal Group** is comprised of representatives from all fourteen CWC branches in the northern part of California. Together, we work through CWC issues, problems, and seek solutions for our branches as well as work to bring more opportunities for our branch members.

In the coming year, we will once again be hosting a CWC booth at the **San Francisco Writers Conference** in February 2022. <https://www.sfwriters.org/2022-conference/> With this booth comes opportunities for our branch members to join us at the Conference through volunteering their time, participating on panels, and also in receiving free tickets for one-day events in the Books to Screen Summit and the Poetry Summit. If you are interested in attending these one-day events, contact your branch president. If you are interested in participating or volunteering in the SFWC, please contact me: carolebumpus@gmail.com

The **NorCal Group** will also host a booth for the **Bay Area Book Fest (BABF)** in May 2022 in Berkeley. For those who would like to volunteer to help at our booth, you will also be given the opportunity to sell your books at our booth. Stay tuned for more details.

After missing our biennial **NorCal Leadership Conference** in 2020 (due to Covid), the NorCal Group will once again be hosting the Leadership Conference this coming September 2022. Training will be offered for all leaders in executive board positions, as well as other important roles within the branches. This may be a hybrid conference, but however it is presented, it will be essential for all CWC branch leaders take advantage of this pertinent CWC training. Put this on your calendars. Our goal is to offer all branch leaders the best tools available to help them meet the growing needs of their branches. Working together and sharing best practices strengthens all.

CWC NORCAL Events:

See **Events Calendar** on the State CWC website www.calwriters.org

San Francisco Writers Conference 2022: July 21 – 24. Check website www.SFWriters.org

South Bay Writers Events:

Look to left on Page 14.

The calendar on this page is DIY.



Happy Valentine's Day

Old lovers and wine
They age just fine
Be my valentine
A 35th time

– Luanne Oleas



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

P.O. Box 3254

Santa Clara, CA 95055

www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

South Bay Writers

7 – 9 p.m.

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Speaker Elizabeth Kracht,

Literary Agent

Topic: Sharpen Your Manuscript

Zoom

(Yes, that's a Tuesday.)

WritersTalk deadline is always
the 15th of the month.

Regular dinner meetings are
usually second Mondays.

Please note: This month's is
on a TUESDAY.

