



WRITERS TALK



South Bay Writers Club

Newsletter

April 2022



"The Art of Edutainment"
Sandy McKay-Swerdlove

Children. Young adult. These rank among the most lucrative genres in today's competitive market. But although they are easier to read, they're not necessarily easier to write. Crafting a compelling and instructive narrative that younger readers will eagerly follow is more challenging than it seems. If it's too simple, they'll grow bored. If it's too unwieldy, they'll give up in frustration. Strike the right balance, however, and you'll strike gold. In our meeting on April 11, two-time Emmy winner Sandy McKay-Swerdlove will guide us through the art of edutainment.

For the past forty years, Sandy has built a world-class career around an area known as edutainment. This mixture of education and entertainment is ubiquitous in the world of children's television, particularly in animation. It is also found in most books written for children and in many electronic games. There is an art to disguising education within entertainment, be it cognitive skills, social skills, or even fine motor skills. Sandy will shed light on this coveted art, which she has thoroughly mastered.

Sandy is a two-time Emmy and three-time Humanitas award-winning animation writer specializing in edutainment and preschool projects. She began her writing career on the popular CBS television series *Jim Henson's Muppet Babies*, for

which she won an Emmy. She has since written and worked in development for nearly every major animation studio including Disney Studios, Warner Bros., Universal, Film Roman, Sony, Columbia/TriStar, MGM, and Apple TV.

Sandy developed and story-edited the PBS series *Clifford The Big Red Dog*, nominated for an Emmy Award for two years running and winner of a Humanitas Prize for writing in 2001. She also developed the internationally successful series *Jakers! The Adventures of Piggley Winks*, which won the Emmy for Best Animated Children's Program in 2006.

Along with her animation work, Sandy has written over fifty children's books for the educational *We Both Read* book series published by Treasure Bay and used in elementary schools across the U.S. She is currently writing on the Apple TV animated series *Stillwater*, based on John J Muth's award winning Zen books.

Sandy McKay-Swerdlove
"The Art of Edutainment"

When: April 11, 2022

Where: Zoom Online Platform (link forthcoming)

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BETWEEN THE LINES



We're thrilled at the response to the new participation system. Sixty-four people paid for the February meeting. Thirty-five were members who paid for the entire year, including two nonmembers who paid the higher price for the entire year. Nineteen members paid for a single meeting, and 11 nonmembers paid the higher admittance of \$10 for one meeting.

Between the speaker's stipends, Constant Contact, WritersTalk, Meetup, website, and occasional fees, our monthly expenses average \$400. So after 22 months and the treasury dropping \$7,000, receiving \$1,555 had the board breathing a sigh of relief. Of course, we won't receive that amount every month.

SBW has not always had a balanced budget. I recall when I first attended a meeting in 1998, the club met at Mariani's Restaurant in Santa Clara. Reservations were required in advance. Unfortunately, there were always no-shows that the club was obligated to cover. Eventually, our branch moved to Hometown Buffet. But still there were financial strains. Our generous treasurer at the time, Susan Mueller, would quietly cover the bill without mentioning it.

However, once our PR improved, it drew more interest, increased our membership, and the treasury grew. The internet became a factor too. One of the members, David O'Neill, volunteered to set up a free website. I started an email list—which eventually grew to 700. Four East of Eden Writing Conferences helped tremendously too. Susan was delighted.

Having grown up economically strapped, I remember collecting pop bottles for movie money, and wearing hand-me-downs from mysterious places. Consequently, I've always been money conscious. I don't mind paying bills—as long as I have the capital.

In 2017, when I was re-elected to the executive board, the treasury was in disarray. SBW had capital, but the monthly expenses were a mystery. It took three months

The Times They Are A-Changin'

by Edie Matthews, SBWC President

to unravel our finances. Finally, thanks to Trenton and other board members, we figured out how much money SBW needed to cover costs.

In addition, the mailing list had not been maintained and membership had dropped. Thanks to Tatyana's diligence, our PR Chair, the email list is now over 400.

Once a year, the treasury was boosted by weekend workshops. Even after providing breakfast, lunch, and paying the facilitator, we'd earn \$300-\$500 profit.

Recently, our budget was of little concern until the previous WritersTalk editor increased the size of the newsletter from 16 to 32-pages. During normal times, this would not have been an issue, but with no regular funds coming in, it became one and highlighted our decreasing funds.

We needed to change. First, we cut some expenses, and figured out a system to charge for ZOOM meetings—like other branches were doing. Once again, due to the talent and dedication of our board members, particularly Trenton, Tatyana, and Inga (membership chair), we're off to a good start.

Now that COVID has eased, we'd still like to find a venue where we can meet in person. But dinner meetings are pricey. Not to mention, some folks have expressed a preference for ZOOM. Ideally, it would be nice to offer both options. This would be possible, but we'll need a few more fabulous volunteers.



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

www.southbaywriters.com

SBW Officers

President—Edie Matthews pres@southbaywriters.com
Vice President—Jamal Khan vp@southbaywriters.com
Secretary—Chris Weilert secretary@southbaywriters.com
Treasurer—Trenton Myers treasurer@southbaywriters.com
Member-at-Large 1—Tatyana Grinenko member-at-large-1@southbaywriters.com
Member-at-Large 2—Alfred Jan member-at-large-2@southbaywriters.com
SBW Representatives Central Board—Bill Baldwin
WABaldwin@aol.com
NorCal—Bill Baldwin WABaldwin@aol.com

SBW Committee Chairs

Bylaws/Policy&Procedures—vacant
Facebook Admin—Carolyn Donnell cdonnelltx@yahoo.com
Hospitality—vacant
Membership—Inga Silva ingasbwmembership@gmail.com
Member News—Marjorie Johnson
membernews@southbaywriters.com
MRMS Admin— Marjorie Johnson
mrms@southbaywriters.com
Newsletter—Gerri Forté gerriforte@outlook.com
Programs, Workshops—Jamal Khan vp@southbaywriters.com
Publicity and Public Relations—Tatyana Grinenko
pr@southbaywriters.com
Web Master—vacant webmaster@southbaywriters.com
Web Editor—Tatyana Grinenko
webeditor@southbaywriters.com

SBW Events

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin WABaldwin@aol.com

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

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CWC South Bay Branch

WRITERSTALK – MANAGING EDITOR

Geraldine C. Forté (aka Gerri)



April is National Autism Awareness Month.



A time to promote a better understanding of autism and to bring people together to offer better support for those living on the autism spectrum and their families.

“Can someone with autism or Asperger be a good writer and not be too boring?” Yes, they can. Many autistic people are far better at writing than talking. The best of writing is actually more like autistic speech than it is like the garble that passes as neurotypical conversation.

Some of our most prolific writers have or had autism. Let us not forget the literary contributions that have been made by these authors, and the contributions that can be made by other autistic individuals with societal compassion and support.

Famous Authors With Autism

Data from appliedbehavioranalysisprograms.com

Dan Akroyd
Emily Dickinson
Daryl Hannah
President Andrew Jackson
Stanley Kubric
Virginia Woolf-Prolific

WRITING TIPS FROM JOHN STEINBECK

Provided by Marty Sorensen



1. Abandon the idea that you are ever going to finish. Lose track of the 400 pages and write just one page for each day, it helps. Then when it gets finished, you are always surprised.

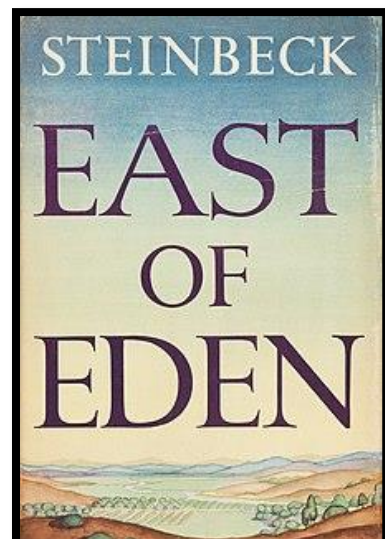
2. Write freely and as rapidly as possible and throw the whole thing on paper. Never correct or rewrite until the whole thing is down. Rewrite in process is usually found to be an excuse for not going on. It also interferes with flow and rhythm which can only come from a kind of unconscious association with the material.

3. Forget your generalized audience. In the first place, the nameless, faceless audience will scare you to death and in the second place, unlike the theater, it doesn't exist. In writing, your audience is one single reader. I have found that sometimes it helps to pick out one person—a real person you know, or an imagined person and write to that one.

4. If a scene or a section gets the better of you and you still think you want it—bypass it and go on. When you have finished the whole, you can come back to it and then you may find that the reason it gave trouble is because it didn't belong there.

5. Beware of a scene that becomes too dear to you, dearer than the rest. It will usually be found that it is out of drawing.

6. If you are using dialogue—say it aloud as you write it. Only then will it have the sound of speech



VIEW FROM THE BOARD

The South Bay Writers Board met at 7 p.m. on March 9th. SBW Board members are listed on page 3 of *WritersTalk* with their emails.,

Meeting began 7:10 PM.

Approved the previous meeting's minutes.

Edie Matthews, President

We received good feedback from previous speaker, Elizabeth Kracht, who stated the level of interest and enthusiasm was great.

Congratulations to Gerri Forté for a successful newsletter. She has taken over as Managing Editor of *WritersTalk*.

Search continues for a new meeting site once the group moves from Zoom

Jamal Khan, VP

April speaker: Cindy McKay-Swerdlove, "Writing for Younger Readers" May speaker: Joan Gelfand, "You Can BE an a Winning Writer." Zoom Platform

Marjorie Johnson, MRMS

Has taken over the MRMS. Noted the need for more member news.

Trenton Myers, Treasurer

We have experienced a 5.5% increase in funds since January. Regarding meetings registration, here is where we stand on pre-payments (68% by PayPal):

- 32 members prepaid for the **year**
- 2 non-members prepaid for the **year**
- 19 members paid for **one meeting**
- 11 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 – note the Zoom emails go out when they make the PayPal payment as well.

- 4 Email reminders in total (including 15 minutes before meeting) -- focusing on reminding that the meeting is on Tuesday

- Twitter Post scheduled for Thursday

Email: Our Constant Contact list is growing: 525 Contacts total as of today, of which 428 are subscribed Contacts.

Members 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. Willow Glenn Library will soon be opening its doors to host our Open Mics. It may start as a hybrid with a Zoom alternative. 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. The venue has yet to be determined

Carolyn Donnell. Facebook: Nothing new. 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. It also includes comics.

Inga Silva. Membership: As of January 31, 113 members. The numbers are as follows: Active members 57, Associate 48, Supporting 4, Student 3, & 1 lifetime member. One new member joined on March 3rd.

Meeting ended 8:20 PM. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, April 6th on Zoom. Next speaker meeting: April 11, 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

Minutes by Chris Weilert, SBW Sec

CHRIS VOGLER SCHEDULED FOR FREE ZOOM PRESENTATION ON APRIL 26™

THE ARCHETYPES OF CHARACTER: A Guide to the Eight Major Functions

As a follow-up of his December 21, 2021, zoom session on the Hero's Journey, internationally famous author and teacher, Christopher Vogler, will discuss characters. Vogler is author of *The Hero's Journey* and is a renowned writing consultant.



The creation of lifelike, multi-layered and compelling characters is among the most challenging skills a writer must master. The concept of psychological archetypes offers one key to understanding the jobs that characters must do in order to move a story along. All of us, and all the characters we create in our stories, have the inner potential to express many different identities and ways of operating in the world. The eight major archetypes as identified by story analyst Christopher Vogler in *The Hero's Journey* represent the

essential functions that drive an entertaining plot and allow our characters to bring forth different levels of their being. The archetypes are a useful set of tools in the writer's arsenal of techniques, and can make your stories and characters more human, believable and compelling to the reader. In this presentation, Vogler will outline the archetypes and how they work, and will share his recent discoveries about human character from Greek and Roman myths.

This Zoom presentation is to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6 pm. There is no charge to attend this zoom meeting sponsored by the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club. CWC presidents will be notified of the zoom access information for distribution to their branch members for this event.

For those who missed Vogler's December presentation on The Hero's Journey, it may be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Af_9f8u1P0&list=PL8b8cfBzkHVJRdF0NWzl4VsmCSR7Trz-I&index=8

OFF THE SHELF

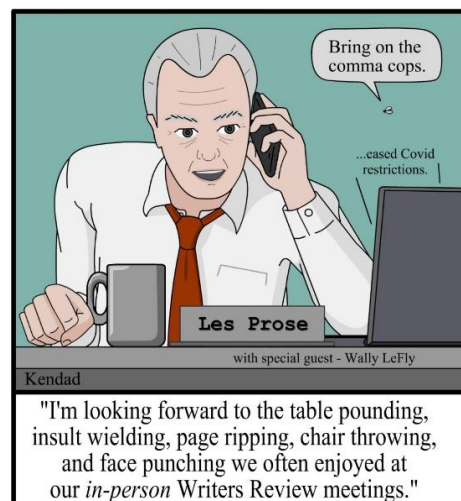
Edie Matthews



"It feels to me like Colonel Kilgore is the culprit."

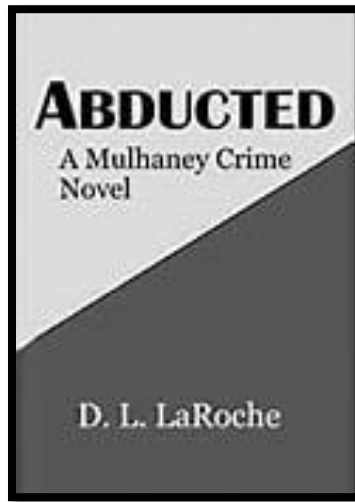
LES PROSE

Ken Roberge



MEMBER NEWS

Dave LaRoche: I am pleased to announce the publication of my third book, *Abducted: A Mulhaney Crime Novel*. Those who have read *What Price Charlie's Soul* will recognize the principal character, now some twenty years older but still on the upward climb.

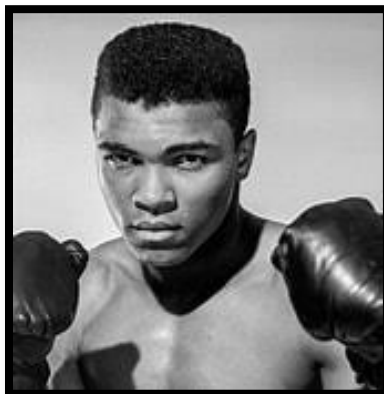


While turning to the primary challenge, Charlie continues to battle the foibles, misdirection, and mysteries we all face with experience. Still, while most of us seem able to shelve or dismiss them entirely, he is compelled to resolve face-on. And like most who so advance, he finds the conflict seldom as satisfying as promised—often the answer posing several more problems. Fortunately, his good friend, Basil Hayden, abides with the convenient tumbler, and with a cooling cube, can mitigate the most troubling situation.

Should you wish to further engage, the new book, along with my others, can be found on Amazon.

Research Gate reported that 66 people have read the full text of the article, “Hexaflexagons: A Mathematical Ramble,” by **Marjorie Bicknell Johnson**.

Audry Lynch is still writing. A published interview with Cassius Clay written by Audry Lynch in 1965 was published again on December 28, 2021 in the *Daily Times Chronicle, Burlington Times*. Her article “Lynch Spent the Week-End with The Greatest!” has a link to homenewshere.com, a website deemed “not secure” by my browser. One caption appearing there: “This is Cassius Clay’s latest verse which he reeled off to me over iced teas in the coffee shop at the Schine Inn in Chicopee [Maine] last Saturday afternoon.”





MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

Contest Rules

Write an 85-word (or less) tribute to your mother, grandmother, aunt, or the person you regard as a parental guide in your childhood. It can be prose or poetry.

Yes, there will be prizes!

You **MUST** be a member of South Bay Writers (or dual member) to be eligible to submit to the contest. If you're not already, now's a good time to join! Contest deadline:

April 15, 2022. Email entry to: pres@southbaywriters.com

Below are three examples, including a humorous one.

1. To the world you were one person, but to me you were the world. You didn't have much, but we always felt like we had everything. You didn't leave millions in your bank account, but you left a legacy worth much more.
2. Mothers are everything for us when we are small...our lives revolve around her. For everything that we need we call mother. To protect us from all perceivable dangers we want her around us. To take us out we hold her arms. To kiss away our wounds we run to her. And for a warm hug and love we look for her. She is the focal point of our lives, the greatest human being in the world or should we say divinity on earth
3. My mother Renay was great at: dyeing her red roots, weekly manicures, dirty jokes, pier fishing, rolling joints and buying dirty magazines. In the 1980s, she ranked 11th or 12th among U.S. female cribbage players. She came up with the name of the gas company Sunoco. And in the 1960s, she had an affair with Larry King. Of course, it's also important to note that Renay lied a lot.

MARCH SPEAKER RECAP



Erik Witchey

By Bill Baldwin

Driving back this week from southern California, enjoying an audiobook, I recite favorite sections, emote, laugh—and wipe the tears from my eyes...

And think about Eric Witchey, our March South Bay Writers speaker.

Though officially dealing with Fantasy, Witchey shared his wisdom on writing in general, particularly fiction writing.

At one time fantasy, science fiction, and children's literature was not considered "literature," not given the respect it earned later. Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, Lewis Carroll, J. M. Barrie, Edgar Rice Burroughs; *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *Tarzan of the Apes*, *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *the Wizard of Oz*. These were accepted—but not as "real" fiction. Some of us remember when movies such as *Girls From Mars* and *Days of the Triffids*, not to mention comic books—even those introducing Superman or Spiderman—were referenced with a polite smile; and, if your school teacher was speaking, a suggestion that you might want to aspire to something "more serious."

Only with J. R. R. Tolkien did Fantasy come in to its own.

Witchey outlined this historical background, including the role of Magical Realism and the regional influences that made the United States a little different in its attitudes, then continued with some thoughtful guidelines on fiction writing in general.

Major Observation: *Affect the reader's emotions!* Witchey's background is Theoretical Linguistics. He has thought a lot about the nature of story: the way a character and a character's emotions interact with challenges and situations.

Fantasy involves unusual environments, heightened dangers—just the environment to pump up emotions and keep characters (and readers) on edge and engaged. Emotions—and *changes* in emotions—are what keep a reader involved.

This is how the brain works. And the writer arranges words to build images that create emotions. Plot events exist only to challenge and change the characters.

Write fast, then go back and sort out story you want to tell. Where does conflict fit in?

Think in terms of *EDACE*: Emotion leads to Decision leads to Action leads to Conflict leads to Emotion. Repeat! Repeat!! Repeat!!! Repeat!!!! Repeat!!!!! Always focus on *Character*. Identity Crisis is central. Make your story *internally consistent* and *character-based*.

I spent two hours in Los Angeles traffic this week so that I could spend another hour and a half searching for a favorite dead author's house in Santa Monica. Then, on the way back to Silicon Valley, I sobbed listening to an audiobook by another favorite author.

Emotions. Emotions keep us reading! Learn from Eric Witchey. Keep emotions front-center. Create your stories—and your Readership!

Collage of March Meeting Participants



OHER CWC BRANCH NEWS

Through June, the **Marin Branch** is offering our meetings **free to members of any branch** and only \$5 for non-members. Please help us spread the word. Here's our upcoming lineup.

- 3/23 Jen Graybeal - What Writers Can Learn from Marvel and Pixar
- 4/27 Stephanie Chandler - Build Your Book Marketing Plan: Simple Strategies to Sell More Books
- 5/25 Jordan Rosenfeld - Writing the Intimate Character
- 6/22 Mary Buckham - Writing Active Hooks: or How Many Hooks Are Enough?

More info at cwcmarin.com/events

MEMBER COMPOSITIONS

Writing From Within the Bubble

By Marjorie Johnson

April 2022 is National Autism Awareness Month.

The first time I heard the word *autism*, I was a high school student working as a nanny for ten weeks during summer vacation while the children's mother attended classes on "The Autistic Child" at Sacramento State, 65 miles distant. She wanted to add special education to her teaching credential. She said that autistic children lacked social skills and could not relate to people; they often acted out in the classroom, sometimes with a temper tantrum.

I looked up autism in my thirteen-pound unabridged dictionary, purchased with my babysitting money in 1952. *Autism*: "tending to view life in terms of one's own needs or desires, as by fantasies unmindful of objective reality." Sounded like every two-year-old I knew. Did enough children not outgrow the "terrible two's" to warrant special teachers?

The second time I heard *autism*, my neighbor was discussing her difficult child. John would stick to a repetitive task, such as filling a cup with water at the kitchen sink, pouring it out, and then refilling—for hours. Any attempt to divert him resulted in a temper tantrum. He didn't want to be touched or to make conversation, and strangers scared him. He went to a school for children with special needs. She said, "It's like he lives in a bubble."

My husband Frank took John for a ride in our Mooney airplane. Of course, John's father came along; an unpredictable child would be a danger in the cockpit. John spent the whole time screaming.

After that, every time I saw John outside, I said, "Hello, John. How are you today?" He always answered, "I went for a ride in Mr. Johnson's airplane," followed by covering his mouth with one hand and looking away and down. If I asked, "Did you have fun?" he ran home—the same behavior for fifteen years.

My current dictionary has added "*term from psychology*" to the definition of autism. Autistics focus inward and exclude the outside world. Psychiatrists say that autism is the fastest growing

developmental disability. They have studied the condition for a hundred years, but no one is sure of the cause or the treatment.

Some autistic children are geniuses in one area, such as mathematics or music: the *idiot savant*, such as Raymond in the film *Rain Man*.

My friend Google lists Paul Erdős (pronounced air-dish) among the ten top mathematicians in the world, so prolific and famous that the Erdős number gives the "collaborative distance" to connect the author of a paper to him. An author's Erdős number is 1 if he has co-authored a paper with Erdős, 2 if he has co-authored a paper with someone who has co-authored a paper with Erdős, etc. My Erdős number is 2. I had the remarkable experience of meeting Erdős when he spent a month with my San Jose State mathematics thesis advisor.

So back to autistic: Erdős certainly was. Mathematics was his passion and the only thing he cared about. He needed help tying his shoes and wore silk underwear because he couldn't stand the feel of any other fiber next to his skin. He had no family and didn't live anywhere, hopping around the world to work with other mathematicians, carrying only one small suitcase. When we were introduced, I said, "It's a pleasure to meet you." He said, and I quote, "Oh."

What would it be like to be autistic? Notice that I asked you—I don't have an answer. But I read a book that gives as good a look as you'll ever get at how an autistic child thinks.

For a look at autism from within the bubble, I recommend *the curious incident of the dog in the night-time*, a national best-selling novel (2005) by Mark Haddon. The book is original, humorous and affecting, a triumph of empathy. The title is set in lower-case letters and chapter numbers are successive primes because Christopher, a fifteen-year-old autistic boy, tells the story in his coming-of-age journal. He shows us what life is like for an autistic boy who attends a special school and who is gifted in mathematics. Christopher overcomes his handicap to solve a murder mystery using what he has watched on television. Telling you more would ruin the charm of the story.

Fashion Crisis



By Chris Weilert

Who cares anymore? The fashion police have lost the battle, and now the inmates are running the joint. You can now wear anything to anyplace and any sight of a dress code has been torn down. All signs of good taste have been discarded for freedom of expression and the real root cause, laziness. Who wants to bother with such foolishness of dressing to impress?

The saying, "clothes make the man" meaning appearances count for a lot. A similar expression was current among the ancient Greeks: 'The garment makes the man.' In the form 'apparel makes the man' the idea turned up in England as early as the 16th century. A century later it was sometimes put as 'the tailor makes the man.' Another source points out that a similar phrase was used by William Shakespeare in "Hamlet." Clothes maketh the man.

I've been to sporting events where the only dress requirement is underwear. When grown men paint their bare-chested bodies then get staggering drunk while thinking they affect the game, we as a society are descending. Have you ever gone to a gambling casino then found yourself in the nickel slot area and wondered why people would wear their

pajamas with cowboy boots? Have you ever been to any coffee shop at 2 am? How about a fast-food joint on a Sunday night? These folks throw on whatever clothes are lying about, no matter how uncolored coordinated and wrinkled they are.

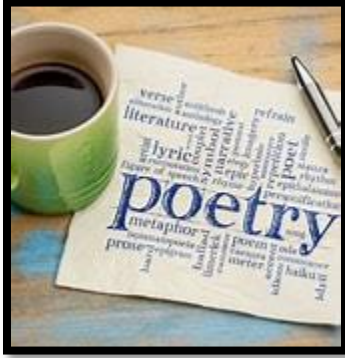
I found myself in a Walmart not long ago when I had to take a double look at what I caught in the corner of my eye. No, it wasn't the twelve-foot inflatable Santa Claus available for purchase but an individual and the outfit they wore. The young man had a shaved head except for a foot-high spiked mohawk dyed purple. Instead of shock, I was impressed with the attention to detail, but the supporting assemble of clothing was not a good match. Who wears silver spandex pants and snow boots with purple hair? Over the years, seeing the way people dress in public is not as shocking as it once was. I am no longer disturbed by seeing old men wear black socks and sandals with high-waisted Bermuda shorts.

I have my battles with my wife about style and fashion sense. I see nothing wrong with wearing green pants with a green shirt. The one combination that sends her over the edge is beige on beige. I find beige the most politically correct color and can be worn for any occasion. In addition, sweatpants should be considered everyday clothes no different than women who wear nothing but black stretchy pants. Tee shirts should never be retired until large holes distract from the important messages they are displaying. I'm trying to meet her halfway about my wardrobe choices. I even agreed not to wear the clothes that had been lying on the floor for a few days. These are small steps for me, and someday I might even tuck in my shirt.

While clothes offer clues about the man who wears them, the real measure of a man is his manner of etiquette. In a culture of cargo shorts, casual Friday, and cursing in mixed company, don't be tempted to give short shrift to manners that make a gentleman. Manners...now there is a whole other subject to delve into but right now I'm folding my wife's laundry.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

National Poetry Month, April, is a marvelous opportunity to celebrate the expressiveness, delight, and pure charm of poetry. It is a special occasion that reminds us of the integral role of poets and poetry in our cultures. Poetry helps us appreciate the world around us and empathize with one another. Typically, we think of poetry as boring and nerdy but this month allows us to change our perspectives and look upon poetry as a rhythmic art of expressing one's love and thoughts.



The success of Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March led to the initiation of National Poetry Month in April by the Academy of American Poets. The first-ever National Poetry Month was celebrated in 1996, but the history of poetry itself goes back to about thousands of years ago.

- Dating back to 2100 B.C., the “Epic of Gilgamesh” is cited as the first-ever written piece of poetry, which tells an epic tale of a hero in ancient Mesopotamia.
- Storytelling about history was quite popular until the 20th century but is rarely used nowadays. Ballads were a common way of capturing history during the Middle Ages. They were also used to announce news to kingdoms. An ode was a lyrical poem that glorified an event or person. It was also used in the past to tell stories about victories.
- Aristotle described three genres of poetry: epic, comic, and tragic. This paved the way

for poetry to flourish throughout Europe and the Middle East. However, these three genres were changed by aestheticians to epic, lyric, and dramatic. The genres of comic and tragic identified by Aristotle were combined into subcategories of the dramatic.

- Modern Western poetry comprises various forms and genres from different cultures and pasts.

Five Types of Poetry

1. Haiku — the shortest poem
The haiku originated in Japan and is the shortest poem containing only 17 syllables.
2. “Mahabharata” — the longest poem
Containing around 1.8 million words, “Mahabharata” is the longest poem that originated in India.
3. Rap as poetry
Rap is also considered a form of poetry comprising synchronized verses.
4. The earliest type of poetry
The epic is the earliest type of poetry that consists of a rhythmic narration of the heroic actions of someone.
5. Written language as poetry
During early times, written language was considered poetry and was recited and sung to help people remember laws, history, etc.

POETRY 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 and any new stories, poems, articles, etc. to 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/

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.*

CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS:

BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL Main festival dates are May 7 & 8, but they are also offering some special events before and after the main dates. A full in-person festival in Berkeley with some of the events available for streaming. Festival tickets and passes go on sales April 8th, which is also the day they release a full schedule. Submissions for on-stage programs have closed for 2022, but authors can exhibit in the Outdoor Fair in our Authors Pavilion. <https://www.baybookfest.org/2022festival/>

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. 2nd and 3rd-\$300 & \$200 respectively, as well as publication. See details at <https://www.palettepoetry.com/current-contest/>

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

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/

OTHER RESOURCES (* = On both the Internet and Facebook.)

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

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/

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/

Poets & Writers Lists poetry and other contests. https://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines_43 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-2 issues per year. **Published** and unpublished. www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/

Everywriter-The Best Poetry Prizes. List of poetry prizes and competitions. 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 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/>

- Button Poetry chapbook contest, prize of \$500 and publication

Sites with a poem a day prompt:

- <https://www.napowrimo.net/>
- <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/poetry-prompts/april-pad-challenge>
- <https://trishhopkinson.com/2021/04/02/april-is-national-poetry-month-napomo-prompts-galore-other-ways-you-can-participate-3/>
- <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>

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/

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 Percolator 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.



APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 1 st	Open Mic via ZOOM 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Contact William Baldwin (wabaldwin@aol.com)	April 11 th	April Speaker Meeting 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. ZOOM login info will be sent to all who are registered to participate in the SBWC Speaker Meetings
April 4 th	Morgan Hill Critique Group 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray (morganhillwriters@gmail.com)	April 15 th	Open Mic Hybrid @ Willow Glen Library 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Contact William Baldwin (wabaldwin@aol.com)
April 6 th	SBW Board Meeting 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Contact Edie Matthews pres@southbaywriters.com	April 25 th	Morgan Hill Critique Group 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray (morganhillwriters@gmail.com)
April 11 th	Morgan Hill Critique Group 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Contact Vanessa MacLaren Wray (morganhillwriters@gmail.com)		



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

MAIL TO:

South Bay Writers
April 11, 2022 Meeting
Monday, 7 pm

Sindy McKay-Swerdlove, “Writing for Younger Readers”

