



# WRITERS TALK

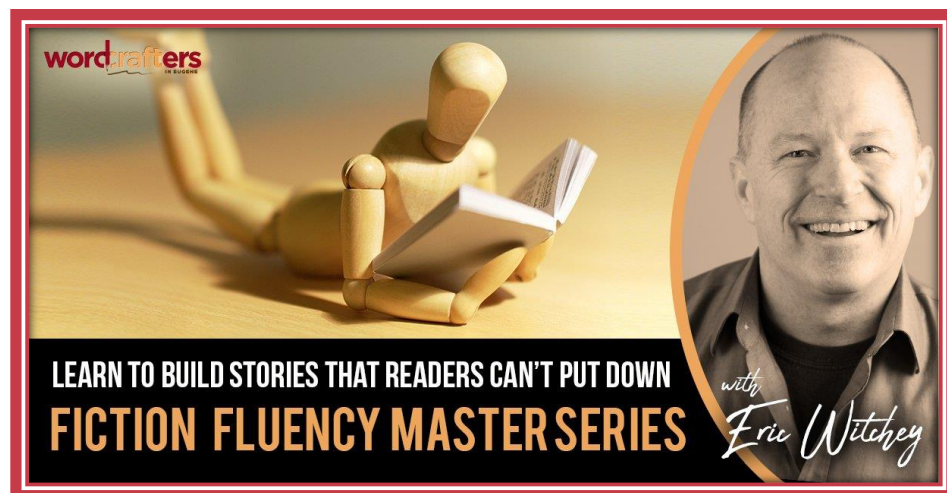


South Bay Writers Club

Newsletter

March 2022

## THE MAGIC OF FANTASY!



Award-winning writer Eric Witchee's background in theoretical linguistics, course development, and creative writing combine with over 27 years of full-time freelance experience to allow him to distill nebulous concepts normally attributed to talent or internalized through years of trial-and-error into clear, executable techniques writers can begin to practice immediately. This approach has been successful in the marketplace, and he has sold 2 collections, 5 novels, and 150 short stories. His stories have appeared under several names, in multiple languages, and on 6 continents. Using the techniques he teaches, he has garnered many awards and accolades, including recognition from Writers of the Future, New Century Writers, Short Story America, the International Book Awards, the Independent Publishers Book Awards, the Irish Aeon Awards, Writer's Digest Awards, the Eric Hoffer Prose Awards, and several other achievements. His fiction how-to articles have appeared in Writer's Digest, The Writer Magazine, and other print and online sources.

When: March 14, 2022

Where: Zoom Online Platform (link forthcoming)

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## BETWEEN THE LINES



Secret Language by Edie Matthews, SBWC President

In junior high school, a popular clique of girls spoke a secret language. I listened, intrigued. Clearly it wasn't French, Spanish, or any recognizable foreign tongue. It sounded like gibberish. Yet they understood each other.

I was familiar with Pig Latin, but that wasn't it. I wasn't proficient in PL, but I understood the basics. The method is to move the first consonant to the end of the word and add "ay". So the word "dog" becomes "og-day." Or cookie is ookie-cay." Turns out PL has been around for centuries. It can be traced back to Thomas Jefferson, who would compose letters in the coded language.

The girls speaking this gobbledygook had attended the same elementary school in Hollywood. They dressed in the latest trends, had perfectly coiffed hair, and acted superior to the rest of us. I wasn't intimidated.

Still, I was curious. How did they learn the language? What was the formula?

At an assembly, I happened to sit next to Toni, one of the nicer girls in the group. I quizzed her about the language. Even though she could speak it, she claimed she didn't know how it was done. I thought that was kind of stupid, but reasoned more likely she didn't want to tell me. I questioned her several times, but she continued to feign ignorance.

Determined to learn the process, I asked her how to say single words. Unsuspecting, she translated each word into the mysterious G-language. I jotted down her response on a piece of paper and quickly cracked the formula. It was simple—just add "ag" before every vowel. So the word cat became "ca-gat." Pretty easy when you focus on one word. However, when you rattle off a flurry of sentences, unsuspecting listeners can't comprehend what you're saying.

Once I figured it out and spoke to Toni in the vernacular, she seemed annoyed. So I didn't pursue the conversation. Several months later, we moved from Los Angeles to Santa Clara.

A few months later after I had established a new group of friends, I taught them the secret language. Only our clique could understand it. Very cool—especially when we didn't want the boys to know what we were talking about. There was a girl like myself who figured out the system. But it didn't bother me, since she didn't hang out with us or bother to reveal the secret to others.

Flash forward to years later: I was married with children. When there was something I didn't want my kids to know, I would converse with my sister-in-law, who had been part of my high school clique. Actually, none of the other adults could understand it either—including my husband.

The kids would get so annoyed. One even claimed to understand, but that was a bluff. Well, maybe he'd get a word or two.

I'd forgotten about G-language. But remembering it now, I'm thinking of using it. I could put it in a mystery-suspense novel that isn't finished. The coded language between a couple of the good friends would add some fun.

Ma-gean ta-gime, a-gI la-gook fa-gor-wa-gard ta-go sa-geeing ya-gou na-gext ma-gonth a-gon Za-goom.

## California Writers Club South Bay Branch

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

### SBW Officers

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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](mailto:ingasbwmembership@gmail.com), sign up online at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com), or send a check to CWC-South Bay Writers, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055

## WritersTalk – New Managing Editor

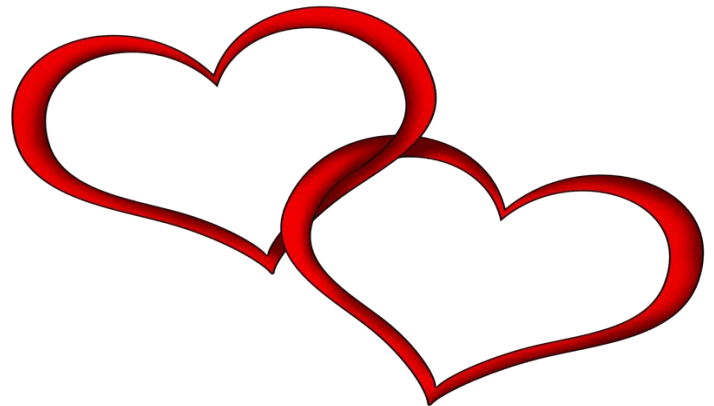


Greetings!

I am Gerri Forté, and I have accepted the role of Managing Editor for WritersTalk, the newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve the South Bay Writers Club in this fashion, and I will do everything that I can to continue the unparalleled tradition of the WritersTalk Newsletter.

Folks, this is “our” newsletter, and I want to encourage you to submit articles, member news, opinions, and your own short compositions (Fiction, Memoir, or Poetry) for publication. Please submit your items in Times New Roman, font size 12 no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The editors need time to review and make suggestions for placement.

I take my hat off to Reneé Anderson, retiring Managing Editor. Her shoes will be a challenge to fill, and I am sure you all join me in thanking her for the superlative service and wishing her well in the future.



**Thank You, Reneé**

## WRITING TIPS FROM TONI MORRISON



**Write when you know you're at your best.** *I always get and make a cup of coffee while it is still dark—it must be dark—and then I drink the coffee and watch the light come.*

**There's a line between revising and fretting** It's important for a writer to know when they are "fretting," because if something isn't working, "it needs to be scrapped," although in answer to whether she goes back over published work and wishes she had fretted more, Morrison answers, "a lot. Everything."

**A good editor is "like a priest or a psychiatrist."** Morrison worked as an editor for Random House for 20 years before she published her first novel. She observes the relationship between writer and editor by saying that getting the wrong one means that "you are better off alone." One of the marks of a good editor? She doesn't "love you or your work," therefore offers criticism, not compliments.

**Don't write with an audience in mind, write for the characters.** Knowing how to read your own work—with the critical distance of a good reader—makes you a "better writer and editor." For Morrison, this means writing not with an audience in mind, but with the characters to go to for advice, to tell you "if the rendition of their lives is authentic or not."

Provided by Marty Sorensen

**Control your characters.** *They have nothing on their minds but themselves and aren't interested in anything but themselves. So you can't let them write your book for you.*

**Plot is like melody; it doesn't need to be complicated.** Morrison sums up her approach to plot in *Jazz* and *The Bluest Eye* by saying "I put the whole plot on the first page." Rather than constructing intricate plots with hidden twists, she prefers to think of the plot in musical terms as a "melody," where the satisfaction lies in recognizing it and then hearing the "echoes and shades and turns and pivots" around it.

**Style, like jazz, involves endless practice and restraint.** Speaking of *Jazz*, Morrison tells she has always thought of herself like a jazz musician, "someone who practices and practices and practices in order to be able to invent and to make his art look effortless and graceful." A large part of her "jazz" style, she says, is "an exercise in restraint, in holding back."

**Be yourself, but be aware of tradition.** Of the diversity of African-American jazz musicians and singers, Morrison says "I would like to write like that. I would like to write novels that were unmistakably mine, but nevertheless fit first into African American traditions and second of all, this whole thing called literature."

## VIEW FROM THE BOARD

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7 p.m. on February 9th. SBW Board members are listed on page 3 of WritersTalk with their emails, the better for you to contact them.

The next meeting will be the first where we will be charging for the meeting. 5 for SBW (or CWC members), \$10 for nonmembers, for meeting attendance to cover speaker costs. Writers Talk will continue to be printed.

Appointed Chris Weilert to fill the position of SBW Secretary, replacing Marjorie Johnson who has become South Bay Writers' MRMS Administrator. A location for in-person meeting site is ongoing. Venue needs to be responsibly priced. If anybody knows of a possible home for us to meet contact Edie.

March speaker: Fantasy writer Eric Witchery, Zoom platform

We have experienced a slight (0.5%) decrease in gross assets since December landing us at \$18,628 as of January 31, 2022

Regarding meetings registration, here is where we stand on pre-payments (70% paid by Paypal):

- 12 members prepaid for the year (one did not renew in 2021; owes \$40 more)

- 1 non-member prepaid for the year

- 2 members paid for one meeting (one we need to contact to pay an additional \$5)

- 5 non-members paid for one meeting

Tatyana Grinenko, PR and Web Editor

February Speaker promotion:

- Email promotion began as soon as website was set up for payment options

- @Trent Question: I plan to remind those that paid and those that didn't pay with separate emails, however it would be ideal to have an auto-email go out when they may the PayPal payment as well

- 4 Email reminders in total (including 15 minutes before meeting) -- focusing

on reminding that the meeting is on Tuesday

WritersTalk:

- 2 reminders to go out: Friday and day-of

Email: Our Constant Contact list is growing: 519 Contacts total as of today, of which 428 are subscribed Contacts.

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 NorCal Leadership Conference is tentatively scheduled for Saturday for October 1. I have issues with that date, I will let them know. There is also a lively discussion in progress among the NorCal



representative on the two topics: Branch Anthologies and Branch Newsletters

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.

Inga Silva. Membership: As of January 31, 105 members. The numbers are as follows: Active members 53, Associate 45, Supporting 3, Student 3, & 1 lifetime member. Two new memberships began in January.

Meeting ended 8:30 PM.  
Next Board meeting:  
Wednesday, 09 March on  
Zoom. Next speaker

meeting: 14 March 2022 on Zoom. SBW members are always welcome at Board meetings. To attend a board meeting, send an email to Edie Matthews at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

Minutes by Chris Weilert,  
SBW Secretary

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **D.L. LaRoche**

"Caution in the City," a short story by D.L. LaRoche has been included in the recently available anthology, *Fault Zone, Reverse*. Our NorCal sister branch, SF Peninsula, publishes this well curated and professional anthology every other year and is available on Amazon. Forty-seven pieces--fiction, essay, and poetry--from 35 authors are included; the book edited by Laura Ann Hill and published by Sand Hill Press. "Caution" is a midafternoon gin fizz of gentle seduction.

### **Marty Sorenson**

(Warning: plot spoiler for the film *Cold War*.) I saw this Amazon movie where a metaphor destroys a relationship. It starts in Poland, under the Soviets, with a man and a woman who are to each other the love of their lives. He is a musical director and she's the star performer of a folklore ensemble of singers and dancers. They're good, they get to go to Berlin because he's creative and they are talented. When the commissar says he wants authentic deep folklore music in praise of Stalin, the man creates the music that the commissar takes for authentic. In Berlin the lovers decide to escape to the French sector, but the woman doesn't make it. He ends up in Paris as a jazz pianist; she shows up a couple of years later. They are still the love of their lives. She sings sultry nightclub songs. She's a great performer. But at a party she meets his ex-lover, a woman who is a well-known Parisian poet who writes the text for the songs the Polish woman will sing. The text includes the line *The pendulum kills time*. The Polish singer tells the poet that she doesn't understand the text, that it's nonsense. The French woman says, *It's a metaphor*. And the Polish singer is stunned and goes home because the love of her life has made love to someone who writes metaphors. Can you blame her? Who can compete with someone who writes metaphors? Don't abuse your power.

### **Carolyn Donnell**

Congratulations to Carolyn Donnell. Three of her poems will be published in "Whispering Willow: Tree Poems". Expected publication is Spring 2022.

## WHERE IS THE GREEN?

Carolyn Donnell



My heart is lonely for a tree,  
a lawn that flows down green and gray  
to a stony brook,  
in a meadow of grass and flowers  
with deepening woods behind.

A place to walk  
in solitary contemplation  
the sights and sounds  
obliterated here by urban noise  
and polluted crowding.

Free from the roaring whoosh  
of cars racing by,  
motorcycles,  
rock music cacophony,  
loud voices,  
outside after midnight.

Where is the cooing of the doves,  
the chatter of the squirrels,  
the lark's song floating  
on a clean river breeze,  
the rustle of fresh green leaves?

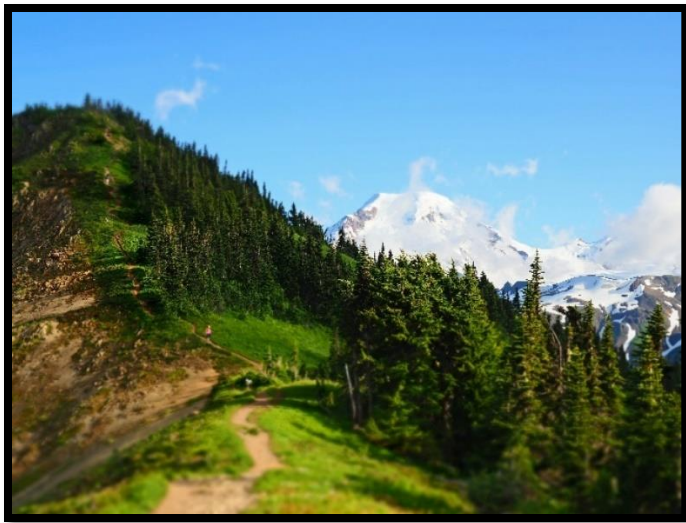
Oh to live outside of sardine cans,  
these cardboard shoeboxes  
we have to call home.  
Even the howl of a mountain lion  
in a backyard plot  
would be better than this.

## JUST ENOUGH OF A REMINDER

Carolyn Donnell

The road ends just behind  
the long rows of upper yuppie houses. Cattle  
graze on hills so verdant green you'd swear you  
were  
in Erin's land instead of south San Jose where still  
some fields  
grow ruby red fruit shocking pink-flowered cherries  
can be picked from trees  
mist like dragon's breath from long lost Avalon  
coats the mountainside  
sliding to valleys below  
apricots then follow  
popcorn blossoms  
a few acres left  
here and there  
just enough of  
a reminder  
what the valley  
must have been  
when it was full  
of orchards not the  
sprawling shoeboxes  
seen today.





**STOLEN SOUL**  
**Carolyn Donnell**

I went up into the hills  
for only half a day.  
I watched mist rise  
behind green mountains,  
winding down  
to rocky creeks below.

I listened to quiet breezes  
waft through canopies of trees.  
I felt the swell of dreams,  
ideas, desires.  
New understanding  
of the world was rising.

I came back down to my old house,  
I can't call it home.  
Noise, pollution,  
cacophony in the valley  
stole the peace in less time  
than it took to gain.

A hundred cars if there was one  
and curs-ed motorcycles  
spew their noise and fumes  
through my open window,  
Both asphyxiating body  
and stealing soul.

The neighbors screaming all the time,  
add to all the stress.  
They can't ever seem to find  
a moment's peace.  
But I don't really wonder why.  
I already know.

When can I go back uphill,  
to that sweet green retreat?  
Could I live there,  
pitch a tent among the trees,  
or just go for a walk?  
I know it won't be for me  
a day too soon.





Kendad

*Edie Matthews & Marina Menendez-Pidal*



*"Are you sure this is how Hemingway started?"*

## FEBRUARY SPEAKER RECAP



Elizabeth Kracht

Bill Baldwin

As a literary agent and a writer herself, Elizabeth Kracht saw the same issues surface again and again in manuscripts. She also realized that many of these issues are easy to fix. People need a better idea of what agents and publishers are looking for, and how to provide it. Hence her 2020 book *The Author's Checklist: An Agent's Guide to Developing and Editing Your Manuscript*.

The best time to approach an agent is after you have made your manuscript nearly publication-ready; when only a few odds and ends need to be tidied up. But how close to “ready” *is* that, and how do you know when you’re there?

You may *think* your manuscript is ready; but from the agent’s perspective, many basic issues may immediately leap out. If you can make yourself aware of these and fix them *before* you submit your manuscript, you greatly increase your odds of finding an agent and publisher.

Even a *wonderful* manuscript can be rejected. Understand why. Make yourself aware of the alarms that might go off when an agent reviews your work.

Let’s start with *Basic Formatting*. Become familiar with formatting standards so you come across as professional. Double-spacing, paragraph indentation, font size? Learn the standards! Simple flaws are immediately noticed!*F*

To focus on fiction and memoir (with *guidelines*, not *rules*):

*Setting*. Do you provide a sense of where, in space and time, your story is happening? The beginning of your story is extremely important! Don’t confuse your reader; begin well!

*Main Character*. The protagonist should enter almost immediately. Are they sympathetic? If not, can you make them so? Can you make their less likeable traits more understandable, so readers can *identify* with them? The first ten pages should persuade us to follow their story.

*Inciting Incident.* What sets everything in motion: the character, the action? How long do you take to introduce this? No more than fifteen or twenty pages!

*Pacing.* Don't let the action drag, especially at the beginning! Get to that inciting incident! Keep moving! Each chapter should contain at least three events the reader will remember. If this is not happening, consider combining chapters to *make* it happen. Avoid repeating yourself—consolidate. You don't have to cover every detail of every moment of the storyline. Focus on the *pivotal* events (for example: the epiphanies). Write vibrant prose: Am I *telling* or am I *showing*? Involve the reader so they feel they are *watching it all happen*!

Don't let your dialogue drag. *Keep up the pace*! Keep things moving!

Pay attention: Do all your characters deserve the space and time you have given them? Can you trim or combine characters?

*Backstory.* A person's history provides depth and understanding. People can react very differently to situations. Consider when you want to share information on a character, and which information, and how much.

*Style.* Study your own writing style. Do you rely too much on adverbs? Might your *prose* style be improved by writing a little more like a *poet*? “*Is there a better way to say this?*”

Remembering these points can increase your chances. Simple flubs can kill an agent's interest. Keep that in mind and fix them *before* you submit!

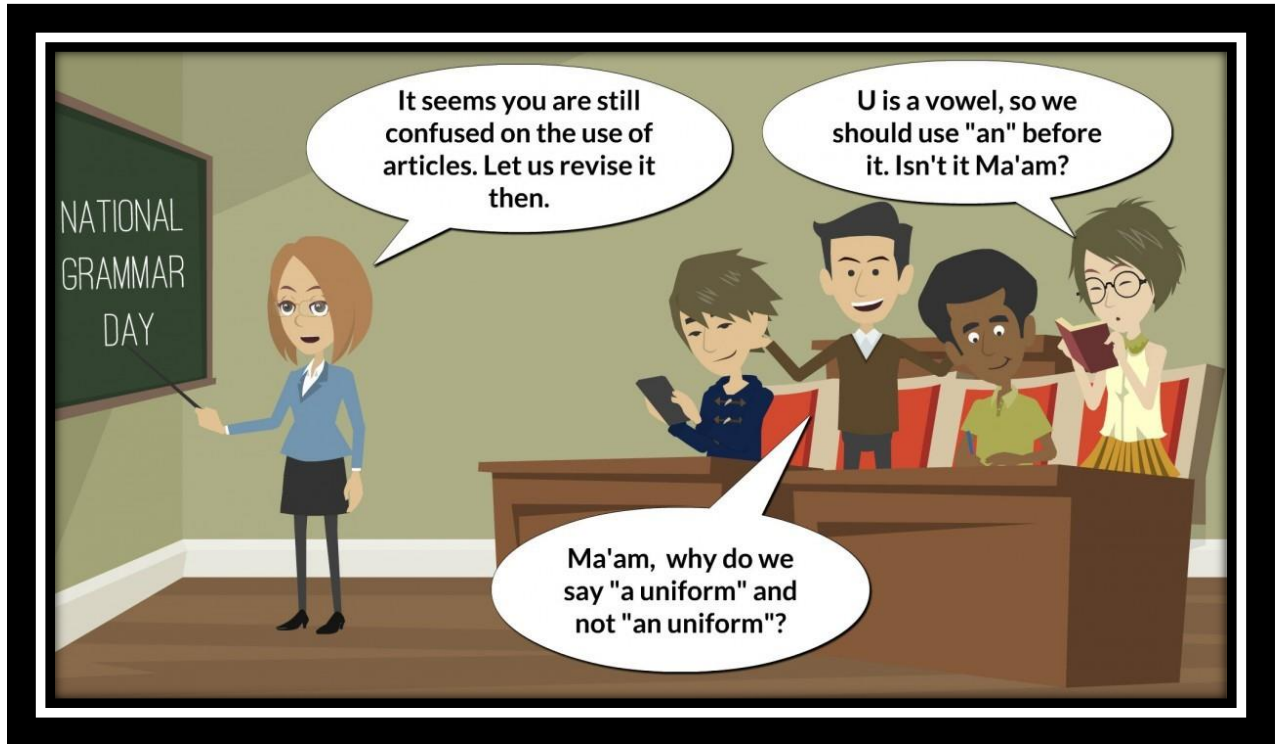
### Collage of Participants





## MEMBER COMPOSITIONS

### Grammar Fun(ny) by Marjorie Johnson



So, you didn't think grammar and fun should appear in the same sentence. I say, a little humor up your sleeve helps when teaching.

Punctuation helps us to write what we mean. Did you really mean, "Let's eat Grandma"? Or, "Let's eat, Grandma." Can you read the following sentence?

This sentence is written without punctuation

The comma wasn't invented until around 200 BC. Aristophanes of Byzantium, chief librarian at the Museum at Alexandria, is usually credited with the beginnings of the Greek system of punctuation. In Greek plays, the comma showed actors where to breathe.

Geri Spieler, SBW's January speaker, wrote an article, "Let's Make Grammar Fun," in Writers' Blokke, her Twitter series that has given her more than 500 followers. (Remember the buzz about writers needing to build a platform?)

Geri credited Amanda Patterson, one of her favorite writers, with a great list of quotes about grammar. For example, Winston Churchill: "Ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put."

I followed up on Geri's grammar Tweet by going to Amanda Patterson in Writers Write on her website, [writerswrite.co.za](http://writerswrite.co.za) (Note: za denotes South Africa) I enjoyed Amanda's "15 Favorite Quotes on Grammar" and did a little browsing. Her website lists 204 ways to describe colors, 106 ways to describe sounds, and 140 words to describe mood in fiction. And yes, grammar can be fun.

## Bowling, the Lost Art by Chris Weilert



When I heard my neighborhood bowling alley was closing because the lease was getting too expensive, a wave of sadness came over me. You can't pack up an alley and move it somewhere else and start over. The lanes are gone, and slowly the era of bowling dies another death. The great indoor and year-round sport loses to economics and a changing demographic who instead play a video game version. The older bowlers haven't brought the next wave of players to the sport.

Let's face the truth. Bowling has never been considered sexy. I don't notice a lot of male and female glamour models at the alley, nor do I expect to find any. The joy is about honing your craft, competing, hanging with buddies, talking trash, fist-pumping, drinking long necks, and enjoying a sport that doesn't require 1000 bucks in gear. Even if you don't have the equipment, you can rent at the alley.

Bowling will constantly be ridiculed for the people who regularly roll and mocked in movies like the Big Lebowski and Kingpin. The sport contains a wide span of players and embraces anybody who decides to play. You can go to any alley on most weeknights and see a large variety of people in leagues that range from CEO's and doctors to manual laborers and barbers. Bowling also gets a bad rap about the debate of "is it a sport or a pastime?" Ridiculous. A lot of practice and hours will tell how hard it is to develop a consistent rolling motion. The beauty of the curve that can pick up a 7-10 split cannot be accomplished without attention focused on precision and form. The same can be said for golf, but golf never gets the ridicule that bowlers hear. A bit of snobbery comes up with golf versus bowling but then again, I don't care for those who criticize something they are only mediocre at.

The history of professional bowling is long storied. Many of us were introduced to professional bowling through the dulcet tones of Chris Shenkel on Wide World of Sports. He covered bowling for thirty-five years as it became one of ABC's signature shows on Saturday afternoon.

The bowling alley sprung up and languished from the 1950s to the 1970s and was packed with serious bowlers, families, and lonely people. Now the decline has been on the wall for the past twenty-five years due to the high value of space and labor. I feel it will become a fringe sport with smaller alleys like a pool hall. Unfortunately, the cost to bowl will increase because of the laws of economics with the reduction of open lanes. I am sure most of us are sad about our beloved childhood establishment's passing into something less cool like a drugstore. The beauty of bowling is that it is a sport for everybody and if you want to be good, you can be paid.

I will never forget when I brought a first date to go bowling because if she couldn't show her fun side initially, I knew she wasn't suitable for me. We didn't go on a second date. Life goes on, and bowling will as well, no matter how many alleys get closed.

There is little debate about bowling being a very, very old game. Egyptians were rolling objects to knock down others in 3200 BC. Somebody found a round rock and rolled it, and the rest is history. It might have been a boulder to knock down unruly workers while building all those pyramids and statues. Then along came a German guy in 300 AD who figured out a game to play while drinking beer. It was first frowned upon because leisure time wasn't invented yet. It caught on, and the good times were set to roll.



## 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 [membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com) and any new stories, poems, articles, etc. to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

You can also check other branches for their current contests, submission, anthology, etc. requests. See a list of other CWC branches at [www.calwriters.org/cwcbranches/](http://www.calwriters.org/cwcbranches/)

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/](http://www.theliterarynest.com/)  
Also visual art in high res .jpeg, .gif, or .png format to [theliterarynest@gmail.com](mailto:theliterarynest@gmail.com)

**Fremont Area Writers** lists many resources on their page under Writers Resources tab  
[www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org/](http://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/](http://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.** Early-Bird deadline May 6, 2022.  
<https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition>

**Writer's Digest Self-published Book Awards** Deadline: 4/1/22. 1 first prize winner in each category = \$1000.  
See details at <https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/self-published-book-awards>

**WOW! Women on Writing** now hosts two quarterly contests: one for fiction writers-flash fiction and one for nonfiction writers-essays. See schedules and information at [www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php](http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php)

**Water Dragon Publishing:** Check out their website to see what they accept and their guidelines.  
<https://waterdragonpublishing.com/submissions/>

**Trish Hopkinson** - A blog with many resources. No Fee submissions, Publishers who accept reprints, etc.  
[www.trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/](http://www.trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/)

**Palette Poetry - Emerging Poetry Prize** Closes April 17. Prize is specifically for emerging poets. Only accepts submissions from poets with fewer than two full-length collections out at the time of submission. Winner-\$3000, publication, and a brief interview in Palette Poetry. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>--\$300 & \$200 respectively, as well as publication. See details at <https://www.palettepoetry.com/current-contest/>

**Writer's Relief** - Ongoing contests at [writersrelief.com/featured-listings-contests-journals-calls-for-submissions/](http://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://winningwriters.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 have many activities  
<https://www.fanstory.com/contestsall.jsp>

**Poets & Writers** contests/deadlines: [www.pw.org/content/upcoming\\_contest\\_deadlines](http://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines)

**Association of Writers and Writing Programs** [www.awpwriter.org/contests//overview](http://www.awpwriter.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](http://www.newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests)

**The Writer Magazine-** Lists contests, articles, resources and newsletter. Right now they have listed 5 poetry journals accepting new entries. [www.writermag.com/contests/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.vincentbrothersreview.org/submissions/)

**Fix, Grist's solutions lab**, opens submissions for **Imagine 2200** climate fiction contest. 3,000 to 5,000 words that envision the next 180 years of climate progress — roughly seven generations. 1<sup>st</sup> = \$3,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> receive \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. An additional nine finalists will each receive \$300. No cost to enter, but unpublished only!. <https://grist.org/fix/climate-fiction-writing-contest-imagine-2200-prizes/>

**The Kraken Book Prize for Middle-Grade Fiction** Accepting submissions through March 15, 2022 \$750 and book publication by Regal House Publishing. The Kraken Book Prize will be issued to a work of compelling fiction for the Middle Grade market. <https://www.regalhousepublishing.com/the-kraken-book-award/>

**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/](http://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/](http://www.grist.org/fix/climate-fiction-writing-contest-imagine-2200-prizes/).

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

**Electric Lit:-** For Emerging Writers [www.electricliterature.com/free-or-cheap-resources-for-emerging-writers/](http://www.electricliterature.com/free-or-cheap-resources-for-emerging-writers/)

**BARDSY: CURRENT SHORT STORY ANTHOLOGY CONTEST** Current no-fee anthology/contest prompt: "Write a story involving a break from the ordinary." Deadline 3/22 at 11:59 PM PST. \$399 in cash, spring anthology publication and a 6-month elite membership. Finalists -\$50, publication and 3-month membership  
See details at [tinyurl.com/mwafybjs](http://tinyurl.com/mwafybjs)

## OTHER RESOURCES

(\* = On both the Internet and Facebook.)

**Poets & Writers** \* [www.pw.org/grants](http://www.pw.org/grants) [www.pw.org/content/upcoming\\_contest\\_deadlines](http://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines)

**MWA NorCal Chapter** \*-Mystery Writers of America – [www.mwanorcal.org/](http://www.mwanorcal.org/)

**Women's National Book Association:** San Francisco Chapter \* [www.wnba-sfchapter.org](http://www.wnba-sfchapter.org)

**The Write Life** \*- Includes L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future contest and 30+ others  
[www.thewritelife.com/writing-contests/](http://www.thewritelife.com/writing-contests/)

**Funds For Writers**-Contests, submissions, grants, etc. See [www.fundsforwriters.com/contests/](http://www.fundsforwriters.com/contests/)

**Freedom With Writing** \*-submissions, contests, jobs, and more. [www.freedomwithwriting.com/](http://www.freedomwithwriting.com/)  
<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/](http://www.blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/)

**Hidden River Arts**-Book award deadlines listed at [www.hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com/](http://www.hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com/)

**New Pages**-lists many contests [www.newpages.com/](http://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.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/](http://www.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/)

**Up the Staircase Quarterly**-Submit 3-6 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/](http://www.upthestaircase.org/)

**Poets & Writers** Lists poetry and other contests. [https://www.pw.org/content/upcoming\\_contest\\_deadlines\\_43](https://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines_43)  
Also lists over 1200 literary magazines. [www.pw.org/literary\\_magazines](http://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/](http://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/)

**Authors Publish** - Poetry Manuscript Publishers No Reading Fees [www.authorspublish.com](http://www.authorspublish.com)

**Poetry Foundation** [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)

**Poetry Pacific**-Literary e.zine-2 issues per year. **Published** and unpublished. [www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/](http://www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/)

**Everywriter-The Best Poetry Prizes.** List of poetry prizes and competitions.  
[www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/](http://www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/)

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

**REEDSY** lists a few reputable chapbook contests (some of these accept prose, too). Check at their site:

<https://blog.reedsy.com/how-to-make-a-chapbook/>

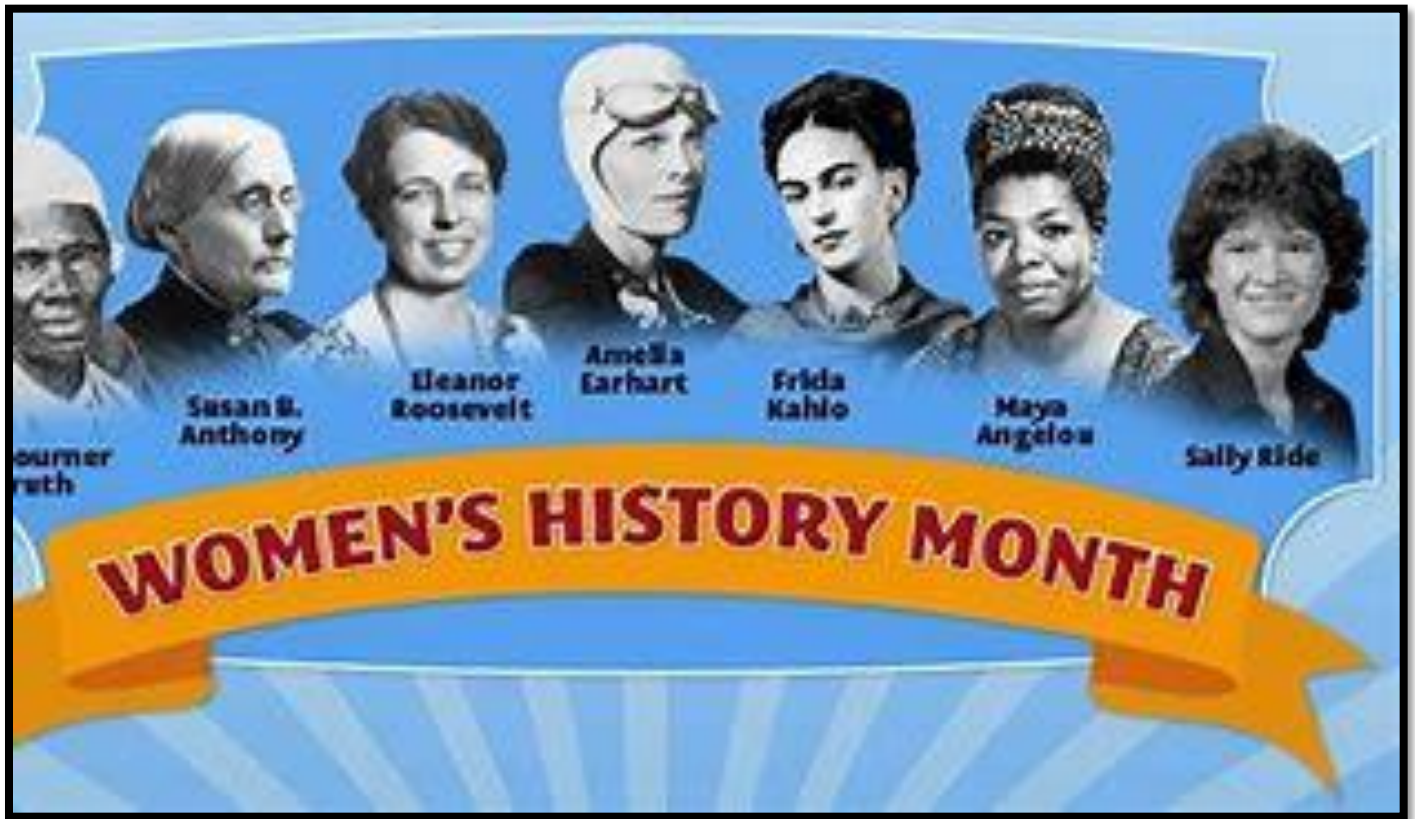
- Rattle chapbook contest, prize of \$5,000 and publication
- The International Book & Pamphlet competition, prize of a share of £2,000 and publication
- Slipstream Press chapbook contest, prize of \$1,000 and publication
- Omnidawn poetry chapbook contest, prize of \$1,000 and publication
- The New Michigan Press / DIAGRAM chapbook contest, prize of \$1,000 and publication
- Button Poetry chapbook contest, prize of \$500 and publication
- The Black River chapbook competition, prize of \$500 and publication
- Gold Line Press chapbook contest, prize of \$500 and publication
- The Adrift chapbook contest, prize of \$300 and publication

### **Some FACEBOOK Poetry Groups**

- Poetry Center San Jose-PCSJ
- Willow Glen Poetry Project
- Cupertino 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.

## MARCH 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March is National Women's History Month!



**National Women's History Month**, honorary observance of the month of March in the [United States](#), as designated in 1987 by the U.S. Congress, in recognition of women's many accomplishments throughout history. A variety of agencies, schools, and organizations observe the month by focusing on the "consistently overlooked and undervalued" role of American women in history. Libraries and [communities](#) promote special events that emphasize the achievements of women. Similar monthlong observances occur in other countries.

### **Why is women's History Month so important?**

The contributions of women through the years have often gone unappreciated and forgotten but each year, in March, Women's History Month is a time for reflection, appreciation, and celebration.

Women's History Month is an important time to **recognize contributions both large and small that have changed our lives for the better**





- March 4<sup>th</sup>      Open Mic                                      7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
                     Contact William Baldwin ([wabaldwin@aol.com](mailto:wabaldwin@aol.com))
- March 7<sup>th</sup>      Morgan Hill Critique Group    5:00 – 7:00 pm.  
                     Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray ([morganhillwriters@gmail.com](mailto:morganhillwriters@gmail.com))
- March 9<sup>th</sup>      SBWC Board Meeting                      7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
                     Contact Edie Matthews at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

### **March 13<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings Time Starts!**

- March 14<sup>th</sup>      Morgan Hill Critique Group    5:00 – 7:00 pm.  
                     Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray ([morganhillwriters@gmail.com](mailto:morganhillwriters@gmail.com))
- March 14<sup>th</sup>      March Speaker Meeting                      7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
                     ZOOM login infor will be sent to all who are registered to participate in the SBWC Speaker Meetings
- March 17<sup>th</sup>      Saint Patrick's Day!
- March 19<sup>th</sup>      Open Mic                                      7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
                     Contact William Baldwin ([wabaldwin@aol.com](mailto:wabaldwin@aol.com))
- March 21<sup>st</sup>      Morgan Hill Critique Group    5:00 – 7:00 pm.  
                     Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray ([morganhillwriters@gmail.com](mailto:morganhillwriters@gmail.com))
- March 28<sup>th</sup>      Morgan Hill Critique Group    5:00 – 7:00 pm.  
                     Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray ([morganhillwriters@gmail.com](mailto:morganhillwriters@gmail.com))



**California Writers Club**  
**South Bay Branch**  
**PO Box 3254**  
**Santa Clara, CA 95056**

**MAIL TO:**

**South Bay Writers**  
**March 14, 2022 Meeting**  
**Monday, 7 pm**

**Eric Witchery**  
**The Magic of Fantasy!**

