



WRITERS TALK



South Bay Writers Club

Newsletter

June 2022



"The Art and Craft of Writing your Memoir"

Linda Joy Myers

by Bill Baldwin

Memoir writers struggle with two things: how much truth to tell and how to structure their story. We'll tackle both of these issues as we look at the art—and heart—of writing a memoir. This month's speaker, Linda Joy Myers, will discuss balancing the need to write our truth with the questions that come up about exposure and worry about what the family will say. Learn how to develop the all-important structure of your memoir, from how to begin sorting through memories to writing scenes. The secret to writing a great memoir is weaving

reflection into your scenes so the reader feels what you experienced.

Linda Joy Myers, founder of the National Association of Memoir Writers, is the author of award-winning memoirs *Don't Call Me Mother* and *Song of the Plains*, and two books on craft *The Power of Memoir*, & *Journey of Memoir*. She co-authored *Breaking Ground on Your Memoir* and *Magic of Memoir* & co-teaches [Write Your Memoir in Six Months](#)



with Brooke Warner. A memoir coach for 30 years, she helps memoir writers find their voice and get their story into the world. Linda has just ventured into novel writing land, and her first novel, *The Forger of Marseille*, a WWII historical fiction novel, will be published by She Writes Press in May 2023. Join us for an inspiring evening!

Linda Joy Myers

"The Art and Craft of Writing Your Memoir"

When: June 13, 2022 at 7 pm

Where: Zoom Online Platform (link forthcoming)

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BETWEEN THE LINES

by Edie Matthews, SBWC President



Where There's a Will, There's a Way

You've written your book, you've edited it, now you're ready for it to be published. You submit it and the rejections begin.

First you feel dejected.

You question your talent.

Next you feel angry.

You consider giving up.

But what you need to do is persevere. Many of the most successful writers have had to overcome rejection

Celebrated writer, Ray Bradbury, famous for *Fahrenheit 451*, and credited for "bringing modern science fiction into the literary mainstream," (*New York Times*), could not get his first book published. Agents wanted novels—not short story collections. A Doubleday agent suggested emphasizing the interrelation of the tales. Thus, with some rewriting and a new title, *The Martian Chronicles* was born, published and succeeded.

Gene Roddenberry, the creator of *Star Trek*, wanted to be a TV writer, but he struggled to break in to the business. The key was getting an agent. At the time, Roddenberry worked for the Los Angeles Police Department. Finally, after learning that Swifty Lazar, the legendary agent and dealmaker, often lunched at Spago's famed West Hollywood restaurant, Roddenberry planned his attack. Outfitted in his full regalia, Roddenberry arrived at the restaurant demanding to see Lazar.

A diminutive man, Lazar was unnerved when the six-foot policeman approached him. The agent was likely relieved when Roddenberry placed a large envelop filled with his writings on the table and commanded, "Read this."

With the powerful agent's representation, Roddenberry began getting work. He wrote scripts for many of the popular TV shows of the fifties: *Bat Masterson*, *Have Gun—Will Travel*, *Highway Patrol*, *I Led Three Lives*.

However, often his scripts were rejected because they were considered too controversial for era. They dealt with racism, inequality, sexism, etc. His frustration led to the creation of *Star Trek*. The same stories could easily be accepted if the issues were set in outer space.

Roddenberry pitched *Star Trek* as "*Wagon Train* to the stars." (At the time, *Wagon Train* was a popular episodic TV series set in the old west.)

Of course, the list of iconic authors who were repeatedly rejected is lengthy.

Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, was told to stick to teaching.

Marcel Proust was nixed so often he decided to pay for the publication himself.

Agatha Christie waited four years for her first book to be published.

John le Carre's first novel *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*, was passed along because le Carre "hasn't got any future."

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle received 26 rejections before being published and winning the Newberry Medal.

Tony Hillerman was told to get rid of the "Indian stuff."

Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen's book, *Chicken Soup for the Soul* received 134 rejections. As 2020, the series includes over 250 titles and has earned millions.

The challenge of becoming a successful author is that everyone's experience is different. It's not like earning a degree where after you pass the required classes, you're awarded a diploma. The journey of getting published can be compared to passing through a dark tunnel. You may not see that you're progressing, but you are, and eventually, you'll escape the darkness and reach sunshine.

California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

www.southbaywriters.com

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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)

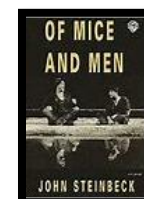
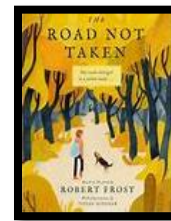


I have traveled internationally to such destinations as China, Thailand, Egypt, Italy, England, France, The Netherlands, Samoa, The Bahamas, The Kingdom of Tonga and Fiji. Loved it tremendously, but I always loved coming back home. I have visited numerous American states and as an Air Force brat, I have lived in a few. I was born in California, and I have lived most of my life in California – the most fantastic state in the country! Not only is California blessed with beautiful weather, an 840-mile coastline, mountains, valleys, beaches, farmland, Silicon Valley, Disneyland, the Giants, 49ers, Lakers, Warriors, and outstanding community college and university systems – California is also the birthplace of some of the most prolific writers. I am so proud to be a Californian!

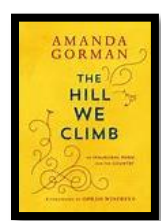
A FEW FAMOUS AUTHORS BORN IN CALIFORNIA



Octavia Butler
Jack London



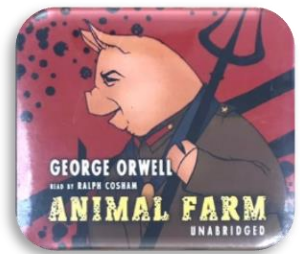
Robert Frost
John Steinbeck



Amanda Gorman
Amy Tan

WRITING TIPS FROM GEORGE ORWELL

Provided by Marty Sorensen



1. Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
2. Never use a long word where a short one will do.
3. If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
4. Never use the passive where you can use the active.
5. Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
6. Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.



VIEW FROM THE BOARD

View from the Board: 04 May 22

Reported by Marjorie Johnson

All of us as listed on page 3 in this newsletter were present (except Chris Weilert, who was on vacation) at the May 4 SBW Board Meeting.

President **Edie Matthews** announced that our May scheduled speaker was unable to attend because of illness. Jordan Rosenfeld graciously accepted our invitation to speak on Monday. She has spoken to South Bay Writers in the past and has given us a workshop on building a scene. (On a personal note: Jordan is an excellent speaker and knows craft. I have a copy of her book, *Make A Scene: Writing a powerful story one scene at a time*, on my bookshelf.)

Upcoming speaker programs:

May 9: Jordan Rosenfeld: "Scene Stealing."
June 13: Linda Joy Myers on writing memoir
July: BBQ in person
August: In person, TBA

Trenton Myers reported that we have had a 0.1% increase in funds since March.

Bylaws discussion: The secretary keeps copies of the bylaws and other officers should have a copy on file. Bylaws are part of Government requirements for 501 (c) 3 nonprofits, which California Writers club is. We nominate officers in May and vote at the June meeting.

Bill Baldwin. Open Mics continue on first and third Fridays. March 18 Open Mic was our first hybrid event – Thanks to Vanessa. Our next Open Mic is on April 22, also a planned hybrid event. To attend this popular venue, contact Bill (WABaldwin@aol.com)

NorCal: San Francisco Writers Conference is scheduled for July 21 – 24. Looking for volunteers. NorCal leadership conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 1.

Carolyn Donnell. Facebook: Our Facebook group is a good place to keep up with contests and local news.

Tatyana Grinenko:

Website: Updated since last meeting and continuing to be secured with 2-factor authentication through Twilio

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. (To attend, you will need to pay the \$5 speaker-meeting fee.)

Inga Silva. Membership: 117 members: Active 58, Associate 57, Supporting 4, Student 3, & lifetime 1.

April 1 started the renewal period for July 1' 2022 thru June 30, 2023.

Join now to get 14 months for the price of twelve: \$65 makes you a member from now through June 30, 2023. Renewal remains \$45. Student and dual memberships remain the same. Renew early so you don't forget—lapsed members must join again at \$65 rate. Please note: Confusion comes in because our fiscal year runs from July 1 thru June 30.

Next Board meeting: Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m. on Zoom. **Next speaker:** Monday, June 13, 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Everyone is invited to attend SWS Board meetings. Contact Edie at pres@southbaywriters.com for a Zoom invite.

OFF THE SHELF

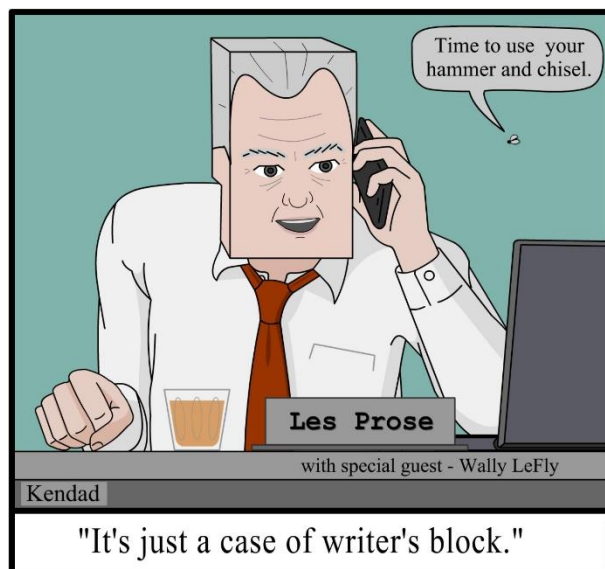
Edie Matthews



"He's like a good writer—he doesn't tell me he loves me; he shows me."

LES PROSE

Ken Roberge



JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- June 3rd Open Mic via ZOOM
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Contact William Baldwin (wabaldwin@aol.com)
- June 8th SBW Board Meeting
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Contact Edie Matthews pres@southbaywriters.com
- June 13th June 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
- June 17th Open Mic Hybrid @ Willow Glen Library
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Contact William Baldwin (wabaldwin@aol.com)

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.

6/22 Mary Buckham - Writing Active Hooks: or How Many Hooks Are Enough?

More info at cwcmarin.com/events

❖ The 2022 Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest ❖

“People Are . . . Everything”

Is Now In Its Second Month

Inviting You To Enter And To Spread The Word To Both Adult And Young Poets

The countdown to the July 21, 2022, entry deadline for this year's contest is underway.

We only have 74 days until the end of the contest.

All poets are encouraged to submit their own poems, encourage a friend or relative to submit a poem, or post a flyer where others can see it.

Do not procrastinate or you could miss the deadline.

Anything you can do to make both established and budding poets of all ages aware of this exciting opportunity is appreciated.

Visit the website for the contest “Rules and Entry Form” and the “Contest Flyer.”

For those of you who already have submitted your three poems or have helped us publicize the contest through posting flyers and/or posting contest information on your website, THANK YOU!!!!

Alan Lowe Coordinator,

2022 Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest

slolowe@icloud.com

<https://slolowe44.blogspot.com/>

MEMBER NEWS

Marjorie Johnson

Gerri Forté asked: “I actually have published four books. Does this qualify me for Active versus Associate Membership?” My answer: “Absolutely.” Basically, active members have publications; associate writers are actively writing but not yet published. If you think you qualify to be called an active member, please contact Membership Chairman, Inga Silva. Those two designations came about eons ago when California Writers Club was in its infancy. It’s just a status thing.

Kelly Miller recently learned that two of her books were chosen as "Recommended Reads" in the 2022 Author Shout Reader Ready Book Awards, *A Consuming Love* and *Mr. Darcy's Perfect Match*. In addition, she has a new release that came out on January 24, 2022, *Captive Hearts*, a Regency romantic variation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.

Captive Hearts Blurb:

“Will Captain Wentworth realize too late that he has a second chance at love?

“With a successful naval career and a fortune to his name, Frederick Wentworth receives a hero’s welcome from his sister’s neighbors.

“One person, though, presents a source of vexation. Years earlier, Miss Anne Elliot had reneged on her promise to marry Wentworth, revealing a significant character flaw. Yet Anne’s unmarried state at the age of seven and twenty, her altered demeanor, and her resolute avoidance of Wentworth raise questions that gnaw at his composure.

“In this Regency variation of Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*, the captain follows the advice of a respected new friend and re-examines the agonizing circumstances of his bitter break from Anne, reaching a novel conclusion. But before he can act upon his new resolve, a dire twist of fate threatens Anne’s life.”

Audry Lynch won a **first-place award** in the National League of American Pen Women’s Biennial for her children’s book, *Ruben’s Tales from the Amazon Jungle*.

Luanne Oleas' novel, *FLYING BLIND, A Cropduster's Story*, made the top 100 in Amazon's best sellers list for the Aviation category. It's #98, but that still counts. Luanne attached a screen shot.

Sarah Brennan wrote: Thank you for your reminder about sharing news. I have been a member of the club for a couple of years now and really appreciate all the speakers and information in the newsletters. I am a novice writer, and just starting to share my pieces with others. Last spring via Zoom I took a writing class with Don George through Book Passages. I submitted my essay to Academy of the Heart and Mind, a blog for emerging writers. They recently published my essay about one part of my experience in India. I do not know if this qualifies as "newsworthy," but figured I would share. Here is the link to my essay.

<https://academyoftheheartandmind.wordpress.com/2022/05/02/finding-home-in-india/>

Sarah, sharing your excitement upon your first publication definitely is newsworthy! Congratulations to you all: Kelly, Audry, Luanne, and Sarah. I love to hear your success stories.

Don’t forget to send your writing triumphs, large and small, to membernews@southbaywriters.com

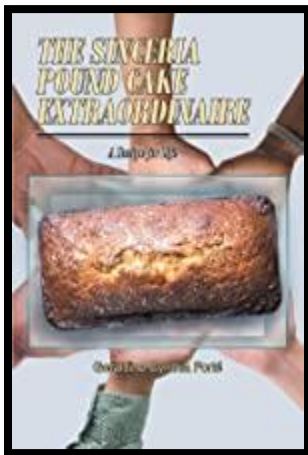
First place award at the Pen Women Biennial for Ruben’s Tales from the Amazon Jungle



Member Audrey Lynch

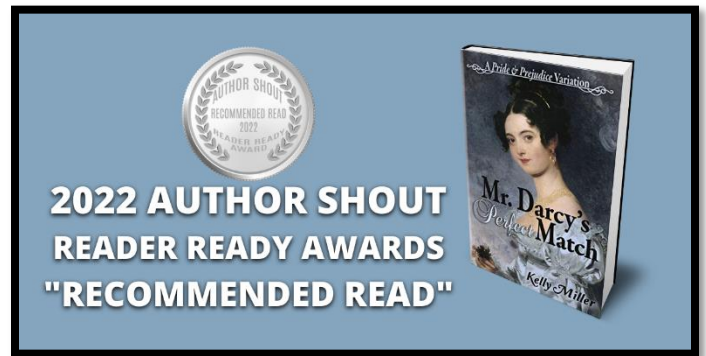


Member Geraldine C. Forté Publications

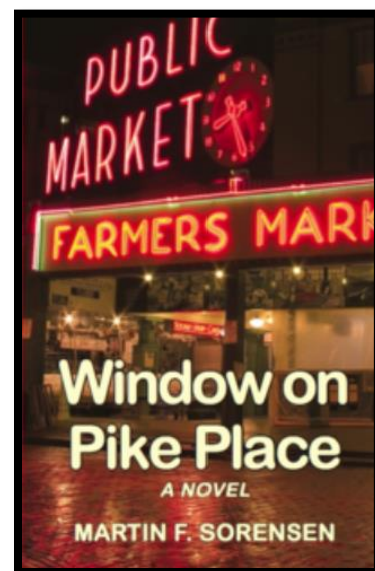
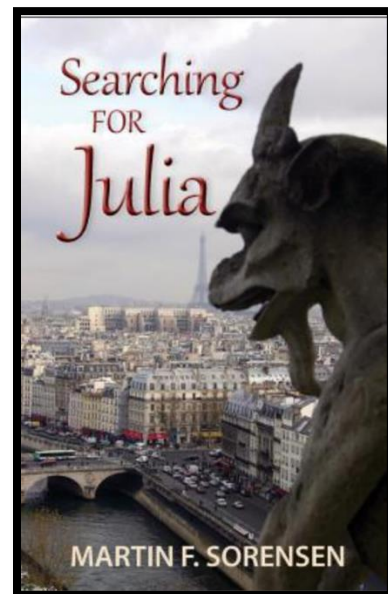


- Of Prayers.....Available on Audible.com

Member Kelly Miller



Member Marty Sorensen Publications



FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE CONTESTANTS

FIRST PLACE WINNER!

Father Knows Best

Chris Weilert

As I grew older, I wondered if I was like my father. When I was a teenager, I thought there was no way I would be like him. I couldn't possibly be that rigid and stubborn and stuck in my ways. Decades passed by and I vowed to myself that I would be a softer and better version, but slowly and unconsciously I was becoming him. Then the inevitable happened. I was the same person, a protégé, except for one thing, he still knew more.

THIRD PLACE WINNER!

Dave LaRoche

My dad, a quiet man, took life as it came; expectations, while there, were held close. Raised by grandparents, he enjoyed a youthful freedom, which he passed on to me. His love was silent, his respect occasionally voiced. A man of high moral substance, he set example without making noise. He was a builder of things, consumed very little, and died hard as there were things left to do. We miss our fathers' temporal presence, but their essence will always be with us.

FOURTH PLACE WINNER!

Ode to He Who Sang in the Car

Luanne Oleas

My dad had sad eyes and the best sense of humor. After work, he'd race me down the street, chugging past me at the finish line. His 1947 yearbook described him as a "swell guy." His passions included peanut-butter-and-mayonnaise sandwiches and red cars. He baked the best biscuits, but always burned the French bread. He left me his love of baseball and his view of the world: "Explore every option, keep learning, and tell good jokes."

SECOND PLACE WINNER!

Dad Driving to Valhalla

Marjorie Johnson

My eighty-year-old father would sit in his Ford pickup, drink beer, and listen to the radio, but he only drove The Green Giant out to polish it.

Once I climbed in and asked, "Where are we going?"

"I'm taking my imagination for a ride. Don't talk too much."

I remembered when Dad had shown me abandoned gold mines and ghost towns from Timbuktu to Red Dog.

He's driving still, to a Welsh miner's Valhalla: a rift valley with blackberries and a stream for gold panning.

FIFTH PLACE WINNER!

Dancing in the Living Room

Tamara Bell

As teenagers, we were mortified when our dad would cut loose by dancing to his music in our living room.

Older now, and mature enough to enjoy the simple things in life I ask, "Dad, when I cross over and join you, would you save a dance for me?"

Submitted by Carolyn Donnell

Father unknown. All I knew until 1994.

Obtained original birth certificate. July 1944. Los Angeles.

Father: White. 21. Army Air Corps.

Fast forward. 2020. Uploaded DNA to Ancestry.com. Half-sibling match.

Her father: Army Air Corps, 21 when stationed in So Cal - Fall of 43.

Bingo!

Further investigation:

WWII pilot, shot down over Belgium. Sent to gulag. Escaped.

War hero. Home to Nebraska. Never knew about me.

Died in 2008.

I wonder if he would've cared if he had known.

I guess I'll never know.

Dad's Visits

Edie Matthews

We greeted him like a conquering hero.
"Daddy's home!" We dropped everything, ran and hugged him. On Sunday morning, he arrived in a suit and tie. "Who's going to church with me?" Tuesday, we were off to see a double-feature, cartoon, and newsreel. The movie palaces downtown held a drawing for a \$1000 or new Chevrolet. Friday was payday. On Saturday, he'd take us swimming or to Santa Monica. He never sat on the sidelines. He always got in the water and played with us.



**A Daughter's Prayer
from Of Prayers and Beatings (2018)
*Geraldine Cynthia Forté***

Oh, Daddy, dear Daddy ... I have forgiven You

I believe you always loved me, I really do

Your lifetime of suffering alone must have been great

So much anger, distrust and resentment on your plate

To live most of your life beset by fears

That your secret could resurface after so many years

Oh Daddy, Dear Daddy I do understand

You are relieved of your fears ... Here, hold my hand

Let us pray together on bended knee

Pray that peace is finally yours ... throughout eternity

Our Father

Shipra Shukla

Fathers are very special
So is our dad;
Without him we would
Never have had the fine
Life, the wonderful times,
The great gift of
Knowing good from bad,
So bless us, our father,
And make us divine,
By giving us your grace
And keeping us like fine wine.

JUNE SPEAKER RECAP



“Build Your Story, Scene by Scene”

Jordan Rosenfeld

By Bill Baldwin

Do you ever do this? I bring home a new book, open to page 1 and...by page 3 my mind is wandering, my eyes are droopy—I lay the book aside. I may try again the next day, but as often as not, I read no further.

After several such experiences, I start asking: Why can't I read this? Why am I bored? And this follows me when I sit down to write. The Eternal Writer's Question! How do I keep my readers interested???

SBW alum Jordan Rosenfeld, our May speaker, suggests that we writers—we fiction writers—think in terms of scenes. Writing good scenes can keep your readers interested! Think in terms of scenes and learn how to keep scenes interesting.

First: demonstrate, don't lecture (i.e., show don't tell). A scene means action – momentum. Keep the story moving along! Scenes follow a trajectory of change. Scenes need action—even if it's only minor action.

Keep this in mind. Use action words! If you feel bored or impatient with what you've written, you are probably no longer writing a scene.

Use scenes to introduce new plot information—details we didn't know before, details with consequences for the story to come.

Anchor a scene in its context: the setting, geography, weather, and time period. Too much exposition and introspection can drag momentum to a halt. Keep the character's emotions to the fore. Use sense imagery to hold the reader's attention.

Maintain tension. Make sure your character wants something. Make sure we know what that is. Then throw obstacles in the character's way to keep them from getting what they want. Challenges build character. Challenges can force transformation.

Remember: Actions engage the reader. Keep things moving along! Keep the tension high to force your character to grow. You can include breathing spaces, moments of reflection—but keep them short. Make each

scene a mini-story, with a beginning, a middle, and an end; a dramatic arc and climax that leaves the reader wanting more and propels them into the next scene.

Build your story, scene by scene. Every scene should up the tension. Every scene needs some goal that your character is reaching for, something they need to do right now. Be clear on what they need, what they have to do to get it, and what is standing in their way. Each scene should leave the reader wanting more (i.e., the next scene!). Each scene brings on the next scene, more tension, a further goal, a further conflict—until the end of the book. This will keep people reading!

(Full Disclosure: I'm still on page 42 of *Finnegans Wake*. But, as I tell my friends: “That’s Avant Garde!”)



Collage of May Meeting Participants



MEMBER COMPOSITIONS

A TALE OF SHADOWS by Marcela Dickerson

Shadow glided up the wall carefully no sense being caught in the corners. There was no rush. Her workday was almost over, and she would sleep under the warm bed cover of the lady of the manor.

Her mother had trained her well, although not always. She behaved accordingly.

She still remembered with disgust the late party she had with the other shadows when she was younger. Once they had stayed out so late that the only jobs left were the derelicts still wandering around town, looking for a bed in the shelter or for a bottle of liquor to keep warm under the bridge,

When she was a girl, she followed her mother, who patiently guided her, around town.

On summer days, they would wake up early, and once they were the first to arrive at the church steeple, the church was the highest building in town.

She remembered the feeling of being up high, so close to the sky, almost touching the clouds.

To do that, they had to glide up slowly at first, and then go slowly down, gliding just enough to find exactly the right spot, and sometimes they had to go in and hide under the pews. Once she had fallen asleep listening to the choir in the evening service.

If everyone knew what she knew this would be a better world, she thought.

She had been a silent witness to the best and the worst of humankind. The tender touch to calm a crying child, the slashing of a knife in a heated quarrel. She had learned that the young and agile had the fastest jobs; they followed people and objects in movement. They did this as a courtesy to their elders, who moved slower, so they relinquished the old buildings and mountains to them.

Shadows in their fifties started slowing down, they shadowed trees, whose trunks were immobile, but whose leaves danced in the wind.

Shadow was not there yet. She still competed for the coveted jobs available. She followed people, animals, trains, and cars.

Once she had started to follow a ship, but she was afraid of not finding her way back, for she would have to rely on the wind and the clouds, and in the evening, it was not safe, so she gave up.

She felt a bump on her back as she was falling asleep.

Rae, the cat, had jumped on the bed so she moved a bit.

She would wake up early and rush to the church. Who knows? She might be the first and get the steeple again.



Return of a phantom by Reena Kapoor

I jumped at the email subject: “From Hanoi”.

“Hello! I am Hanh. I have your ring for two years but I am contact you now. Very sorry...”, it started awkwardly. “Hanh” is a Vietnamese girl’s name. I looked it up. She was talking about a ring, a



precious gift, I had lost and wept for in Vietnam two years before.

It was a “harem” ring that my husband had bought for me in Istanbul after jokingly expounding on the “benefits” of harems and multiple wives. I

hadn’t forgotten it even as the possibility of its return faded with time.

I wrote back promptly and Hanh answered all my queries. She’d found the ring soon after we left the hotel in Hanoi. She cleaned rooms there every day, having taken over the job her grandmother vacated a few months before. Hanh’s grandmother had raised her, and had to quit the hotel job when she was diagnosed with cancer. They gave her a month or two. Grandma insisted they not fight her prognosis but even then the care was a financial strain. When Hanh found the ring she planned to take it to the hotel manager. But then she saw the notice he had posted and noted down my email address. “I thought I can keep it for little while? Get money for pawn? So I wear it and go home.” By then Hanh’s bedridden grandmother was rarely awake. But that day “My grandma saw your ring and want it.” Hanh put the ring on grandma’s finger. After all it wouldn’t be too long before the finger that wore it would depart all such earthly temptations.

“But a miracle happen. My grandma is better. The next day she is sitting. Soon she is walking. My grandma live two more years. She always wears your ring. After two years she die peacefully. But she make me promise to return your ring. Was it special ring? My Buddhist teacher say it must be a ring that was given by one to another, two people who are one in soul, more than life. Is that true?” her email disarmingly enquired. “I thank you from me and my grandma. Give me your address...”

I could hardly deny the ring was a precious love object. But being an atheist, I didn’t want to encourage Hanh’s mystical reading of the situation. Yet I wanted to respect the spiritual truth of her narrative. I wrote back gently thanking her for safekeeping it. I expressed admiration for her bravery and happiness that my ring had helped bring joy to her grandma in her last days. I gave her my address.

I didn’t hear anything for two months. Must be grief, I thought, knowing how grief grinds down even our noblest intentions. Then came a brief update. She was working overtime to pay off loans and she would send the ring very soon.

There was silence for another month and then, “Do you think you could pay for shipping? \$250. I can send ring soon if you help. Insurance is very expensive.” I hesitated and asked if she could send me a photograph? I received a photo of the shipping invoice. I wondered if she purposely misunderstood my request. I sent off \$250 whizzing over international wires and oceans. My guilt at having lost it had me suspending disbelief as well!

Then came months of silence. My enquiries received short assurances. Eventually even those stopped. My husband, daughter and a few friends articulated what I was afraid to admit. I had zero evidence that the ring was even in her possession. My \$250 was likely chasing a phantom halfway across the world, I thought, doubling my regret.

But a year later a package arrived with a customs stamp declaring “\$10 value”. My ring, with a typewritten letter! She was ashamed for taking so long. And she had used the ring again. A close friend went into a coma after a motorcycle accident. The ring was put on his finger. Within a few days he awoke, then got better. After six months he passed away peacefully. Now she was afraid of using it “too much” and was sending it back. At the bottom was an envelope. I opened it to find a check for \$250.

All of this transpired five years ago. The ring and Hanh’s check, both remain with me. Unused. Uncashed. Priceless.

THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE- WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE RACE by Shipra Shukla

This story is about the angst of the tortoise after he won the race because no one paid any attention to him. The media frenzy was for the fair and funny bunny who was glamorous and lived in a mansion. The boring, brown turtle was quite ignored. We are all about looks nowadays, aren't we ?

Once upon a time there was a tortoise. His name was Me-Too-Slow because, you guessed it, he walked very slowly, so slowly that the other animals left him far behind. They always laughed behind his back which is, of course, not a very nice thing to do. In fact, it is quite rude.

Me-Too-Slow knew about this and he was very hurt. He went to Banana-Drama, his friend and told him his problem. Banana-Drama said, “Dude, what’s the problem? I’ll just get you roller skates, four of them and you are going to leave everyone far behind!”

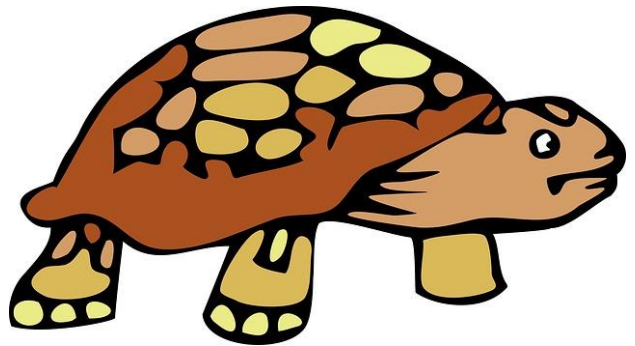
So they both went to MallWart and tried on some roller skates for Me-Too-Slow who tied them to his tiny feet and walked daintily forward. But when he tried to go faster all his four legs flew out from under him and he fell flat on his stomach which really hurt. “Ow! Ow! Ow!” he yelled and tried to get up but his roller skates would not let him so Banana-Drama went to his help.

He tried to lift him but Me-Too-Slow’s shell was really heavy so Banana-Drama took out the skates, put a plank under him and jumped on the other side, just like a see-saw and Me-Too-Slow shot up to the roof with great force. Luckily, he fell down on some cushions which were on sale, \$2 for 4 which saved his shell from breaking into little bits. Banana-Drama put his hands on his hips and heaved a sigh of relief, “Dude,” he said, “That was a lucky escape or you would have been in a soup, turtle soup!”

Me-Too-Slow shuddered in fear and said, “Banana-Drama you have a good heart but you are not very good at solving problems. You just tend to go too fast.”

“But that’s what you wanted to do, dude, go fast so I was just trying to help you !” Banana-Drama said, annoyed at being scolded by Me-Too-Slow who none of the animals took very seriously.

“At least I tried to help unlike the others who only make fun of him, especially that Hare, what was her name? Oh yes! Happy Hare.” Banana-Drama thought to himself, “ Ever since Me-Too-Slow won the race from Happy Hare because she had gone to sleep Me-Too-Slow is obsessed with speed because in the next race she may not go to sleep and he’ll lose the race.”



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.*

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 Sometimes 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. !!Deadline June 6, 2022!!

<https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition>

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>

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

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/

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 – North Street Book Prize – for self-published books. Also fiction and essay and poetry contests. Sign up and receive other contest and submissions on their “Best Free Literary Contests” See more 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/

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/

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

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

OTHER RESOURCES

(* = On both the Internet and Facebook.)

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

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

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

The Write Life *- Includes L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future contest 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>

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/>

Some FACEBOOK Poetry Groups

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



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

MAIL TO:

South Bay Writers
June 13, Monday, 7 pm

Linda Joy Meyers
"The Art and Craft of Writing Your Memoir"

