



WRITERS TALK



South Bay Writers Club

Newsletter

May 2022



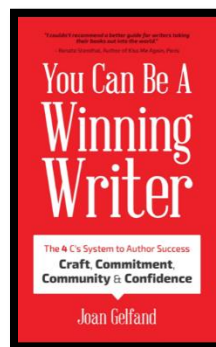
"You Can Be a Winning Writer"
Joan Gelfand

By Jamal Khan

Craft. Commitment. Community. Confidence. Winning writers draw upon all four. Praised as "the clearest roadmap to success," the four Cs system has yielded spectacular results for CEOs and doctors, college professors and MFAs, playwrights, and poets. For over ten years, Joan Gelfand has presented the four Cs at conferences and book festivals, libraries and college lecture halls, igniting enthusiasm within writers from all walks of life

From the first draft to a marketable piece, the four Cs system explores the writer's inner and outer worlds, making the argument for community as a key element to becoming a winning writer. Advice on building a fan base is followed by "Confidence," a frank exploration of the blocks that keep manuscripts locked in the drawer. With a splash of humor, a dose of empathy, and real-world anecdotes, the four Cs system will inspire and encourage writers at any stage of their career. At our

May Zoom meeting, Joan will share the actionable aspects of the system with us.



Joan Gelfand's reviews, stories, and poetry have appeared in over 100 national and international literary journals and magazines including *Tattle*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Kalliope*, *California Quarterly*, *the Toronto Review*, *Marsh Hawk Review* and *Levure Litteraire*. Joan has been a featured reader at numerous venues in the United States and

Mexico, including Bowery Poetry Club, the Southern Festival of Books, The Public Library of New York, and Litquake. She is the Development Chair of the Women's National Book Association, a member of the National Book Critics Circle, and a juror for the Northern California Book Awards. Joan blogs for the *Huffington Post* and coaches writers.

Joan Gelfand

"You Can Be a Winning Writer"

When: May 9, 2022 at 7 pm

Where: Zoom Online Platform ([link forthcoming](#))

Inside

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BETWEEN THE LINES



A writer has the obligation to be nosy—or if you prefer, curious. This is also true of reporters.

They need to listen and ask prying questions.

Of course, there are tactful ways of doing this. I recall being part of a news crew covering a fire. The homeowner was a city councilman involved in a scandal. The media was asked under the circumstances not to harass him.

“I need a sound bite,” wailed our reporter.

When the councilman passed nearby, I called out, “I’m so sorry about your home.” He came towards us and made a statement.

“Thanks,” said the reporter afterwards. “That was good thinking.”

When I became a journalism major, this legitimized my curiosity. I’d often say, “As a journalist, I need to be informed.” Once I dragged my husband to a fund raiser at San Jose State University that showed excerpts from ten different porno films. I rationalized, I needed to be aware of what was going on in the world. Most of the scenes were as you might expect—tacky. One silly film played stripper music while peeling an orange. On the way home my husband said, “That old man should have kept his clothes on”.

A novelist is like a journalist. Everyone you encounter is fodder for your writing.

One advantage is when you see someone being a jerk, mentally take a step back and try to unravel why the person is behaving so surly. Is he or she worried, ill, feeling unloved, stressed from work, or in a poor relationship? Is their dialogue memorable? What do they look like? How are they dressed?

Permission to Eavesdrop

by Edie Matthews, SBWC President

Once I was writing a story that had a despicable female character in it. I still hadn’t decided on her appearance. A few days later in a writing class, one of the students obliterated my story. When someone is so critical, it’s probably not your writing; the criticism stems from some personal experience they associate with the work. Since there were no suggestions, I ignored her comments. But suddenly, I knew what my despicable character looked like.

That’s the beauty of being a writer. No one knows when you’ve removed yourself from a situation and you are mentally dissecting them.



The same is true when you overhear a conversation. This past weekend, I was in the ER for 8½ hours. (Nothing that serious.) At one point I was laying on a gurney waiting, waiting, waiting and overheard the conversation from a nearby room.

“How much did you drink today?” the nurse asked a rambunctious patient. No reply. A few minutes later, “So how much did you have to drink today?” No reply. The nurse tried again a bit later, “How much did you drink today?” Still no answer.

I wanted to go down the hall, get a look at the patient and say, “Answer the question. How much?” Maybe she needed a little prompting? “Was it wine, whiskey, beer, tequila or a combination? I prefer champagne myself.”

I never did hear the answer, but there was something powerful about the repetition of the same question. I’ll store that away for the right scene.

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
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Web Master—vacant webmaster@southbaywriters.com
Web Editor—Tatyana Grinenko
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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)



National Arthritis Awareness Month

May is recognized each year as National Arthritis Awareness Month. Arthritis is a disease that impacts more than 50 million Americans, making it the number one cause of disability in the country. That means 1 in every 5 adults, 300,000 children and countless families are affected by arthritis. These numbers are only going to keep growing—unless we take a stand.

The Arthritis Foundation is leading the way to conquer arthritis and its effects through advocacy efforts at the state level and on Capitol Hill, cutting-edge scientific research, and tools and resources that help you live your best life.

I am one of the 50 million Americans who suffer with Arthritis, and I acknowledge that the first steps



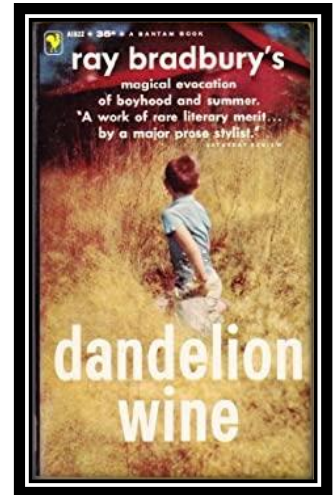
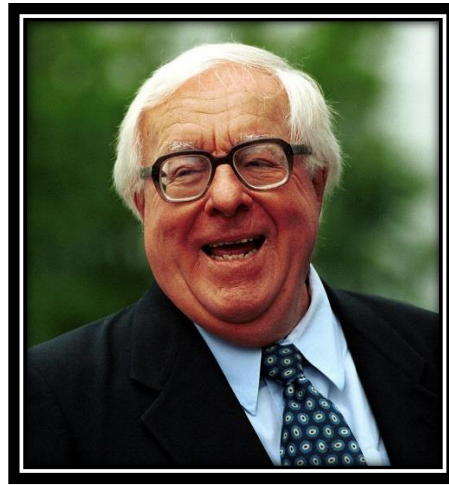
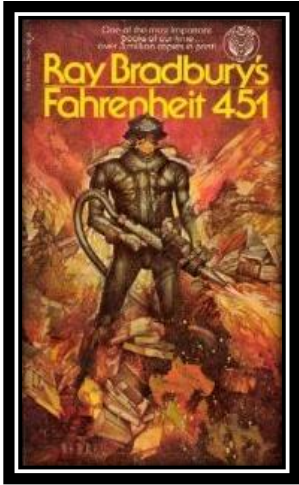
in conquering arthritis are learning the facts, understanding the condition and knowing that help is by your side.

Please join me in cheering for the Arthritis Foundation and the superb work being done to assist the victims of this *debilitating but not defeating* disease.

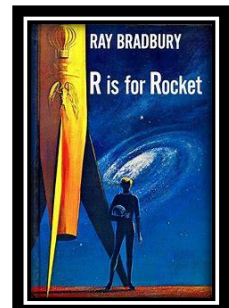
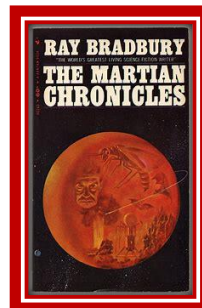
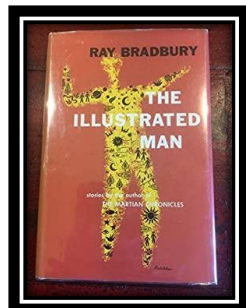
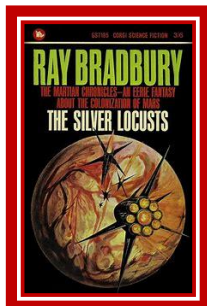
Hip, Hip, Hooray!

WRITING TIPS FROM RAY BRADBURY

Provided by Marty Sorensen



- **Don't start out writing novels.** They take too long. Begin your writing life instead by cranking out “a hell of a lot of short stories,” as many as one per week. Take a year to do it; he claims that it simply isn't possible to write 52 bad short stories in a row. He waited until the age of 30 to write his first novel, *Fahrenheit 451*. “Worth waiting for, huh?”
- **You may love 'em, but you can't be 'em.** Bear that in mind when you inevitably attempt, consciously or unconsciously, to imitate your favorite writers, just as he imitated H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, Arthur Conan Doyle, and L. Frank Baum.
- **Examine “quality” short stories.** He suggests Roald Dahl, Guy de Maupassant, and the lesser-known Nigel Kneale and John Collier. Anything in the *New Yorker* today doesn't make his cut, since he finds that their stories have “no metaphor.”
- **Stuff your head.** To accumulate the intellectual building blocks of these metaphors, he suggests a course of bedtime reading: one short story, one poem (but Pope, Shakespeare, and Frost, not modern “crap”), and one essay. These essays should come from a diversity of fields, including archaeology, zoology, biology, philosophy, politics, and literature. “At the end of a thousand nights,” so he sums it up, “Jesus God, you'll be full of stuff!”



VIEW FROM THE BOARD

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7 p.m. on April 6th. SBW Board members are listed on page 2 of *WritersTalk* with their emails.

Meeting began 7:05 PM.

Approved the previous meeting's minutes.

Edie Matthews, President

For the Mother's Day theme writing contest, \$50 was approved for the first prize winner, runners up will receive a Barnes & Noble gift card.

Open for suggestions for future speakers.

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

Recordings of meeting and speakers and accessibility is under review

Pleased with the quality of the newsletter that is overseen by our new editor Gerri Forte.

Marge Johnson, MRMS

Always looking for more member news. Also brought up the subject of the sharing of other CWC clubs' information for publication in the newsletter

Trenton Myers, Treasurer

We have experienced a 1% in funds since March

Tatyana Grinenko, PR and Web Editor

April Speaker promotion:

- 4 Email reminders in total (including 15 minutes before meeting) -- focusing on reminding that the meeting is on Monday
- Twitter Post scheduled for Thursday

WritersTalk:

- 2 reminders to go out: April 14th and 15th
- **Email:** Our Constant Contact list is growing: 532 Contacts total as of today

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. March 18th Open Mic was our first hybrid event. Thanks to Vanessa. Our next Open Mic is on April 22nd, also a planned hybrid event.

Recent Open Mic stats:

February 18th – 6 readers, 7 readings

March 4th – 8 readers, 11 readings

April 1st – 8 readers, 12 readings

Attend this popular venue by contacting Bill Baldwin at WABaldwin@aol.com Bill has requested an alias email address.

Central Board: A Central Board meeting is planned for Saturday, April 23rd. The group will be discussing possible changes in CWC membership categories (elimination of "Associate" category.)

NorCal: Next meeting is coming up on April 16th.

Bay Area Book Fair is scheduled for May 7-8 in Berkeley.

The San Francisco Writers Conference is scheduled for July 21-24. Information on two passes per branch (one screenwriter and one poetry track) has been sent out. The new deadline for providing names is June 15, 2022. CWC will have a booth. CWC will also have a panel on 7/24. We are looking for volunteers. Travel and accommodations are not provided.

Carolyn Donnell. Facebook: Nothing new. Our website is still blocked by Facebook

Inga Silva. Membership: As of March, 114 members. The numbers are as follows: Active members 58, Associate 48, Supporting 4, Student 3, & 1 lifetime member. One membership began in April.

Alfred Jan. Member-at-Large: Suggested Denny's in Santa Clara as a possible venue for our monthly club meetings. The restaurant has a separate room that is set up for meetings. To be reviewed

Meeting ended 8:10 PM. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, May 4th on Zoom. Next speaker meeting: May 9th 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

Submitted by Chris Weilert

OFF THE SHELF

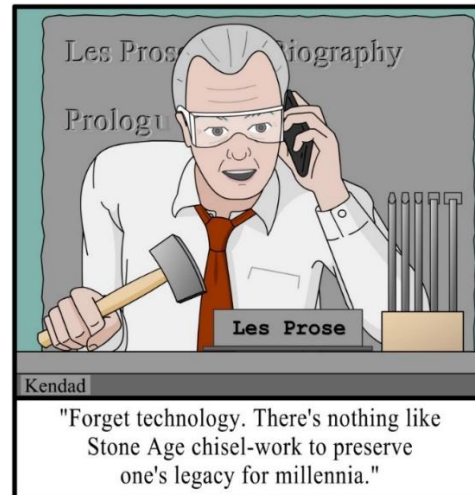
Edie Matthews



"No, I'm fine, my computer has the virus."

LES PROSE

Ken Roberge



MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| May 4 th | SBW Board Meeting
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Contact Edie Matthews pres@southbaywriters.com |
| May 6 th | Open Mic via ZOOM
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Contact William Baldwin (wabaldwin@aol.com) |
| May 9 th | May 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 |
| May 20 th | Open Mic Hybrid @ Willow Glen Library
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Contact William Baldwin (wabaldwin@aol.com) |

FROM EDITOR CWC STATE BULLETIN

Submitted by Marjorie Johnson

Joyce Krieg, Editor of the statewide California Writers Club *Bulletin*, is proud of the new look and feel and has asked the Branch Presidents and Newsletter Editors to promote the new format. If you missed the bulletin in your email last month, here's how to access it.

Go to calwriters.org Click on "Publications" on the top navigation bar. Choose "Bulletin" from the pull-down menu. Click on the cover of the latest issue and it will open or download. The direct link is <https://calwriters.org/bulletin/#current>

There are two ways members can directly participate in and benefit from *The Bulletin*.

1. If you have recently published a book, short story, poem, or article, or won a literary contest, share the good news! Send a notice of 50 words or less, plus book cover in JPEG format, to editor@calwriters.org.

2. We're always looking for articles on writing craft, publication and marketing. If you have expertise in these areas and would like to contribute an article, have them contact me with a brief proposal at editor@calwriters.org.

The next issue will come out on June 15. Deadline is June 1.

The Bulletin is a valuable member benefit—now more than ever. If you've had a chance to look at the latest issue, I think you'll agree it's packed with information our members can actually use, and the design is clean and easy to navigate. It would be a shame if our members missed it because it landed in their spam folder.

While you're on our website, note the contact information for all 22 CWC Branches. Check their websites for information on programs available to all members of CWC

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB MEMBERS

Want to reach hundreds of fellow writers with your message?

The next great issue will come out in June so reserve your advertising space soon.

*

From Bob Isbill, CWC Director of Advertising & Promotions

Selling a book, a service, or other specialty? Use the CWC Bulletin!

<https://calwriters.org/bulletin/#ad>

OTHER 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.

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

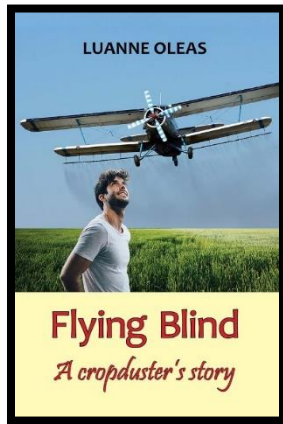
MEMBER NEWS

Marjorie Johnson

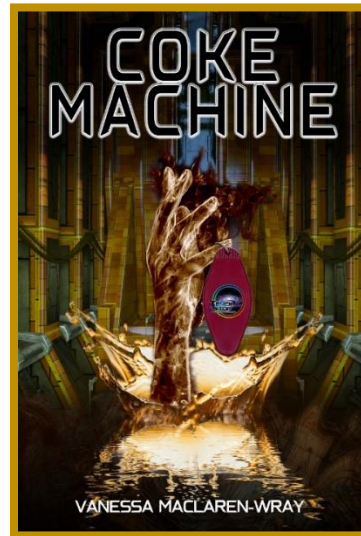
Penelope Cole's poem, "Beloved Beauty Mine" was accepted for the Redwood Writers Poetry Anthology.

From Luanne Oleas:

Cropdusters share personality traits that you might not suspect. The following article, "Traits That Help Identify Your Average Ag Pilot," was a byproduct of the research conducted for my novel, *FLYING BLIND, A Cropduster's Story*, available on Amazon in paperback or ebook. The article is available at <https://aerofleetone.com/traits-that-help-identify-your-average-ag-pilot/>



Novelmania: My Ticket to Crazy Town" event at the 2021 Literary Stage competition, is now the second entry in Water Dragon Publishing's Truck Stop at the Center of the Universe series. Join deaf, Ukrainian-speaking spaceship engineer Marichka as she battles a hazardous-substance spill and a shipboard fire. If only someone would appear and give her a hand. Expect writerly jokes about grammar, carbonated beverages, and deity-like beings. Find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/5fxknd43>



Vanessa MacLaren-Wray has publication dates for her next two books: *The Smugglers*, a sci-fi novella (in the Truck Stop series) about attachment, gender, and amazing alien creatures, will be out in July.

Shadows of Insurrection, an sci-

fi novel about politics, relationships, and interfering alternate-universe travelers, will arrive in November. Both from Water Dragon Publishing.

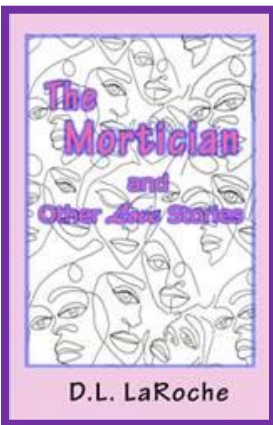
Congratulations, Penny, Luanne, Dave and Vanessa! SBC loves to receive such news.

Please tell us about your writing news at membernews@southbaywriters.com

MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE WINNERS!



1 st Place	Marjorie Johnson
2 nd Place Tie	Tamara Bell and Linda B. Campbell-King
4 th Place	Loureen Giordano
5 th Place	Luanne Oleas



This is Dave LaRoche's fourth book. In his new release, *The Mortician and other Love Stories*, D. L. LaRoche gives us four short stories about love from the perspective of those involved—their innermost feelings, doubt, concern, need, and that nagging, often painful, feeling in the gut. Have I lost? Is there

something I can do? Is there a path toward solemnity, a peace-laden soul? Sometimes there is, sometimes there isn't.

Each principal in these stories finds a different way to deal with this agony of self-doubt when faced with the loss of a love carved on their soul, and each will find a solution. Should you wish to engage, and, of course, I encourage it, the new book, along with my others, can be found on Amazon. (Go to Amazon, books, D. L. LaRoche.)

Vanessa MacLaren-Wray has a new short story published—in a new universe, even! "Coke Machine," which won the "In the Spirit of

MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE CONTESTANTS

First Place!

Memories of Mother by Marjorie Johnson

My mother expressed her love by making our clothes. Herkimer, a 1901 sewing machine, lived beneath the window in her bedroom. When she lifted the lid, the machine folded out, black enamel, a chrome wheel attached by belt to a wrought iron treadle, always a happy clacketta, clacketta. She saved zippers and reused every garment, crocheting rugs, making quilts. The buttons went into the button drawer—hundreds of them. Now Herkimer lives with my daughter, button drawer empty, never a clacketta, a shrine honoring Grandma.

Second Place Tie!

Norma Jean... by Tamara Bell

My mom gave birth to four girls and followed up by birthing four boys. Jokingly saying she used her head. The girls turned out to be natural caretakers for the boys, so maybe she was using wise judgment.

She only had one requirement of her children and that was to not be boring. Her infectious laugh still tickles my funny bones as I remember her.

Second Place Tie!

Mother Love by Linda B. Campbell-King

A Mother Ship brings aliens to behold
A Mother Load yields veins of gold.
A Mother Tongue brings folk together
Our Mother Earth makes grow the heather.
A Mother Board makes data crunch

Nature wields lots of punch.
But no kind of mother can ever start
to match the power in my Mom's heart.

Fourth Place!

Remember by Loureen Giordano

*When I was the mommy
and you were the little girl?
Four-year-old me
asked my mother*

I imagined
that if kids grew up,
adults grew small.
Mommy laughed
and said she remembered.

*Read it again, Mommy.
For the umpteenth time,
Mommy read the poem
about the bird
while I touched the picture,
seeing myself in it.*

Years later,
I read to
and fed
and put
Mommy down for naps.

I wondered.
*Does she know
this is what
I "remembered"
as a child?*

Fifth Place!

Luanne Oleas's Mom, Rosemary Birch

Mom didn't really remember much at the end. But that never stopped her from being a pirate. Even in Memory Care, she tried to organize her fellow Alzheimer's patients in revolt. But then, she was Irish and a former motorcyclist. She stayed in her lane on the road, but not necessarily in her life. Unfortunately, she was raised in a time when ladies weren't supposed to act or think in certain ways. But she found ways around those norms. She was a sweet-looking, white-haired rebel.





Memories of Mom by Bill Baldwin

My mother played saxophone in the school band; transposed pieces for them as well. Eventually inherited her grandfather's upright piano—which now graces my living room.

Married a football player from a neighboring high school, became a mother at twenty. By twenty-five, a second daughter. And me at thirty-seven!

With her Red Cross husband she eventually lived in both Japan and Germany.

She supported the rights of the downtrodden, kind to people regardless of background.

Quite the inspiration! Thank you, Mom!

Submitted by Una Daly

Trained as a nurse in WW2 England, my mother never lost the lovely lilt of a West of Ireland native speaker.

In 1949, she left home for good traveling solo over the ocean into New York harbor and then across the country by train to a new life.

She lived with her aunt in Oakland who had immigrated a generation earlier until meeting my father.

They married and went on to have five children instilling a sense of pride in us for both our American and Irish culture.

Full Circle by Carolyn Donnell

First mother was barely sixteen.
Her family not very keen.
She was too young it seems
To go it alone on her own.

A neighbor then took me in
My mother for years though nineteen.
Adopted and raised was the way
Until I was full grown.

Her death then left me alone
another one came along.
My godmother helped thirty years.
Family for me and my son.

Godmother passed at the end.
First mother found again.
Reunion – family complete
back to where I began.

Memories of My Mommy by Gerri Forté

Hot breakfasts daily except for Saturday when we had cold cereal
with sliced fruit.

Warmed pajamas (ironed) after the nightly bath.

Lunch box with sandwich, soup, fruit and a Twinkie.

Homemade clothing making me the best dressed little girl at school.

Wedding gown designed and created by her still hanging in my
closet some 40 odd years later.

I have the memories of a spectacular and loving Mommy.

What I do not have is her.

She passed away at the age of 96 in 2014.

From: Tatyana Grinenko

I grew up on stories of my mother walking five miles each way
to get to school.

Of the horrible bullying by her grade-school classmates for
wearing old passed-down clothing.

The struggles she faced trying to fit in at a prestigious city
university.

And yet she pushed forward despite the tears, the hardships,
and the odds.

My mother built me a launch ramp made of opportunities she
never had.

And thanks to her, launch I have.

I couldn't have done it without her

In 1955 by Monte Lorenzet

Mom, and Nonna, were held by many
to be northeastern
Connecticut's best
Italian-American chefs.

They specialized in
banquets and weddings,
often feeding 500 at a time.

Mom, short, large, wielded
canoe-paddle-sized wooden spoons,
and pots and baking pans
big enough for kids like me to play in.

They roasted mountains
of chicken and potatoes,
made gallons of orzo and chicken liver soup,
and the mostaccioli, my god.
All served with love, with joy.

Would that I might still be
gathered into their aproned arms!



Dining Out by Edie Matthews

One dreary Sunday, I said,
"Let's go to Clifton's Cafeteria, the Pacific Sea."
Mother's eyes sparkled.
While my brothers ate hot dogs,
we rode the bus downtown,
with funds for one child's dinner.
Mother scrutinized a glorious salad accented
with peas and shredded carrots.
"I can make that at home."
Sitting among waterfalls and tropical foliage,
the rumble of thunder announced intermittent storms.
Rain drizzled off the bamboo hut into a stream.
"If they complain, we'll explain we're poor,"
Mother said, stealthily taking a bite.

Mother Pleases by Chris Weilert

I was never strong-armed into eating liver, tuna fish,
or broccoli which all looked like pure inedible
grossness.

My mother was a pleaser and a spoiler. She raised
five children, a daughter and four sons who
destroyed all the furniture and broke everything
made of ceramic.

You deserved better treatment. Still, you gave your
family something that we all carry around in our
conscience.

Pretty possessions and fancy plates have little value
unless there is love and laughter to provide them
with meaning.

We are delighted that thirteen members submitted to our Mother's Day Tribute Contest. Consequently, in the interest of being fair, we are holding a Father's Day Tribute Contest. Please see page 19 of this newsletter for the rules.

APRIL SPEAKER RECAP



Sindy McKay-Serdlove, “Writing for Younger Readers”

By Bill Baldwin

Sindy McKay-Swerdlove specializes in Edutainment—a type of entertainment which is also enjoyably educational. The trick is to entertain people in a way that teaches them something in a fun way they’re scarcely aware of. “Did I just learn something? I didn’t notice—I was having such a good time!”

A teacher told Sindy in elementary school that she should become a writer, and by junior high she was publishing in the school paper and becoming involved in the theater. Eventually she performed in both San Jose and Los Angeles. She performed in Mill Valley and knew Robin Williams. She tried stand-up, got on LA television, had a boyfriend who worked at Marvel.

This led her to work with Jim Henson and the Muppets. Here she became familiar with the rules of script formatting and how to include all the details necessary for the production of a script. Later she became a solo writer in the animation industry. Her big break came with *Clifford the Dog*, which won the Humanitas Award. Later she worked with Mel Brooks.

One of Sindy’s interesting graphics illustrated books that could be used from Third Grade all the way to Junior High. The left side of the page provides the story as written for more advanced readers, the right side provides a text geared towards younger readers. This might make an interesting exercise, I thought—presenting the same story at two different levels, on the same page!

She provided some good general suggestions for success in your writing.

First of all: Write—and rewrite!! Yes, it is true: writing is *rewriting*. You don’t have to get it perfect all at once. The first thing is to actually *write something*. Which brings us to:

How to overcome writer’s block?

Get comments from other writers/readers. These can prove helpful. Ask them to tell you what they want or need and aren’t getting from your current draft. Be prepared for harsh advice.

Finish Draft One. Start Draft Two. *Finish* Draft Two. Start Draft Three. Repeat!

Whatever keeps you going--keep doing it!

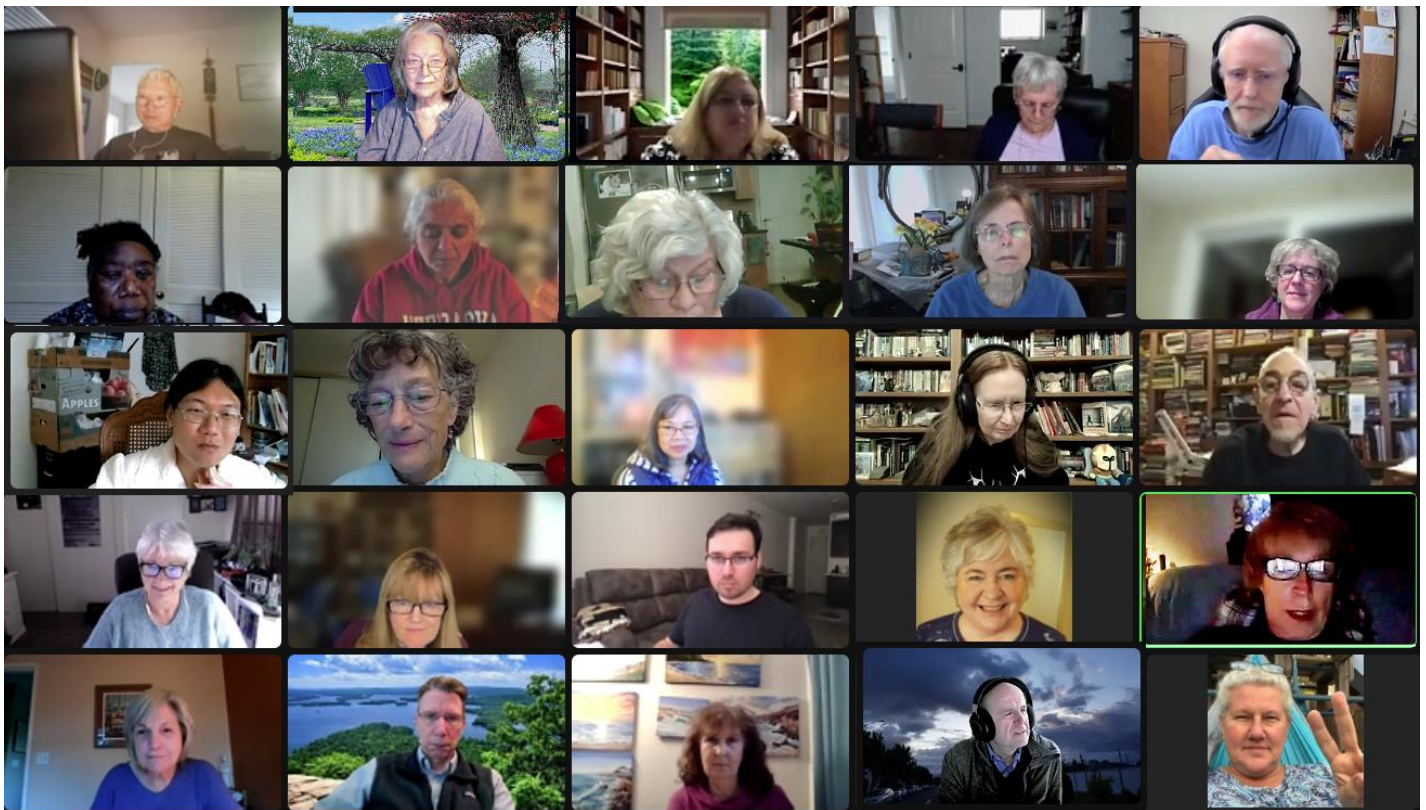
Be open to experience and opportunity. When in doubt, try something and see what happens!

Promote your work Ask to be seen—and wave your own flag! Wave your flag to anyone that will look or listen.

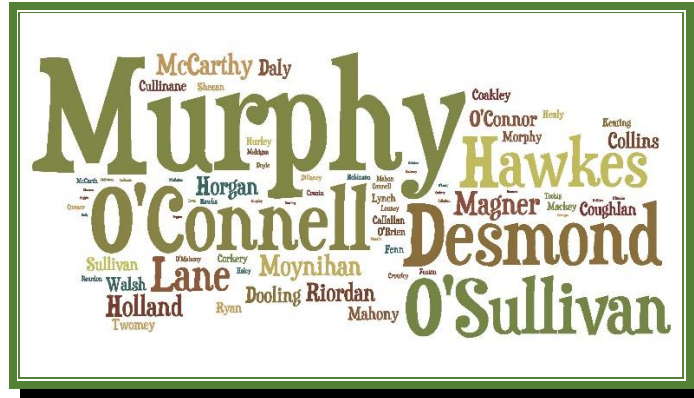
Get and stay passionate! *And don't give up!*

As Arthur Penn put it: *So much of it is luck. Dumb f***ing luck. There is so much talent out there—in every area—and it can't get a set of eyes [to see it] or ears to hear it because it hasn't gotten into a magical circle yet. The magical circle of the right plays with the right directors with the right agents with the right reviews. No one escapes this; no one ever did. What I would like to do--and what we should all do—is to persuade those with dreams and talent to keep at it, despite the odds and despite the fact that the luck hasn't noticed them yet. You have to believe that it will, and what you and I have to do is make some noise and wave some flags so that luck looks over and finally notices the mendicant that has kept up the work.*

Collage of April Meeting Participants



MEMBER COMPOSITIONS



MY MOTHER'S NAME

by Carolyn Donnell

Born with just my mother's name.
Father unknown they said, what shame.
Who needed a man's name to have pride?
Why was a woman's name so vilified?

Why? To cause us all that pain?
Father or not, I'm still the same.
My name is mine. I'm satisfied.
I'm who I am, my peace I'll bide.

I suppose a boy, a guy,
needs a man to identify
his own masculinity.
A pattern to follow, what to be.

But I'm a girl, a woman and more,
just like my mother and hers before.
I'll wear my mother's name with pride.
Hold my head up, and deign to hide.

She paid the price, she carried me.
No father where he needed to be.
To give a man more rights than she
is the opposite of liberty.

If my father ever looks for me
he will have to ask to be
allowed into our family.
Her rights and privileges be.

Ms. Virginia's Memories of Her Son
from A Brand New Song to Sing (2021) by Geraldine Forté

Ralph was my baby boy. Oh, I loved him so! It pained me to leave him when I was called home during his sophomore year in college. I wanted to proudly attend his college graduation, sing at his wedding, and bounce his babies on my knees. But I had finished my work on earth, and it was time to go home to be with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ralph was the type of child who loved each and every living thing! I recall when he was just four years old, and I observed him playing with something in the back yard. Since the back yard was fenced in, I didn't pay it any mind until I called him to come in and wash up for lunch. He came inside, went directly to the bathroom, and when he came out, he had both of his hands in his pockets and a sheepish look on his face.

"What do you have in your pocket", I had asked.

"Just some of my friends", he whispered.



I reached for his hands, but he quickly moved out of my reach. He pulled his hands out of his pockets and there must have been ten or twelve pincher bugs, some of them clinging on to his fingers.

"Boy, you better put those nasty bugs outside and go wash your hands again! You know better than to bring bugs into my house! My Lord!"

"But Momma, I can't put them outside! It's cold and they will get sick. They are my friends, and I want to share my lunch with them because they are hungry. Please! They are my best friends."

My little boy! Always concerned about other living things. I met him halfway and allowed him to put those bugs into a mason jar. We looked up the insects in the encyclopedia and learned that the common name for them was earwigs. We also learned that they dined on vegetation, so we fed them a diet of lettuce leaves and sweet potato skins. This went on for a couple of days until I could convince Ralph that these were God's creatures and not meant to be hemmed up in a mason jar. Reluctantly, Ralph took them outside and let them crawl back under the stump where he had originally found them. After a couple of days, he was convinced that this was the correct action, and he turned his attention to the green worms that were dining on my tomato plants. Now, I had to plan ahead on how to handle the situation when he determined that he had to rescue those ugly hairy things!

I remember the time that he and Jerome Phillip were playing out in the front yard. Those boys were just a jumping and jumping when they both fell and hit their knees against the cement curb. Jerome Phillip started hollering, and Ralph made a beeline into the house to get me to come to the aid of his friend. I took him home to his mother, and then I put my Ralph into the car and took him to the doctor. Ralph did not want to go. He wanted to make sure that Jerome Phillip was going to be all right first. I was only able to convince him that he needed medical attention by pointing out his own injury.

When he fell against the curb, he had split the skin on his knee open, and his knee bone was showing through.

"Momma, what is that white thing on my leg?" he had asked.

"It is your knee bone. That is why you have to go to the doctor NOW".

"You mean my knee bone is showing? Owwww. It hurts! It hurts! My leg is killing me! Help me Momma! Help me!"

I was able to quiet him down by soothingly singing to him. The ruckus started up again when the doctor touched his leg to examine it and stated that she would need to give him stitches to close the wound up. She gave him an injection to dull the pain, and he was all right with that. When he saw the scissors, that curved needle and the thread that was to provide the sutures, he really started up calling for me, his dad, his older siblings, and God.

"Momma! Daddy! Grover! Karen! Lance! God! Somebody please help me! Help, help! They are killing my leg!"

Only a few stitches were needed, and the leg was bandaged. As soon as the doctor put the bandage on, Ralph returned to normalcy. He stopped crying and yelling, accepted the Tootsie Pop from the doctor and was actually smiling as he exited the Waiting Room.

"It's not that bad," he assured another frightened child in the Waiting Room. "She is a good doctor, and she doesn't even hurt."

Ralph was assured that his leg would live through the night, so he was anxious to get home so that he could check on his buddy, Jerome Phillip. That was my Ralph ... always concerned about someone else in pain.

When as an adult in his fifties, Ralph became ill, I knew that his time on earth was coming to an end. That Viola took such loving care of him. I sensed that he hated to leave her, but when the time came, I extended my hands and gingerly led my baby boy back home with me.

CONTESTS AND MARKETS

by Carolyn Donnell

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/>

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.*

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 theliterarynest@gmail.com

Fremont Area Writers lists many resources on their page under Writers Resources tab

www.cwc-fremontareawriters.org/

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

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. Early-Bird 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-flash fiction and one for nonfiction writers-essays. See schedules and information at www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php

6th Annual Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize. Deadline July 31. 3 prizes: \$1,000, \$500, \$250! 5 finalists published in 2022 Red Wheelbarrow Literary magazine. Sponsored by Poetry Center San José and Red Wheelbarrow Literary Magazine.

<https://redwheelbarrow.submittable.com/submit>

Water Dragon Publishing: Check out their website to see what they accept and 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/

Masters Review Flash Fiction Contest. Deadline May 31. Winner will be awarded \$3000. 2nd and 3rd \$300 and \$200, respectively. All published in The Masters Review. <https://mastersreview.com/flash-fiction-contest/>

Palette Poetry - See their submissions calendar at <https://www.palettepoetry.com/calendar/>

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

Winning Writers – Check out their contest at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

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

Association of Writers and Writing Programs 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

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/

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. 1st = \$3,000, 2nd and 3rd 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 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: 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/

Decembermag Curt Johnson Prose awards. Deadline May 12 <https://decembermag.org/> also on Facebook

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 and 30+ others 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/

<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

Authors Publish lecture Series <https://authorspublish.thinkific.com/courses/lecture-seriesy>

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>

West Trade Review prize for poetry Open April 15–May 31. \$500 and publication in West Trade Review.

<https://westtradereview.com/westtradereviewprizeforpoetry.html>

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/

Frontier Poetry 2022 Chapbook Contest Deadline May 15. \$2000 and publication on Frontier, and 50 physical author copies <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/>

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:

FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE



Contest Rules

Write an 85-words (or less) tribute to your father, grandfather, uncle, or the person you regard as a parental guide in your childhood. It can be prose or poetry.

First place prize \$50, Runner-ups will receive Barnes & Nobles Gift card.

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

Below are three examples, including a humorous one.

1. My father did not fight in a war, he never met the president, he never won a state championship. But what he did do is keep his promises to me and to my brother Greg. My dad was not fond of excuses. If he said it was going to be done, it was.
2. To pull the metal splinter from my palm
my father recited a story in a low voice.
I watched his lovely face and not the blade.
Before the story ended, he'd removed
the iron sliver I thought I'd die from.
I can't remember the tale,
but hear his voice still, a well
of dark water, a prayer.
And I recall his hands,
two measures of tenderness
he laid against my face
3. My Dad was the most ordinary men turned by love into a hero, adventurer, story-teller, and singer of songs—
sometimes off key.



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

MAIL TO:

**South Bay Writers
May 9, 2022 Meeting
Monday, 7 pm**

Joan Gelfand “You Can Be a Winning Writer”

