



# WRITERS TALK



South Bay Writers

Newsletter

September 2022

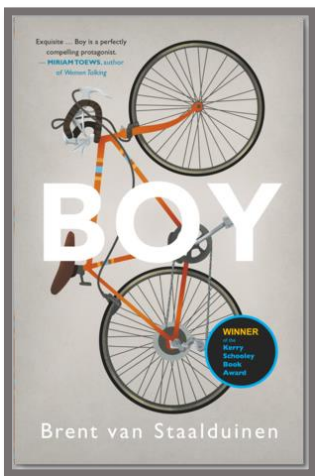


***"Crafting Short Stories, With a Focus on Journal/Contest Submissions"***

with Brent van Staalduin  
***Submitted by Jamal Kahn***

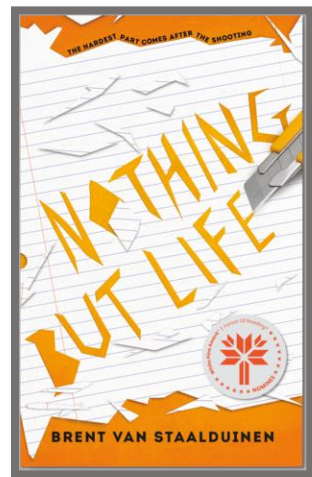
A short story is the epitome of literary economy. Less is more. Edgar Allen Poe once wrote, "A short story must have a single mood and every sentence must build towards it." No room for fluff or filler. Just pure narrative propulsion that packs a punch. Neil Gaiman has observed, "A short story is the ultimate close-up magic trick – a couple of thousand words to take you around the universe or break your heart." The recently released Hollywood film *The Black Phone* was adapted from a short story. So were many other cinematic classics. In light

of today's shrinking attention spans, the short story is an especially compelling option to land a distracted reader's attention. During our meeting on September 12, Brent van Staalduin will guide us through the process of crafting an unforgettable short story that will win a writing contest and/or be accepted by a journal.



Brent is an award-winning novelist and short story writer from Ontario, Canada, and the author of the novels *Boy*, *Nothing But Life*, *Saints*, and *Unexpected*, as well as the short story collection *Cut Road*. His short stories have appeared in *Hamilton Magazine*, *The Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology*, *The Prairie Journal*, *The New Guard*

*Literary Review*, *The Nottingham Review*, and many other literary publications. He has been awarded the Kerry Schooley Book Award, the Bristol Short Story Prize, the Lush Triumphant Literary Award, the Fiddlehead Best Short Story Award, The Writer Magazine's "Our Darkest Hour" Prize, and several other honors. He is also a certified educator with more than a decade of teaching experience, and has helped many other writers tell their stories. His literary thriller *Unthinkable* will be published in the fall of 2023.



**When:** Monday, September 12 at 7pm

**Where:** Zoom Online Platform (link forthcoming)

## BETWEEN THE LINES

*Eddie Matthews, SBW President*



### **Audio Book Adventure**

In the mid-80s, the Santa Clara Library began stocking audiobooks. First, they were recorded on cassettes, and eventually on CDs. These books enhanced my evening walk. They also helped me fall asleep at night. I'd forget my to-do list, relax, distracted by a story, and drift off to sleep. On occasion, the book would be so intriguing that I'd find myself wanting to hear the next tape. Generally, however, I'd fall asleep, knowing that I wouldn't miss anything since I could pick up where I left off on the following day.

A few years later, I began weekly commutes to Los Angeles, pursuing a showbiz career. I could not afford to fly, so I made friends with the drive. My routine included five books on tape (the library limit back then), and a cup of coffee. The recordings enhanced my 5 ½ hour trip, covering exactly 350 miles door-to-door from my house to the studio apartment in Hollywood.

Normally the trip on Highway 5 was tedious, particularly in the 90s. The terrain was flat, desolate, with few rest stops or services. Nonetheless, the straight road eased the drive. Once I crossed Hwy 157 and reached Hwy 5, I'd set the car on cruise control and headed south, entertained by a book on tape.

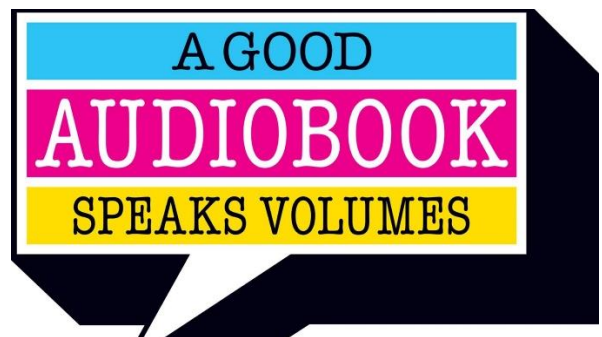
During the first year, I checked out my favorite books and authors. Mystery/suspense series by James Lee Burke, Michael Connelly, John Sandford, etc. Literature by F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, William Faulkner, etc. Memoirs like *The Liars' Club*, Mary Karr; *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou; *This*

*Boy's Life*, Tobias Wolff; *Will: The Autobiography of G. Gordon Liddy*; *Haywire*, Brook Hayward.

After a year, I'd listened to my first choices and had to select other options. So, I expanded my repertoire and discovered new writers. At the same time, there were a few genres like romance that I avoided. I'd once read a Harlequin Romance in my teens. The story was corny and predictable, and the vocabulary was equivalent to a third-grade reader. Nope, not for me. But now I was running out of options. So, one of my five selections was a romance.

I left the romance for last, reluctantly picking it in the final hour of my trip home. The story hooked me. When I reached my house, I wanted to continue listening. Afterwards, I checked out more books by the same author. By the third one, I recognized a formula. The first ten pages introduced the character and her dilemma. By page 25, she'd met a handsome man. She resisted, but by page 40, they were smooching. By page 95 they were lovers. In each new book, it seemed like all that had changed was the names, places, and wardrobe.

Of course, this wasn't the first time I'd run across formulaic rules. You will encounter them when you study writing. Whether it's a short story or a screenplay, you learn about the introduction, inciting incident, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action (denouement), and resolution/conclusion.



Although most writing doesn't require a rigid timeline, being aware of the process is helpful. If your project has left you stumped, you can review the checklist and see if you've left out one of the critical steps.

California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

**SBW Officers**

President –Edie Matthews [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

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Secretary-Chris Weilert  
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Open Mic-Bill Baldwin [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto: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**

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

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CWC South Bay Branch

**WRITERSTALK – MANAGING EDITOR**

*Geraldine C. Forté (aka Gerri)*



**Marketing Tip**

<https://youtu.be/1rpLOhPJ9L0>



Creating a 90 second trailer of your book can be a fun  
and positive way to market your work. Your publisher  
probably has this service. If not, you can hire a graphic  
designer to create the trailer for you, or you can do it  
yourself.

If you choose to do it yourself,

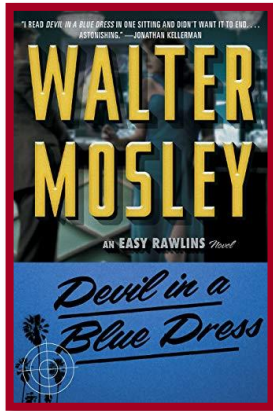
- Capture highlights of your work that can become frames of text inserted into the pictures.
- Select photographs and music from a licensed website such as Shutterstock.com for royalty free images, clip art and sounds.
- Let your trailer not only be an introduction to your work, but an inspiration to read it in full.
- Be sure to include a copy of your book cover.
- Include where the book can be purchased.

I have used my trailers as advertisements on social media platforms, and I also use them as openings when I am involved in a virtual book talk. Due to the COVID Pandemic, all of my book talks for the past two years have been online, and this has actually been a good thing. No traveling on the freeway!



## WRITING TIPS FROM WALTER MOSLEY

Comprised by MasterClass



Novelist Walter Mosley has written many critically-acclaimed works in various genres, from detective mysteries, science fiction to political commentary. Below are Walter's helpful tips for aspiring first-time novelists:

1. Be inventive. "A novel isn't putting the left front tire on the Volkswagen on the production line. The novel is creating a whole new mode of transportation, a whole new mode of understanding the world," Walter says. Look beyond your sources of inspiration and the [writing structures](#) you are familiar with—play around with words, worlds, and themes.
2. Writing is intensely personal, and connecting with your subject matter can be the key to telling a story that resonates with your readers. Write about the things that matter to you, whether the subjects are controversial or not, and avoid worrying about what someone else thinks—be they critics or loved ones.
3. Believe in yourself. Most writers deal with distractions and the occasional [writer's block](#), but persistence is key, especially when writing your first novel. Know that if you keep at it, you will eventually break through that wall and be able to push forward to complete your story.
4. Write every day, even if it's just a few lines, to build and develop that habit. Being consistent in your writing practice will help you get into a rhythm that makes it easier to generate ideas.
5. Be diverse. [Poetry](#) is a writing form that focuses on the precise use of words and structure, a skill that can come in handy when [writing a novel](#) or short story.
6. Just write. Draft an [outline](#) for your story, then put pen to paper (or fingers to keys) and start writing. You can always finetune the form and structure later, but don't wait to get your ideas down.
7. It can be easy to evaluate your work harshly or compare it to the novel on your bedside table, but our writing does not judge us in turn. Write what you feel, write what you want, and avoid judging your ideas before they even hit the page.
8. Use your imagination to create a literary work that makes an impact. Avoid tackling trendy subject matter or writing a book for a [genre](#) just because it's performing well. Focus on writing the stories that ring true to you to create a timeless work for posterity.
9. Completing a novel is a massive task to undertake for professional and amateur writers. Take time to acknowledge your accomplishment before starting work on your next project. Writing is a transformational process. Even if you don't love the finished product, always be proud of the work you've accomplished.

## **VIEW FROM THE BOARD**

*Chris Weilert*

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7 p.m. on August 4th. SBW Board members are listed on page 2 of *WritersTalk* with their emails.

**Meeting began 7:25 PM.**

### **Edie Matthews, President**

- The board approved the July Board Meeting minutes
- The annual member barbeque was successfully held at Edie's home in Santa Clara.
- The next few member meetings will be via Zoom due to remote location of the guest speakers.
- The next writing contest to be a Labor Day theme. \$50 for first place and runners up to receive Barnes and Noble gift cards
- There could be future a joint project/event with the City of San Jose Library
- September 12th: Brent van Staalduin.
- "Crafting Short Stories". Subtitle: with the goal of contest/journal submissions
- The membership renewal option is to be held open to the end of the month
- Our Group page to remain as a "members only" site
- In regards to future elections: "COVID has affected SBW's procedures in numerous ways, particularly since we haven't held an in-person meeting since March 2020. Consequently, our election this year was done casually during June meeting. Members were encouraged to volunteer for positions on the board. Fortunately, most of the board members have agreed to stay on. However, two key positions have been filled: Chris Weilert as Secretary, and Gerri Forte as WritersTalk editor. Marge Johnson is now handling Members News."

### **Trenton Myers, Treasurer**

We have experienced a (7.4%) increase in funds since June.

### **Tatyana Grinenko, PR and Web Editor**

**WritersTalk:** Two email reminders went out to members on Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Renewals**

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, "Welcome to 2022-2023 emails were sent to Members with information on what membership perks to take advantage of (Writers Talk)

**Email List:** Our Constant Contact list is at 440 active members.

**Google Analytics:** The traffic to our site has been doing well. Aside from July, we are receiving nearly 2000 pageviews a month

### **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:

July 15th – 10 readers, 11 readings

For the moment, all of our open mics are via Zoom

Attend this popular venue by contacting Bill

Baldwin at [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

Bill has requested an alias email address.

### **Central Board**

The Board met on Sunday, July 31 – live in Oakland

- We ended slightly in the black for the fiscal year.
- President Lubeck urges all branches to encourage new members, member renewals and volunteers.
- We currently have 1906 members statewide.
- We are eliminating the Associate Member category.

- We are rethinking the Literary Review because of the cost and issues with the process. We encourage branches to produce their own anthologies.
- We also encourage more emphasis on the Bulletin.
- California Writers Week is coming up the third week in October. Please plan an event.
- Election: The proposed slate of officers was approved. The only change is that Donna McCrohan Rosenthal is stepping down as Vice President and will be replaced by Robert Isbill. Sandy Moffett will be the Member-at-Large

### **NorCal**

- The San Francisco Writers Conference went well.
- Twelve CWC branches were represented (22 members received day passes).
- South Bay was not represented.
- The next NorCal meeting will be held in August via ZOOM.
- The next NorCal Leadership Conference is scheduled for October 1, 2022 in Pleasant Hill.

### **Carolyn Donnell. Facebook**

Nothing new to report. Other members offered some assistance to see if we can make a breakthrough with Facebook. It has become a long and frustrating attempt to correct the issues.

### **Inga Silva. Membership**

As of August 3, 2022 there are 68 members, 63 active members, 3 dual members and 1 student.

All members who pay full dues are considered active. This has to be put into the system by the branch which is the primary membership.

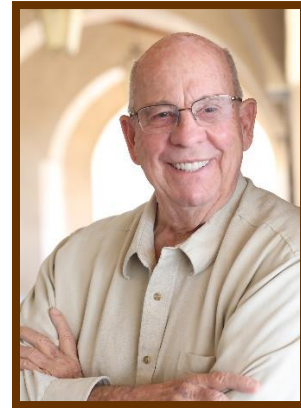
### **Geri Forte. Editor of *WritersTalk***

- Always looking for new submissions
- Writing Tips to be continued but always looking for new material. A current member has assisted with this.
- Interested in a recap of the San Francisco Writers Conference.

**Meeting ended 8:15 PM. Next Board meeting:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 on Zoom. Next speaker meeting: September 12, 2022. SBW members are always welcome at Board meetings. To attend a board meeting, send an email to Edie Matthews at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

## **STATEWIDE NEWS**

### **WHY IT'S ESSENTIAL TO GROW**



***Bob Isbill,  
CWC VP & Director of Public Relations***

In the words of Dara Marks, author of *Inside Story: The Transformational Arc*, there is nothing in the universe that is static. We are either growing towards something (life) or resisting growth, going towards decay and death.

That is true not only of your protagonist, but also of an organization or a writer's club. Sadly, our members, like other friends, drop out, move away, stop meeting with us—it's life's process. We consider ourselves lucky if we can count on one hand the number of real friends we've cultivated. We do not need to abandon the familiar and the loyal in order to enlarge our relationships and embrace new ones. We have the obligation to tell other people about our club.

Many people have no idea that on a certain day of every month, a hundred-year-old writers club meets in your town or city! They need to know that. Just take, for example, the latest guests who have joined your club. Each one has a separate and interesting background to bring to your branch.

That's how we recreate ourselves and develop the quality of our meetings and our structure. Writers, overall, are great people! When was the last time you invited one? Tell them about your website and look at your branch events, past and future.

Quality guest speakers like to speak to big meetings. Attendance reflects vitality of the group and excites those who come to hear about us. Increased membership also increases networking opportunities to meet and learn from those who can and will help us.

We have a larger responsibility than just increasing the numbers and populating our gatherings with lots of people; we have a sizable message to send to our fellow writers and the community: We are here!

## **LES PROSE**

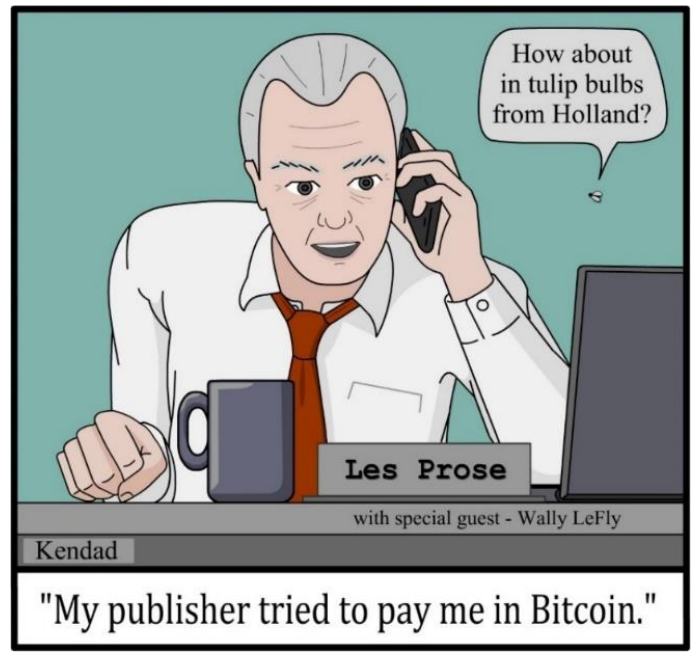
*Ken Roberge*

## **OFF THE SHELF**

*Edie Matthews*



**"Sherlock, what's with the deerstalker hat? You don't even like venison."**



## **MEMBER NEWS**

*Marjorie Johnson*

**Jac Fitz-enz** has good news on the writing front. In early August the first book on his trilogy, *The Shanahans*, will be published by Palmetto Publishing. The second book is in editing stages now and should be ready by the fall. Also, he is the cover story feature in *The Villages Spotlight*, a south bay-based magazine. The timing is great since its pub date and his book's pub date will coincide.

**Marjorie Bicknell-Johnson** (her professional name) writes that Research Gate reported several readers this week of her paper, "Retrograde Renegades II: Repeating decimals represented by sequences of diagonal sums of generalized Pascal Triangles," as well as her paper with Colin Paul Spears, "Fibonacci phyllotaxis by asymmetric cell division."

**Audry Lynch** writes, "Local Collector Shares his Love of Antiques" is my article that appeared in the Friday, August 5 edition of the Gilroy Dispatch that chronicles the dedicated career of Steven Yvaska.





*We're delighted that Marge Johnson, a board member who has contributed so much over the years to SBW, is recovering nicely after hip surgery.*

SBW life member **Tom Mach** recently posted a poem, "The Oak Tree," on Facebook.

### **The Oak Tree** **Tom Mach**

I am just a young oak  
not very tall,  
sitting in a forest of giants.  
I see my grandfather,  
stretching his arms up high,  
his branches grazed by birds  
building nests for their young  
and singing the songs of God.  
I wish I were my grandfather.



Two pieces by **Carolyn Donnell**,  
"My Mother's Name" and "Arms of The Angel,"  
have been chosen for inclusion in the yearly  
anthology, **Open Skies Poetry**.

### **ARMS OF THE ANGEL**

By Carolyn Donnell

In the arms of the angel  
a line from a song  
The hum of the music  
rises to my tongue  
whenever I see  
gray-haired  
bent ladies, wobbly  
walkers crossing  
at lights  
insufficient time to catch the train  
closed doors don't wait, schedules to keep.  
Guy in the wheelchair. Unwashed, feeble, maneuvering down  
Main Street. To where?  
Veteran of wars  
sent to kill  
returned home  
to die untended.  
Mothers with children  
no home to keep.  
Bankers' golden balloon.  
Others, no place to sleep.  
Where are the families,  
sons, daughters or friends?  
Church and charity they say  
but too often they pray,  
"Thank you, God, I'm not like them."  
Where is the angel for all of these?  
Are angels that selective and few?  
In the arms of the Angel.  
Do you have one?  
Lucky you.

~

Wow, what great news! Please share your writing  
news by sending it to me at  
**[membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com)**



## LABOR DAY WRITING CONTEST WINNERS AND ALPHA ENTRIES

### First Round Up - First Place!

Loureen Giordano Murphy

Outside the old stockade I stood,  
My cowboy hat in hand.  
That night, I'd poured out sweat, not blood  
For this loved, familiar land.

A stranger loped up—friend or foe?  
I reached, but had no gun—  
just a badge I wore on my shirt,  
newly that day pinned on.

Can I take you somewhere? the stranger asked.  
No sir, I made my reply.  
I awaited my trusty Maverick,  
and looked up at the stars in the sky.

Midnight rolled round, the place grew still,  
and I strained to hear the sound  
of someone approaching to get me home.  
Ah, then, the crunch on the ground!

The Maverick rolled up, big bro at the wheel,  
with cousins out on a lark.  
Thus was my first night working at  
Frontier Village Amusement Park.

\*\*\*

### Whatever Happened to Sweet Larry? - Third Place

Luanne Oleas

Back when I worked as a locksmith in the mid-1970s, one of my most unique customers was a pimp named Sweet Larry who drove a pink Lincoln Continental.

He was tall, African American, with a big afro, and he dressed in vintage style with boas, white suits, high-soled shoes, and lots of rings. He would come into the key shop--sometimes with girls, sometimes alone--and he'd always have the same key duplicated. Getting his key off the ring involved detaching two plastic, naked figures that were connected-- well, you can guess where. He was a flamboyant guy with a big smile, and I always had my suspicions about what that key unlocked.

I never saw him again after they found that Lincoln on the edge of town, sprayed with bullet holes.

### Merry Christmas – Second Place!

Marcela Dickerson

Christmas Eve is on Friday in 1993, before cell phones. I am working on the fifth floor; everyone leaves early but I offered to stay.

The case ends. The Judge thanks and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. I take the elevator. It starts and soon stops.



I press the button; nothing happens. I lift the phone receiver and hear: "No one is available to ..." I punch the alarm button.

I yell, "Help, I am stuck." I take off my shoes and bang on the doors.

I cannot believe I might spend Christmas here. Will my family think I died?

Minutes later, I hear a voice: "Someone there?"

"I am stuck."

"We are Sheriffs. We will help you."

I hear something: there is a crowbar between the doors. They open.

Four arms lean to lift me.

I thanked them and Baby Jesus for my best Christmas gift ever.

## **The Difference Maker – Fourth Place!**

Chris Weilert



I was ecstatic when I landed my first “real job” that had nothing to do with mowing lawns, delivering newspapers or working with my father on his job sites. I was to be employed at Marriott's Great America, the large amusement park in town. On my first day, I couldn't believe my eyes. I was going to be working on rides and games with cute girls everywhere, along with free admission to the park. This was almost too much to handle as I was constantly being reprimanded for socializing and eating popcorn on the job. Then I aged and took more demanding jobs like sitting in a cubicle and acting appropriately. Unfortunately, these types of positions turned out to be short stays in my employment history. You can say I need human interaction and the accessibility to good snacks for me to stick around.

\*\*\*

## **Soup's On! - Fifth Place!**

Evelyn Preston

Years ago, a friend and I fed our Silicon Valley fantasy of a winning start-up by concocting fresh “homemade” soup! Easy, healthy, affordable, and perfect timing... “organic” was just coming out of the pantry. We set up an inadequate mini food processor, hazardous 30-gallon pots, oar-sized ladles and a motto. Everyone has to eat!

Even losing weight on a steady diet of iffy leftovers couldn't counter the fiascoes that followed: three gallons of spilled gelatinous clam chowder that took hours to swab from the freezing walk-in fridge; 10 piled-high pallets of pricey containers off by a zero; gazpacho costing more than we dared charge and distributors with trucks and routes who vied for our customers, not our product. Even our frozen samples separated and curdled. I used up more gallons of gas delivering fresh soup than gallons sold.

When Campbell's competed, we decided to remain friends vs. partners. Kitchen closed!

## **Edith Coombs**

Tamara Bell

“You want me to employ you?” I repeated back to Edith, our elderly hospital chaplain during a work break. Nodding, she said she accomplished all her goals in life. “Tamara, your compassionate eyes might be the last thing a dying person sees. Please call on me after I die to greet them on the other side after they pass. It's spiritual work I'd love to do. Tamara your position as a hospital respiratory therapist includes assisting patients with their breathing.” Edith further clarified, “If you silently ask for my help, I will escort the deceased to their loved ones.” Edith unexpectedly died of natural causes while dining with coworkers that very evening. The next morning, Edith made good on her promise to prove there is an afterlife, by appearing briefly while gazing at me lovingly.



\*\*\*

## **Labor Day**

Kathy Boyd

During a college break, I worked in a department store as Christmas help. They placed me in fabric and showed me the cash register and how to cut material. Fortunately, most customers knew what they wanted.

Then I was in giftwrap. Once I wrapped a gift, including heavy paper for mailing. I realized I had not removed the price tag. I didn't have time to redo it, so I just put it in the “finished pile.”

On Christmas Eve I was in housewares. Many men came to buy something at the last minute for their mothers or wives. Most had no clue what to buy and asked my advice. As if I had any good ideas!

The day after Christmas, I worked in the returns department. It was the busiest place in the store. At least I ended up with a paycheck.

**Labor Day**  
Carolyn Donnell

Defined as work  
hard physical work  
toil and exertion  
strive and struggle  
to exert one's powers  
of body or mind  
especially with painful  
strenuous effort

I know you expect  
a note about jobs  
employment  
eight to five  
five days a week  
sometimes more

But all I can think of  
when I hear that word  
is the day I gave birth  
to my ten-pound son

What's more tiring  
than striving to push  
that big baby  
out of an opening  
impossibly small

Talk about pain  
and struggle  
and toil



And then there's  
the next 20 years

The best of times  
the worst of times  
adventures galore

**Encounter with a Garlic Sausage**  
Marjorie Johnson

Let me tell you about the first day of my first job. I was 17, a kitchen worker in a 526-bed tuberculosis hospital, ten-hour shifts with a one-hour lunch break. In the employee dining room, the menu featured garlic sausage and scalloped potatoes.

What was garlic sausage? My mother never used garlic. The garlic sausage, a short and fat hotdog, swam in a red catsup lake.

The youngest person there, I sat at a round table with seven other workers. The lady on my left speared her sausage with a fork and neatly cut off a bite.

When I attacked mine with my fork, it shot off the plate and splattered red sauce all the way down the front of my white uniform, bounced off my white shoes, and rolled under the table.

My face as red as that sausage, I wanted to hide.

\*\*\*

**The Worst/Best Job Ever**  
Anna Koster

Young women had left their first shift in tears, never to return. I lasted six months, short of the nine that one survivor said it took her and the famous artist to come to peace.

Working as the weekend companion for Georgia O'Keeffe — celebrated painter of flowers and New Mexico landscapes — was agony. She was 89 years old, nearly blind, impatient, and particular about everything. I was 29, wide-eyed, unsure of myself.

Friday evening to Monday morning, often with just the two of us in her desert adobe, I prepared her food, cleaned up; brushed her hair, fearful of pulling one strand; helped her bathe, go to bed, and read until she slept. I did everything she needed and requested, while bracing for criticism.

It was awful, yet wonderful. The experience has boosted my art-museum-teaching career for 45 years, including my O'Keeffe-related classes offered today.

**Labor Day**  
Audry Lynch

Okay, so it was time for glamor, and I became a car hop. It wasn't a shop that put us on roller skates, so I found myself running from car to car and was exhausted by midnight, our closing time. I had envisioned a kind of instant popularity with our teenage boy population but that didn't happen either. My father was my chauffeur to and from work and he stayed parked and ready during my shift "in case anyone got fresh." Needless to say, no one did.



At the end of my summer job my parents decided to cheer me up despite my low bank balance. They said cheerfully, *"After the beaches clear off each day, you can collect the empty bottles and turn them in for 2 cents a bottle."* I started to cry.

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**Tech Pubs Turmoil**  
Edie Matthews

Our tech pubs department merged with a dysfunctional one. Their clashes were legendary—all blamed on a dreadful supervisor—now assigned to us. As weeks past, I noticed the real culprit was the backup lead who covertly instigated anarchy. She liked to rile up others, then sit back and watch the conflagration. Up to that point, I had done my best to get along with her, but she was an underhanded busybody who hated my positive attitude. When I realized her treachery, I confronted her. She clammed up. Shortly after I exposed her, I transferred into another department. During my absence, chaos ensued and she was demoted. A year later I was welcomed back to Tech Pubs with a promotion. The new position made her subordinate to me. Fortunately, she was assigned to another floor, so I rarely dealt with her.

**Labor Day**  
Terrele Schumake

Several of us from Schenley High School in Pittsburgh worked as tray-girls at Presbyterian University Hospital. Tray-girls delivered meals. Stouffer Foods operated the dietary service. On my first day, Mrs. Calloway, a supervisor, showed me around. She had a big, round behind just like Sad Sack, the comic book character.

Before she left me in one of the kitchens with some other tray-girls, she announced,

*"Mrs. Dan (the head dietician) said anyone caught eating on the floors will be automatically dismissed!"*

The next day, the patients were served a light Sunday dinner of roast beef sandwiches which we had to assemble. I still cringe at what I did next. I hid my half-eaten sandwich in the big box.

When asked about the sandwich, I thought, Do I tell the truth and risk losing this job on the second day? *"It's not mine,"* I said.

\*\*\*

**A 'Job' for All Seasons**  
Shipra Shukla

A job for all seasons and it never ends and it is unpaid. You can't complain; you are on demand, night or day; you are the boss but you are also the worker. If you are harangued or castigated for not being up to the mark you try to do better even if it's not true!

You realize the true value of it when you get the job, not before. It's also lifelong and you never get pensioned off! This is a job in which you only give, give, give and never take. Just like a tree which will give you shade and fruits till it can, even if you hack it or don't water it.

Can you guess what is this job which millions do generation after generation, uncomplainingly.

A Mother, it's been quite a job! Even 'Job' would complain, the biblical one!



## AUGUST SPEAKER RECAP

Bill Baldwin



### ROSS BROWNE

Ross Browne brought some insights on series writing to our August meeting. There are definite advantages to creating a series. If you can get your readers to fall in love with a character (Hercule Poirot? Miss Marple?), you can keep them buying your books. Publishers like things like that! A series expands the character arc beyond a single title. It reminds me of the creation of a *lore*, a *mythos*.

Ross Browne's focus is crime; mine is *not*. Browne's talk has inspired me to expand my own focus with his many examples of writers and their characters.

Specific references: John Sanford, Michael Connelly, Lee Child, Stieg Larsson, C. J. Box, and Tana French.

Sanford gives us Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers, One solves crimes via the media; the other wears long hair, cowboy boots—and loves quirky women. All this in rural Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Note the use of detail to etch these characters into our memory. If you want readers to fall in love with your characters, you'd better make them memorable.

Michael Connelly created Hieronymus Bosch, working the LA area. Lee Child brought us Jack Reacher, the ex-military loner and drifter, a “magnet for trouble.” Stieg Larsson created Mikael Blomkvist and Lisbeth Salander: tough as nails with axes to grind.

C.J. Box uses Joe Pickett, a game warden in Wyoming, to highlight environmental issues.

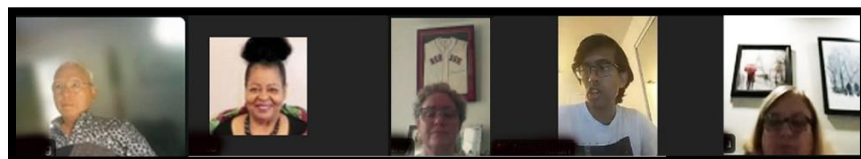
Tana French, with her “Dublin Murder Squad, brings to life the experience of being a detective.

This demonstrates how memorable characters can keep readers returning to your series.

As I said, a series reminds me of a lore. Ideally the material never becomes dull. Although some television shows and newspaper comics may feature characters that never change, a series will feel richer and deeper if your characters show some development.

In your own writing, consider what appeals. Develop your Elevator Speech and make clear what makes your own writing distinctive, different, and interesting. Why should readers (or agents!) care about what you write—your characters, your themes? Consider the various elements of your project and work backwards from there. Craft your prose, master your pacing.

In many cases, “It’s all about character!” If your character is distinctive enough, a series may be right for you. And if it is...the sky may be the limit!





## MEMBER COMPOSITIONS

### Ghost of Brookdale Lodge Tamara Bell

While zooming through the flickering sunlight dancing through the evergreens along Highway 9, Norma grumbled about her boss's stupidity. *"I can't believe the administration is siding with him just because he's a doctor and I'm a nurse. So now how many people will he be allowed to maim or kill?"* she howled into the car's speaker, with her husband Brent murmuring supportively on his end.

Gliding up to the hillside parking lot of Brookdale Lodge, Norma stomped suddenly on her brakes as a dark shadow scampered in front of her car. She caught her breath, parked and then bid Brent adieu choosing not to share her vision. She scolded herself for her overactive imagination as she grabbed her emergency overnight case. She slammed her car door, took a breath, then sauntered toward the registration counter. *"One bed, please,"* she told the desk clerk, holding back hot tears.

*"I don't know if you're gonna want this, but it's the only room left tonight,"* answered the clerk. *"I gotta tell you more people report seeing ghosts in that room than anywhere else here."*

*"I'm not superstitious-I'll take it."*

Norma just didn't want to face returning to an empty home since her husband was on the road with work this weekend. Her job had been a director of nurses in a community hospital until just two miserable hours ago. She was fired for appropriately backing up one of her most competent nurses instead of that narcissistic, uninformed MD. As she laid her clothes on her bed, she realized that she needed to shop for a few necessities the next day.

That night, her sound sleep was interrupted by a loud knock punctuating the air. Hovering in the middle of the room, a young girl's image flickered. She looked about 10 years old, Norma thought,



mesmerized. The child's dress and boots resembled old fashion pioneer clothing. While colorfully shimmering in the air, this image sweetly announced, *"I'm keeping her company for you."*

Now Norma sat bolt upright and watched as a second apparition sidled up next to the first, and the two began to swing their arms together playfully. Norma must have instantly crashed back into a deep sleep because the next thing she was aware of was early morning yellow light streaming through open window shades.

Driving into Felton after breakfast, she parked in front of TrendSetter Boutique. Entering, she was still fuming about yesterday's hospital incident.

"Mommy, Mommy," a girl about four years old ran towards Norma, with her arms wide. As the girl zipped past Norma, aiming for the embrace of the welcoming arms of her mother, Norma admonished herself to get on board with the here and now.

Half distractedly, Norma held out a body-hugging blue dress that just happened to go perfectly with her current shoes. Without a second thought she purchased it along with the actual necessities she had come in here to buy.

Brent surprised Norma by joining her late that afternoon. During their dinner at the lodge, he kept remarking how delicious she looked in her new dress. The night seemed magical as Brookdale's charming narrow creek cascaded between tables.

During the meal, Norma glanced up, and wondered if her glass of wine was hitting her hard. She saw the two ghost-girls scampering around the chapel (a second-floor loft which overlooks the dining floor). The ghost girls were playing tag and giggling. Brent didn't seem to notice anything out of the ordinary.

The next morning, Brent quietly rose before dawn to drive down to his Silicon Valley job, glad to see Norma finally getting peaceful sleep.

Mid-morning, alone again while walking to her car, Norma paused to toss a coin into the Brookdale Lodge wishing well, while praying for a sign to advise her of "What's next?"

Turning to leave, Norma did not notice yesterday's light-filled shimmering little "pioneer girl" -- her younger looking playmate having taken up residence elsewhere -- floating near the wishing

well. With compassion and affection, the girl looked expectantly at the new mom-to-be walking towards her future.

## A Textbook Case

*Geraldine C. Forté*

He stood there, shoulders and hips angled in one direction while his head was turned towards me sideways, glaring at me with what could have been construed as menace in his eyes – or were they, her eyes? I had learned from the daughter that her father was going through the hormonal therapy in preparation for a sex change operation. Dad would become Mom by this time next year.

He stood there and said to me, *There is going to be a need for two body bags around here when I am through. One for that boy and the other one will be for you.*



I had every right to call the policeman who was down the hall interrogating the 13-year-old male student who had been accused of molesting his daughter after school the previous Friday. This parent standing as straight as a beanpole and as intimidating as Jack the Ripper had just threatened not only the student, but the school principal as well. I did not place the call. Instead, I looked at the parent directly in the eyes and said, *Your daughter needs you to remain calm and let the police department do its work. If you assault anyone, you will go immediately to jail. When that happens, who will be at home to support your daughter?*

The parent started to cry, whereupon I offered tissue and a shoulder. The look in the parent's eyes could



have been ominous, but I interpreted it as fear, pain, uncertainty and shame. I thought to myself, *How would I react if I was a single parent who worked the night shift, was caring for two children by myself, and had been awakened from my slumber with a telephone call to come immediately to his daughter's school only to learn that she had accused another eighth-grade student of sexual assault?*

Added to the confusion this parent must have been feeling was the anticipation of the upcoming surgery that would change the sexual identity and open the door to a whole new set of challenges to overcome.

I had my own interpretation of the events after I had interviewed the boy, the girl, and the other six students who had sneaked into the school Multipurpose Room. They had placed chewing gum in a pivotal place on the door lock so that they could reenter the building after the custodian had left. The only alarm on the school was on the Administration Office, so they had free range in that Multipurpose Room. They engaged in a game of Truth and Dare with some kids playing behind the curtains on the stage. It was here that the female student claimed that she had been physically forced to perform oral copulation on the male. She did not report the alleged attack until Monday just after the 10 am Break. She came to the Counseling Office and reported that she wanted to have a conference with the boy and his "so-called" girlfriend so that he would be forced to admit what he had done.

After interrogating the students, I came up with what I believed to be the actual circumstances. I believed that those kids sneaked into the Multipurpose Room as reported. I believed that numerous acts of inappropriate behavior were experienced by those students, although no one admitted to seeing anyone else in the act. I believed that the male student ignored the female student in school on Monday, and was seen by her walking his real girlfriend to class and carrying her books for her. When she confronted him and demanded that

he accompany her to the Counseling Office to talk about their relationship, he refused. She went by herself and claimed that she was physically forced to do something that she did not want to do.

The police interrogation was inconclusive. No charges were brought against the student. I, on the other hand, suspended all eight of the students from school for breaking and entering school property. Since the school year was nearly over, I extended the suspension for ten days which included the last day of school, the promotion exercise and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade End of the School Year Dance.

I ran into the parent a year after that incident. Her transformation had been nearly complete. She still dressed in jeans and t shirts, and she still had an Adam's Apple, but her voice was more feminine, and her eyes told me that I was correct with my assumptions from the incident. We were in a Raley's store, and she stopped me, identified herself and then tearfully said, *Thank you*. She shared with me how she was under so much stress last year that she had considered taking her own life. She was hoping that the police would help her to end her physical existence when she made that body bag statement. She felt that she was a failure who was failing her children, and she had already planned steps to provide a better home for them.

When I did not report her to the police, she had time in my office to think deeply about herself, her life, the transition she was making, and the well-being of her children. The tissue and the shoulder were enough to sway her to consider the possibility of something else. I had thwarted her plans with the kind manner she was treated with.

She told me that she had given custody of the children to her parents who were raising them, and she was still undergoing therapy. She smiled at me, gave me a hug, and then went on her way.

This was a textbook case. I had every right to call the police and lodge a complaint against this parent on that day, but I did not. I am glad that I did not.



# CONTESTS AND MARKETS

by Carolyn Donnell

Let us know if you have any success with any of the contests listed in Writers Talk. (Or any other contest for that matter.) Send your writing victories to [membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com) and any new stories, poems, articles, etc. to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

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

Members of our Facebook group – **South Bay Writers Club**– see contest postings and other notifications on the Facebook group.

*### Listings are for information only. **NO VETTING** has been done by South Bay Writers Club. Some contests have been around for a long time and the reputation is known but some are newer. Please read all guidelines carefully before submitting. And please share any experience you have with them. Good or bad.*

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

**Fremont Area Writers** lists many resources on their page under Writers Resources tab <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/](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines)

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

**Publishedtodeath** A blog that lists literary magazines accepting reprints <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2016/01/163-literary-magazines-accepting.html>

**NewPages.com** is news, information, and guides to literary magazines, independent publishers, creative writing programs,

writing contests, and more.  
[www.newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests](http://www.newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests)

**The Writer Magazine-** Lists contests, articles, resources and newsletter.. [www.writermag.com/contests/](http://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. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$1000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$500, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://www.pw.org/grants)  
[www.pw.org/content/upcoming\\_contest\\_deadlines](http://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines)

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/freedom/uncategorized/50-1000-for-short-stories-10-calls-for-submissions/>

**Authors Publish** \*-<http://www.authorspublish.com/>

**The Best Writing Contests** curated by Reedsy  
[www.blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/](http://www.blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/)

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

**New Pages-**lists many contests [www.newpages.com/](http://www.newpages.com/)

**Writers Post No Fee Call for Submissions** \* 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$250, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$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/](http://www.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/)

**Up the Staircase Quarterly-**Submit 3-6 poems in a single document. Submit up to 10 .jpgs for art. No previously

published poetry, but previously published artwork is okay.  
[www.upthestaircase.org/](http://www.upthestaircase.org/)

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

**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/](http://www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/)

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

**Poetry Society of America contest**  
<https://poetrysocietyofamerica.submittable.com/submit>

**The Thimble Magazine**-A quarterly online journal. Primarily poetry [www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/Authors](http://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/Authors)  
**Publish** - Poetry Manuscript Publishers No Reading Fees  
[www.authorspublish.com](http://www.authorspublish.com)

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

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*"September is National Hispanic Heritage Month"*



*National Hispanic Heritage Month (Spanish: Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana) is a period from 15 September to 15 October in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States*

September 2	Open Mic <a href="mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com">WABaldwin@aol.com</a>
<b>September 5</b>	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
September 7	SBW Executive Board Meeting <a href="mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com">pres@southbaywriters.com</a>
September 12	Speaker Meeting featuring Brent van Staaldunen <a href="mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com">pres@southbaywriters.com</a>
September 15	Open Mic <a href="mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com">WABaldwin@aol.com</a>



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

**MAIL TO:**

**South Bay Writers  
Monday, September 12, 2022  
7 pm  
*"Crafting Short Stories, With a Focus on Journal/Contest Submissions"*  
with Brent van Staaldin**