



WRITERS TALK



South Bay Writers

Newsletter

August 2022



ROSS BROWNE

*"Series and Series Identity in
Popular Fiction: Why to Consider
Writing a Series"*

Your odds of successful publication can improve considerably if your novel is conceived as (or has the potential to work as) a series.

This is no surprise to anyone who enjoys settling down with a new book in a series they know and love. It's an easy purchase decision that publishers know they can rely on time and again.

On August 8th, Ross Browne will guide us through the crafting of the structure and identity of a series.

Series that inspire intense loyalty from readers, the kind that truly moves the meter with book sales, usually have more to offer their reading audiences than the same protagonist(s) from book to book. Ross's Series and Series Identity presentation will explore the advantages of writing in series and look at what can be learned from successful series authors such as John Sandford, Stieg Larsson, Tana French, Nelson DeMille, CJ Box, and Lee Child.

While the focus of the discussion will be series that fall in the category of mystery/suspense, the principles

will be applicable to novels of just about any genre.

Ross's 28 years of experience as an editor includes scouting talent for a major New York literary agency, developing a popular series of writers workshops, and working closely with hundreds of authors from first draft to final publication, as a developmental and line editor.

Since 1998, he has been in charge of editorial operations at The Editorial Department, which offers numerous resources for writers, from book planning to publishing support.

He lives with his wife and son in Tucson, Arizona, and enjoys playing golf and watching baseball.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Edie Matthews, SBWC President



Our Annual Potluck BBQ

Under a patio shaded by wisteria and the yard dotted with blue and green umbrellas, SBW members gathered at tables covered in yellow flowered and blue checkered tablecloths for our Annual Potluck BBQ—the first opportunity to resume our summer fun since 2019, after being on a three-year hiatus due to COVID.

Once again, the dining-room table was laden with food that represented America's melting pot: Asian, Mexican, Southern, California cuisine, and traditional dishes like potato salad.

My oldest son barbecued the chicken carefully monitoring it with a meat thermometer. This year I marinated it in a combination of lemon juice, soy sauce, beer, herbs and spices. We enjoyed an array of beverages that included sparkling water, champagne, wine, beer, and later coffee to go with dessert.

Aside from enjoying the food, there wasn't an agenda. It was a chance to chat and catch up with friends who we haven't seen in way too long. Conversations abounded. Edgar Wen Chang brought his recently published book *Dance of the Butterfly*. Robert Balmanno told us how his four books, beginning with *September Snow*, have become a popular fantasy series in Australia.

The weather was splendid for the twenty-seven writers who attended, (along with four of my family members who helped prepare the day).

For many years, my husband Jim was my chief helper. He would tidy the backyard, put up a canopy (at

our previous residence) and get out extra tables and chairs. Though Jim has never been a member, he was a major help. Every meeting he arrived early and set up the sound system, and returned after the meeting to packed it up and take it home. The last ten years, he teamed up with Marge Johnson's husband Frank. They became great pals and ate dinner at Harry's Hofbrau, discussing a myriad of topics, while we enjoyed our meeting.

Adding to Sunday's festivities, Katherine Tyler brought a gorgeous cake artfully decorated with eatable chrysanthemums. The dessert was a surprise to celebrate Audry Lynch's 89th birthday.

In case you're unaware, Audry is a John Steinbeck aficionado. She's written eight books on the iconic California author. Not only is she an expert on his work and history, she knows the tantalizing details of his life. I was impressed to learn that she'd interviewed all three of Steinbeck's wives. Without hesitation, she answered my curious questions.

Since our last BBQ, we've replaced the uneven stone walkway in the front of our house with a smooth brick path, and if negotiating the few steps entering my home is a challenge, the side entrance to the backyard is level and accessible to wheelchairs.

I also want to thank my daughter Michele and my son's fiancée Kristen who both helped me get the house ready inside and out. They also helped greet people and get their name tags on. As the saying goes, many hands lighten the load.

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SBW Mission

Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Renewal fees are \$45 for membership through June 30. Dual membership dues are \$25, student membership dues are \$20 New or lapsed membership dues are \$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

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CWC South Bay Branch

WRITERSTALK – MANAGING EDITOR

Geraldine C. Forté (aka Gerri)



August is National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month is sponsored by the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) and is observed in August annually across the USA.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of vaccinating people of all ages against a number of serious and sometimes deadly diseases. The awareness month also celebrates the successes of the different immunizations that have been created in the 20th century and beyond.

Every year, the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC), in collaboration with CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, has developed a communication toolkit for use in your communities, schools and work places and encourages people to become involved, raise awareness and most important of all, get immunized. There are 4 key messages of the toolkits that are produced annually, these being:

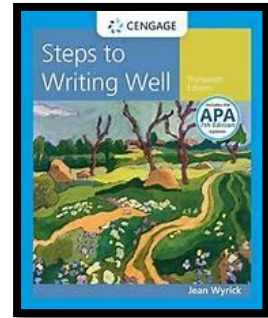
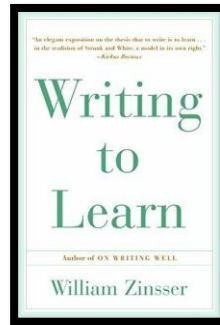
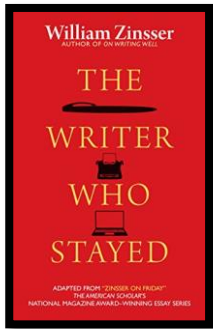
- **Vaccines protect against serious diseases.**
- **These diseases still exist and outbreaks do occur.**
- **Vaccines are recommended throughout our lives.**
- **Vaccines are very safe.**

There are many debates around the safety of many of the vaccinations available. However, governments across the world, acting upon the advice of leading scientists and medical professionals overwhelmingly support immunization schemes.

For more information about available immunizations visit one of the official websites.

WRITING TIPS FROM WILLIAM ZINSSER

Provided by Marty Sorensen



1. Don't make lazy word choices: "You'll never make your mark as a writer unless you develop a respect for words and a curiosity about their shades of meaning that is almost obsessive. The English language is rich in strong and supple words. Take the time to root around and find the ones you want."
2. On the other hand, avoid jargon and big words: "Clear thinking becomes clear writing; one can't exist without the other. It's impossible for a muddy thinker to write good English."
3. Writing is hard work: "A clear sentence is no accident. Very few sentences come out right the first time, or even the third time. Remember this in moments of despair. If you find that writing is hard, it's because it is hard."
4. Write in the first person: "Writing is an intimate transaction between two people, conducted on paper, and it will go well to the extent that it retains its humanity."
5. And the more you keep in first person and true to yourself, the sooner you will find your style: "Sell yourself, and your subject will exert its own appeal. Believe in your own identity and your own opinions. Writing is an act of ego, and you might as well admit it."
6. Don't ask who your audience is...you are the audience: "You are writing primarily to please yourself, and if you go about it with enjoyment you will also entertain the readers who are worth writing for."
7. Study the masters but also your contemporaries: "Writing is learned by imitation. If anyone asked me how I learned to write, I'd say I learned by reading the men and women who were doing the kind of writing I wanted to do and trying to figure out how they did it."
8. Yes, the thesaurus is your friend: "The Thesaurus is to the writer what a rhyming dictionary is to the songwriter—a reminder of all the choices—and you should use it with gratitude. If, having found the scalawag and the scapegrace, you want to know how they differ, then go to the dictionary."
9. Read everything you write out loud for rhythm and sound: "Good writers of prose must be part poet, always listening to what they write."
10. And don't ever believe you are going to write anything definitive: "Decide what corner of your subject you're going to bite off, and be content to cover it well and stop."

VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Chris Weilert

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7 p.m. on July 13th. SBW Board members are listed on page 2 of WritersTalk with their emails.

Meeting began 7:25 PM.

Approved the previous meeting's minutes.

Edie Matthews, President

The annual member barbeque to be held at Edie's home in Santa Clara. The date is Sunday July 17th. There is a mandatory proof of Covid vaccination or a recent negative test. Members and a guests invited by RSVP only. See your dish suggestion by last name on invite.

The next few member meetings will be via Zoom due to remote location of the guest speakers.

The location for an in-person meeting site is Denny's in Santa Clara. The date of the first meeting there has yet to be decided. The status of Covid and safety to be a determining factor.

The next writing contest to be a Labor Day theme, details to follow.

Jamal Khan, Vice President

August 8th: Ross Browne. "Series and Series Identity in Popular Fiction: Why to consider writing a series, and how to make the most of it if you do"

September 12th: Brent van Staaldunin. "Crafting Short Stories". Subtitle: with the goal of contest/journal submissions Both speakers will be Zoom presentations.

Marge Johnson, MRMS

No new information to report. Encouraged more Member News to be submitted

Trenton Myers, Treasurer

We have experienced a slight (2.6%) increase in funds since May.

Tatyana Grinenko, PR and Web Editor WritersTalk:

July BBQ Two email reminders went out to members. I will check on membership and based on that will send out subsequent emails to new members reminding them of the event details.

Renewals Sent out

"Welcome to 2022-2023 emails to Members with information on what membership perks to take

advantage of (Writers Talk). Will use any email that's not on my list to email out reminders (note that some members have two emails and thus might get two different emails

Email: Our Constant Contact list is at 439 active members.

Future Meetings 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. Recent Open Mic stats: June 17th – 9 readers, 10 readings July 1st – 6 readers, 7 readings. For the moment, all of our open mics are via Zoom again. Attend this popular venue by contacting Bill Baldwin at WABaldwin@aol.com.

Bill has requested an alias email address.

Central Board - The next Central Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 31 - live in Oakland.

NorCal NorCal met on May 18th . Next NorCal meeting will be held in August The NorCal Leadership Conference is scheduled for October.

San Francisco Writers Conference is scheduled for July 21-24. 2022

Carolyn Donnell

Facebook: Nothing new to report.

Inga Silva

Membership: As of July 7th - 35 renewals, 19 active, 15 associate and 1 student.

Geri Forte. Editor of WritersTalk

Welcome new submissions, always room for more. Will keep the "Writing Tips" section but open for suggestions.

Meeting ended 8:15 PM.

Next Board meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 on Zoom.

Next speaker meeting: August 8, 2022.

SBW members are always welcome at Board meetings. To attend a board meeting, send an email to Edie Matthews at pres@southbaywriters.com

Proofreading for Writers Talk

Patricia Collins

Do you love to write, know that you have compelling stories or ideas to share, but cringe when it's time to proofread what you've drafted? Most of us are our own worst proofreaders: We see what we meant to write rather than what we actually wrote, or we're unfamiliar with some writing mechanics "rules." This is one reason that publishers require proofreading for grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and sentence-level clarity.

Punctuation			
Period ● Use a period at the end of a declarative sentence and in abbreviations.	Question Mark ? Use a question mark after an interrogative sentence.	Quotation Marks “ ” Use quotation marks for direct quotations.	Apostrophe ' Use an apostrophe in contractions and to indicate possession.
Comma , Use a comma to separate items in a series, to set off an appositive, or before the conjunction in a compound sentence.	Hyphen - Use a hyphen to join words serving as a single adjective before a noun, in number words, and to divide words into syllables.	Exclamation Point ! Use an exclamation point to show strong emotion or to give a command.	
Colon : Use a colon to introduce a list and before a final clause that explains something in the sentence.	Parentheses () Use parentheses around extra nonessential information that is too important to omit.	Semicolon ; Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses that are not connected with a coordinate conjunction.	

When your manuscript is submitted to *Writers Talk* and tentatively accepted for publication, proofreading support is the next step: One of our proofreaders goes through the manuscript and makes recommendations for changes. You decide which feedback to incorporate in your final manuscript. We hope you'll appreciate this as a learning opportunity.

OFF THE SHELF

Edie Matthews



"Celebrate. At least you are over writer's block!"

LES PROSE

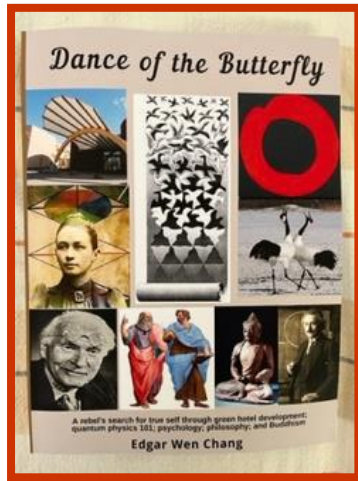
Ken Roberge



MEMBER NEWS

Marjorie Johnson

Edgar Wen Chang wrote, "My book, Dance of the Butterfly, 465 pages 8.5 by 11, was published temporarily through Amazon while I signed with a hundred-year-old publisher."



A poem by member **Carolyn Donnell**, "Bloom," was accepted for publication in *Scarlet Dragonfly Journal*:

Bloom

*"How fortunate are the flowers
that get to bloom fully realized"*

The narrative essay by **Patricia Collins**, "A Walk along the Levees" has been selected for the 2022 *California Writers Club Literary Review* issue. The *Literary Review* is an annual publication that selects from fiction, nonfiction, and poetry submissions by CWC members.

Member **Roy Mize**, a member of my Monday critique group for twenty years, passed away this summer. An aviation historian, he researched less known early aviators, such as Ruth Law, a petite and beautiful woman who was the sweetheart of America and a national hero for a time. She fell in love with flying at an early age and bought her first plane from Orville Wright, who refused to teach her to fly. She received her pilot's certificate in 1912, and almost immediately began exploring new paths in aviation. She perfected aerobatic maneuvers,

such as the "loop the loop," and demonstrated them before mesmerized crowds.



"Little Looper"

Roy was an amazing researcher and gave many talks to aviation groups. He also was our "fact checker", and we will miss him.

This picture shows Roy with his friend, John Steinbeck



Let's hear more writing/literary news. Send what you've been doing to Marjorie at membernews@southbaywriters.com

MORE PHOTOS OF JULY ANNUAL POTLUCK!

SBW BBQ 2022 Out on the patio



SBW BBQ 2022 Happy Birthday Audry



SBW BBQ 2022 Indoors eat and drink



MEMBER COMPOSITIONS

Pinocchio

Marjorie Johnson

The Adventures of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi (1883)

Translated by John Hooper and Anna Kraczyna (2021)

The new annotated edition of *Pinocchio*, the most translated Italian book in the world, will soon be the source of two new major motion pictures.



You know the story. Carved from a piece of wood by the old carpenter Geppetto, the puppet Pinocchio comes to life and immediately starts to misbehave. But while this beloved character has achieved literary immortality, the novel has been widely misunderstood. Pinocchio has a penchant for lying, to be sure, but it's when he avoids going to school that he repeatedly gets into trouble. He's the Bart Simpson of 1885.

The Adventures of Pinocchio is an unusually timely fable for our increasingly authoritarian times—a story about the importance of education and of preventing others from pulling our strings.

The book's real message: Get educated. Don't let people pull your strings.

Article, June 2022 *Smithsonian*: "The Real Pinocchio" by Perri Klass

Debts of August

Happy 75th Independence Day to India!

From my debut book of poetry: [Arrivals & Departures: Journeys in Poems](#)

Reena Kapoor



skin

*I am but aged skin
Eyes reddened with all I've seen
Nails blunted from walls I've scaled
Hair that flailed in many winds*

*Journeys that were so long and hard
Sometimes unable to take one more step
Spat out with waters soaked in my blood
With room to breathe but I can only sigh*

*Forks & betrayals so many I couldn't recall
Tears are water, don't wash off blood
My collections of roses and thorns and mud
I fell and crawled and stood up again*

*Rode aspiration horses of broken legs
Uprooted from land that was mine, familiar
My heart sent off to a permanent exile
So yes, I don't know how to cry*

*Now I smile, and laugh but it ends in ache
Such stories you couldn't imagine in dreams
My accounts could save you some wounds
Won't you sit a while, listen to me?*

F for FISH FOX FIRE

Shipra Shukla

A fish once swimming in the water realized that life is very dull. There is only water, water everywhere and I do not even drink water. And all I can see are other creatures just swimming away. This is so boring. I want a more exciting life. Maybe, life outside the water may be more exciting.

But how can a fish get out of water? She'll die. So, what was she going to do? The fish thought and thought for a long time and then came up with a brain wave. She thought, there is a turtle swimming there, why don't I ask him if I can sit on his back and when he pops out of the water, I can see the world and when I'm not comfortable he can sink into the water again.

So, she did just that. She asked the turtle if he would help her to see the outside world by sitting on his back. The turtle was a kind soul so he agreed. Now the fish would sit on the turtle's back and watched the outside world with wonder and when she felt she was getting out of breath, the turtle would sink into the water.



"The fish who wanted to travel"

As time went by the two became good friends and the turtle started taking the fish to new places. One day he even left the sea and paddled into the river which was emptying itself into the sea. It went upstream where the fish could see trees which lined the banks of the river and the little homes of fishermen who lived close by.

As the turtle swam and the fish popped its head out of the surface of the water, she saw an animal on the bank of the river lapping the water as it was thirsty. The fish was curious so she asked the turtle to slow down. The turtle slowed down and the fish looked at the animal with red fur who looked at the fish and said,

"Hello, I'm a fox. Who are you and what are you doing perched on the back of that old geezer?"

The fish said, "I'm a fish and I was bored of life so I decided to see the world. And since I can't live out of water this is the only way I can and the turtle is helping me".

The fox looked at the fish and thought to himself, "What a juicy morsel. But how do I get her, she is in very deep water. If I can persuade the turtle to come to the shallow water, maybe I can jump in and catch the fish. That will be a good meal for me".

"What a juicy morsel!"

Now foxes are very clever creatures and wily too. So, he said, "Well, well, well. You are a very smart fish to want to see the world but, really you can't see much from the sea or even the river. The world is much bigger and there are very exciting things to see. Why don't I show you the really exciting things to see!" The fish said, "How is that possible? I can't live outside the water. How will I see all these exciting things?"

The fox licked his chops and said, "It's very simple. I'll get a bucket of water and you just jump in. I'll carry the bucket by its handle in my mouth and carry you around the world, and you can pop your head out and see all the wonderful creatures and other stuff. You will not believe your eyes when you see these exciting, interesting and wonderful things."



Listening to the fox the fish was beside herself with excitement. She promptly agreed and although the turtle told her not to, she promptly jumped into the bucket that the fox ran and brought and filled up with water.

Now the fox trotted on the path leading out of the woods, holding the handle of the bucket in his mouth while the fish popped out its head to see the world. She was thrilled but was also getting very uncomfortable as there was not enough water in the bucket and as the fox trotted some of it would splash out. You see the fox was in a hurry and you can guess why.



“The fish was not comfortable”.

The fish asked the fox to turn back but he said he wanted her to see the most wondrous thing in the world first and then he’ll take her back. Since the fish was in a bucket there was not much she could do about it.

The fox trotted on and soon the fish could see an orange glow. She asked the fox what was it, the orange glow. The fox said, “Oh ! That is a fire. Some humans are probably on a picnic and cooking on it.” The fish was very curious and asked the fox to go closer so she could look at it. The fox slowly crept close to the fire but he did not see the root of a tree sticking out of the ground and tripped on it. The bucket went flying and fell on the ground

with a loud clanking sound. The water spilt out and the fish fell into the fire. The humans had an extra treat that day because of a certain foolish fish who was now a foolish fried fish.



Moral: Don’t try new things when they are not part of your existence or you will become a fish out of water.

Land of Gods

Shipra Shukla

An interesting sight of Himachal was the image of a soldier protecting a temple, usually a large statue with a gun toting military jawan. Have things come to such a pass that the Hindus feel they are under attack?

The military presence in this border area is strong and visible. Yes, Hindustan feels it's under attack and is girding its loins to fight off any attack. This has not happened in its five-thousand-year history, even when they were attacked by wave after wave of invaders who looted, pillaged, and ravished the land - basically abusing the hospitality of the denizens of this country. Even when many like the Moslems and English stayed back to first loot and then integrate, they never stopped the plunder, conversion, and exploitation of this land. Those who have lived here for centuries did not protest. They nonchalantly continued with their way of life.

But now, India is no longer a conglomerate of different provinces ruled by different kings forever waging war against each other, aligning with inimical forces for their self-serving interests. It's united and it's hurting. For centuries, it has welcomed even conquerors who have chosen to settle here and pretty much allowed a free rein to their reign!

Parsis who came two thousand years ago when persecuted in Iran, were first dismissed summarily, but then they promised that they would live and integrate peacefully just like sugar in a cup of tea, the ruler of Gujarat gave in and allowed them to live, prosper and make their agiari temples wherever they chose to do so, no questions asked.



The Buddhists, who seeded and flowered here and then moved to various other lands, were never persecuted, and those who wished to join them were never prevented from doing so. When the Tibetan monks and the Dalai Lama were persecuted for their faith and fled from China, they found refuge in 'Devbhumi' Himachal, and monasteries mushroomed all over this land so much so that an area where they populate is now called ***Little Lhasa!***

And there is Little Israel too in Kasol where the Jews have found a haven of refuge from wars in their land because the Arabs and Moslems will not tolerate their presence or any other for that matter.

And, of course, the largest shareholders of this plot are the Muslims who came in waves of looting, exploitation, intolerance, conversions and still happily stayed back to make their home here and carry on with their ways with no backlash or recriminations. They were followed by the English and their proselytizing spirit and churches found their way into the tableaux of Hindustan! In fact, Goa abounds with churches. Kerala followed suit, and Mizoram and the eastern state are the results of the modern-day proselytizing spirit.

Borders were left open from all sides to allow intruders and to weaken the country. Caste, religion, and language differences were encouraged so that the country could break and again become an easy prey for outside forces be they political or economic. Let us not forget the greedy multinationals!

Is it any wonder that the Hindus are angry and raging? This rage comes from hurt at the betrayal of those they considered their brothers and friends, to who they gave shelter, who they welcomed with open arms and allowed to live freely and continue living their way of life. There were never any problems for so long. So what changed?

What changed was that the petro-dollars infused a strong sense of invincibility in the minds of the rulers of the pan Islamic nations and fired with the zeal of leaving their stamp on history, they decided to once more attack

Hindustan, but this time from within! Insidious! A misguided section of them decided that they were doing the right thing by throwing in their lot with them. Why are they surprised now if there is a backlash?

As for the rest of the world, a major part of it Christian, decided the Hindus are savages who worship strange looking Gods, animals, trees, rivers and mountains and should be brought under the fold of the one God, his son and the Holy Spirit. When you are not educated well enough in the ways of the world or insular and inward looking, the result is intolerance, xenophobia, and dislike for any other way than your own.

They forget their own teachings which say, “My father has a mansion and it has many rooms and there are many ways to reach God” which is exactly what Hinduism is about. It’s a philosophy of live and let live which is what is important because, as Mahatma Gandhi said, “If you follow the principle of an eye for an eye, very soon the whole world will be blind!” I can quote hundreds of axioms which are non-Hindu which exhort man to live peacefully, respect nature and be compassionate if we are to survive as a human race.

I mean if you rile the meek, you are going to make that adage come true, “The meek shalt inherit the earth”! And no one, so far, has been meeker than the Hindus. They couldn’t care less about bringing anyone into their fold, in fact you can only be born a Hindu, and if you choose to go away, please do not come back. It’s a bad move, though, if we take the example of Kashmir where the forcibly converted Muslims were ready to come back, but the pandas of Kashi refused their plea!

So, in conclusion, when I saw the images of soldiers protecting the temples, it rang a bell and set up a red flag of warning! Hindustan, India, Bharat is no longer so amenable, compliant, tolerant, hospitable, and easy going. The responsible parties are those who thought that they could tear asunder what God has put together.



County Fair Food Rules!

Chris Weillert

Why is carnival food the best tasting food on the planet? I have eaten some very exquisite food in my lifetime, but it will never compare to a corndog at the county fair. The smell of *cotton candy* is so far reaching that it brings blissful thoughts to all who intake the odor of burning sugar. Cotton candy tastes just okay for me and I can only take in so much of it before I toss it. Kids will get a sugar high that puts them into the stratosphere of crazed behavior that most adults can't handle.



After passing on the *funnel cake* for years, I felt it was time to indulge, more out of

curiosity than hunger. Was it some kind of culinary delight that comes out of a funnel? I sure it would be some kind of high octane offering of flour and icing sure to create a gut bomb. It was a challenge I could accept. I was handed a mini cake that was assembled by layering a tubular stream of cake mix slathered with whipped cream and strawberries. The mystery was revealed. I worked at it for a half an hour before I chucked it in the trash. I wanted to ride the Tilt-O-Whirl ride but not with that sitting in my belly while I was being spun into oblivion on the ride.



Anything deep-fried is the true essence of county fair and carnival food. I never had a deep-fried artichoke heart until I went to a fair. Corn on the cob on a stick?... what the hell is going on here. I can't find those sticks anywhere in the store. Snow cones only come out perfect at an outdoor

event. When you try to make them at home they fall apart. Churros, *corndogs* and dipped cones round out my list of favorites. Any sign of healthy food choices has been banned from county fairs. But there will be a day when some politician feels the need to pass a law that requires salad to be put into the mix.

Next year I am going for the deep-fried Oreos and maybe if I am really adventurous, I'll tackle the Grilled Cheese Frito Crunch Sandwich with battered peanut butter pickles. Mmmm.



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.*

WRITERS BEWARE site. Check out this website for warnings about contests, submissions, etc.

<https://www.sfwaw.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

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

SF/Peninsula Branch. If you are a dual member, they are looking to the next Fault Zone The theme is: Detachment. Submissions open Sep 1 — Dec 30, 2022. <https://www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/next-issue>

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>

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 <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers/>

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>

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

OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS:

Writers Digest Contests. See details for all at

<https://www.writersdigest.com/wd-competitions/writing-competitions-pricing-and-deadlines>

- SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS Deadline: September 15, 2022

- POETRY AWARDS Deadline: November 1, 2022

- SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION Deadline: December 15, 2022

All deadlines are at 11:59 PM EST, on the specified date.

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/>

31st Annual Jeffrey E. Smith Editors' Prize \$5,000 Fiction | \$5,000 Nonfiction | \$5,000 Poetry

Deadline: Oct 1, 2022 Details at <https://www.missourireview.com/contests/jeffrey-e-smith-editors-prize/>

Trish Hopkinson - A blog with many resources. No Fee submissions, Publishers who accept reprints, etc. www.trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/

Palette Poetry - Current contest Sappho – for women poets. See their submissions calendar at <https://www.palett poetry.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. Currently looking for cat or dog stories. More information at <https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines>

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

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/

Zoetrope Screenplay contest. Final deadline Sept. 6, 2022, at 11:59:59 PST. Entry fee - US \$50 (. Winner will receive \$5,000. The winner plus 9 finalists will have scripts sent by American Zoetrope to select talent agencies and production companies. <https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/screenplays-2022/rules>

Zoetrope: All-Story Short Fiction

Competition DEADLINE: October 3, 2022 Short stories and one-act plays of up to five thousand words. 1st prize \$1000, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$250. Three prizewinners and seven honorable mentions will be considered for representation. October 3, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/stories-2022/>

Booksie 2022 Short Story Competition. all genres and themes. Grand prize winner \$500 cash award

Two runners-up \$100 cash. One free week of Promotes Must be a Booksie member but membership is free.

See details at <https://www.booksie.com/contest/the-booksie-2022-short-story-competition-28>

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/

Literary Mama Open for submission year round. Submissions by anyone who identifies as a mother, including those hoping to conceive and those who have lost a child. They also occasionally publish work by fathers. Only previously unpublished work. Details at <https://literarymama.com/submissions>

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/

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

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 * submissions with no entry fee. 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)

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contests published or unpublished work accepted. Deadline Sept. 30.

TOM HOWARD PRIZE: \$3,000 for a poem in any style or genre. MARGARET REID PRIZE: \$3,000 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style. Honorable Mentions: 10 awards-\$200 each

<https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest>

Naugatuck River Review's -14th Annual Narrative Poetry Contest Deadline September 1st, 2022. Up to 3 unpublished narrative poems per submission. 1st prize \$1000 for one poem, 2nd \$250, 3rd \$100. Fee-\$20. Winners, finalists and semi-finalists published in the winter/spring 2023 issue of NRR. <https://naugatuckriverreview.com/>

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
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 reputable chapbook contests (some accept prose) <https://blog.reedsy.com/how-to-make-a-chapbook/>

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/

Poetry Foundation www.poetryfoundation.org

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
- Poetry Lounge
- National Poetry Month-write a poem a day challenge
- Coffee House Perculator Writing Group
- California Poets
- The Academy of American Poets
- Poetry Pacific
- How Writers Write Poetry Community Group
- No Fee Calls for Poems
- SF Creative Writing Institute
- Drop-in poetry workshops
- Rattle -Includes online critiques.

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

LABOR DAY WRITING CONTEST



Rules

Write a 100-to-150 words describing your experience at a job. It can be the worse job, the best job, the most interesting job, the zaniest job, the most adventurous job—or perhaps a combination. Describe your experience in prose or poetry.

First place prize \$50. Top four runner-ups will receive a Barnes & Nobles Gift card. No entry fee required

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 or you need to renew, do it now! (southbaywriters.com). **Contest deadline: August 15, 2022.** Email entry to: pres@southbaywriters.com

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"August is National Immunization Awareness Month"



- August 3 SBW Executive Board Meeting pres@southbaywriters.com
- August 5 Open Mic WABaldwin@aol.com
- August 8 Speaker Meeting featuring Ross Browne pres@southbaywriters.com
- August 15 Deadline for receipt of articles for publication in WritersTalk Newsletter
- August 15 Entries due for the Labor Day Writing Contest pres@southbaywriters.com
- August 19 Open Mic WABaldwin@aol.com

"RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!"

www.southbaywriters.com



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
PO Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055

MAIL TO:

South Bay Writers
Monday, August 8, 2022
7 pm

"Series and Series Identity in Popular Fiction: Why to Consider Writing a Series"
Featuring author - **ROSS BROWNE**

"RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!"
www.southbaywriters.com