



WRITERS TALK



South Bay Writers

Newsletter

October 2022



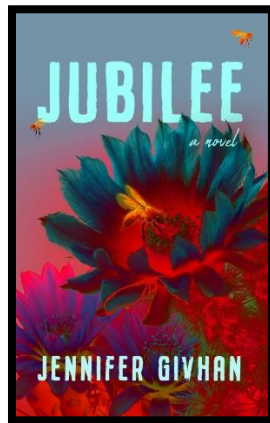
"Revision, Transformation, and Success," with Jennifer Givhan

Submitted by Jamal Kahn

Hollywood has portrayed Mozart as a creative freak who dashed off perfect first drafts. This is a myth. His compositions underwent extensive revisions prior to performances. As Orison Swett Marden points out, "Great writers have ever been known for their tenacity of purpose. Their works have not been flung off from minds aglow with genius, but have been elaborated and elaborated into grace and beauty, until every trace of their efforts has been obliterated." We must adopt the same patient, persistent, and workmanlike approach. In our meeting on October 10, poet and novelist Jennifer Givhan will guide

us through the nuts and bolts of how to revise, rewrite, and reimagine our work from the inside out.

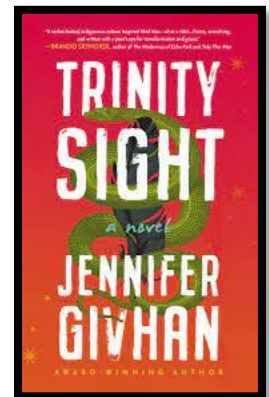
Jennifer earned her Master's degree in Fine Arts in Poetry from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina and her Master's degree in English Literature and Creative Writing at California State University Fullerton, where she was the recipient of the Graduate Equity Fellowship.



She is the author of the novels *Trinity Sight*, *Jubilee*, and *River Woman*, *River Demon*. Her poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *Best of the Net*, *Best New Poets*, *AGNI*, *TriQuarterly*, *Ploughshares*, *POETRY*, *Boston Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Blackbird*, *The Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*,

Salon, *The Rumpus*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among many others.

Jennifer's honors include a 2015 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a PEN/Rosenthal Emerging Voices Fellowship, the Frost Place Latinx Scholarship, a 2020 Southwest Book Award, an Honorable Mention for the 2021 The Rudolfo Anaya Best Latino Focused Fiction Book Award category from the International Latino Book Awards Foundation, the 2019 *New Ohio Review* Poetry Prize, *Cutthroat Journal's* 2018 Joy Harjo Poetry Prize, the 2017 Greg Grummer Poetry Prize, the 2015 *Lascaux Review* Editors' Choice Poetry Prize, and *The Pinch* Poetry Prize.



When: Monday, October 10 at 7pm

Where: Zoom Online Platform (link forthcoming)

BETWEEN THE LINES

Eddie Matthews, SBW President



Inspiration from the Classics

Look to the classics and win a Pulitzer Prize. That's precisely what Jane Smiley did when she penned *A Thousand Acres*. She adapted William Shakespeare's *King Lear* about an elderly ruler who divides his kingdom between his three daughters and in return demands complete allegiance.

Smiley updated the tragedy and set it in Iowa. Instead of a king, the protagonist is a farmer who splits up his property between his three daughters. Though Smiley adds contemporary issues, she adheres to the major themes in the original *King Lear*. Is this plagiarism? No, it's called a pastiche—a literary work that imitates the style of previous work.

Filmmakers have used the same technique. The movie *Clueless* (1995), written and directed by Amy Heckerling, is an updated version of Jane Austen's novel *Emma* (1815). The original story is about a young woman who meddles in her friends' lives trying to play matchmaker.

In addition to the changing the title, Heckerling updated the story to the 1990s and set it in Beverly Hills. She renamed the main character Cher and made her a wealthy and popular high school teenager. In addition to attempting to orchestrate her friends' love lives, Cher plays Cupid to two teachers. Her final project is an attempt to makeover a klutzy new student.

The Nutty Professor (1963), starring Jerry Lewis and remade with Eddie Murphy (1996), is a humorous

slant inspired by Robert Lewis Stevenson's gothic tale, *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886). Instead of a potion turning the protagonist into a villain, it transforms a nerdy professor into an arrogant playboy. When I visited Edinburgh, the tour guide told us the catalyst for Stevenson's book was a local doctor's radical behavior and split personality. Of course, the author used literary license to intensify the plot.

More recently, *The Hunger Games* (2012) by Suzanne Collins is a young adult dystopian novel that also became a blockbuster film. Collins credits a number of influences, though none of them are from other people's work. The main impetus is the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. In the tale, seven brave youths and seven beautiful maidens are sent to Crete every year to be sacrificed to the Minotaur. Collins learned about the myth as a child and found it unsettling. Exhausted one evening, while watching television and switching between war news and reality TV, the story blurred in her imagination. Mix in the plight of Roman gladiators and *voilà*, *The Hunger Games*.

We shouldn't overlook the greatest writer of them all, William Shakespeare. As of 2010, *Double Falsehood* was added to his repertoire, bringing his total of plays to 39. It would be kind to say he was "influenced." In fact, he didn't hesitate to steal, borrow, and ransack the stories, legends, tales, histories, rumors, fables and political shenanigans from all sources. However, despite his thievery, no one can deny that the Bard improved every story he pilfered.

Furthermore, Shakespeare's influence on others continues to this day. His work has been recreated and adapted in every genre. For example, in May 2021, when Walt Disney's animation director, Rob Minkoff, spoke to SBW, he said that while searching for a stronger theme for *The Lion King* (1994), they adapted the plot in *Hamlet*.

Finally, my friends, if you find yourself blocked, stumped, or stymied, look to the classics

California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
www.southbaywriters.com

SBW Officers

President –Edie Matthews pres@southbaywriters.com

Vice President-Jamal Khan vp@southbaywriters.com

Secretary-Chris Weilert
secretary@southbaywriters.com

Treasurer-Trenton Myers
treasurer@southbaywriters.com

Member at Large1-Tatyana Grinenko member-at-large1@southbaywriters.com

Member at Large2-Alfred Jan member-at-large2@southbaywriters.com

SBW Representatives

Central Board-Bill Baldwin WABaldwin@aol.com

NorCal-Bill Baldwin WABaldwin@aol.com

SBW Committee Chairs

Facebook Adm-Carolyn Donnell [cdonneltx@yahoo.com](mailto:cdonnelltx@yahoo.com)

Hospitality-Vacant

Membership-Inga Silva ingasbwmembership@gmail.com

Member News-Marjorie Johnson
membernews@southbaywriters.com

MRMS Admin-Marjorie Johnson
mrms@southbaywriters.com

Newsletter-Gerri Forte gerriforte@outlook.com

Programs/Workshops-Jamal Kahn

vp@southbaywriters.com

Publicity & Public Relations-Tatyana Grinenko

pr@southbaywriters.com

Web Master-Vacant

Web Editor-Tatyana Grinenko

webeditor@southbaywriters.com

Contributing Editors

Bill Baldwin

Carolyn Donnell

Marjorie Johnson

Jamal Khan

Ken Roberge

Marty Sorenson

SBW Events

Open Mic-Bill Baldwin WABaldwin@aol.com

SBW Mission

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

Join Us

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

WritersTalk Circulation: 110 Copyright 2022
CWC South Bay Branch

WRITERSTALK – MANAGING EDITOR

Geraldine C. Forté (aka Gerri)

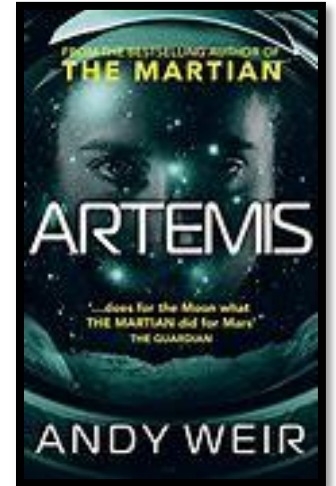
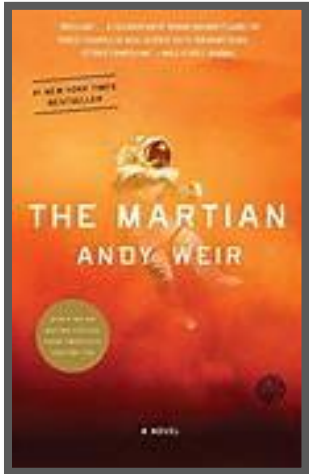


Members, thank you so much for submitting your creative works for publication in our newsletter. It is good to see our works in print, and *WritersTalk* provides you with an opportunity to share your work with the members of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club.

Please continue to submit your work and information about your activities. Please submit your articles and photographs by the 15th of the month, and please set them in 12-point Times New Roman font. Material that is received after the 15th of the month will be considered for the following month's publication.

WRITING TIPS FROM ANDY WEIR

Composed by Patricia Collins



This summary draws conclusions based on interviews with Andy Weir that were conducted after the publication of *The Martian* and on literary criticism focused on Andy Weir's background as a writer of this highly popular science fiction novel. (citations below)

Write about what you know well...and enjoy. Weir has loved science fiction and science since childhood. Although his 25-year career was in software engineering in Silicon Valley, his strong interests in science have led him to undertake research in a variety of science disciplines—something he notes includes “a lot of research into that on my own for fun.” He points to this knowledge as fundamental to his ability to write futurist science fiction. Of course, this advice to have the needed knowledge before writing applies to any work intended for publication.

Read extensively in the genre you intend to write. For Weir, reading exemplary works of science fiction has been a lifetime interest and pleasure. It has also had tremendous value as he pursued writing fiction: Understanding a genre through reading is fundamental knowledge for writing in the genre.

Some genres of fiction allow for certain factual “liberties.” For *The Martian*, Weir knowingly created scenes that are not possible (for example, a sandstorm on Mars). His highest priority in that instance was creating drama early in the storytelling. However, there are limits to these liberties—some limits that depend on the writer's goals and some that depend on what readers will expect. In contrast with the impossible sandstorm, Weir “even calculated the various orbital paths” mentioned in the story, which included writing software that could accurately model physical facts. We need to understand what our readers will recognize and tolerate in

terms of deviation from reality, regardless of the fictional genre. To be sure, we need to know the facts before we decide to replace them.

Create characters that draw on people you know, including what you know about yourself. As part of a *Writer's Digest* interview, Weir acknowledged that the main character in *The Martian*, Mark Watney, echoes Weir's "same level of smart-ass" personality while creating a character that is "smarter...and considerably braver."

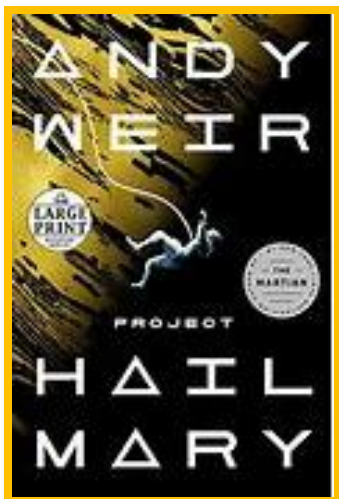
Don't dismiss the idea of self-publishing. Weir received limited attention from readers when he released an online, serial version of *The Martian*. He thought that a published book might receive a better reception. After publishers rejected the manuscript, Weir decided to self-publish. When copies of the book began selling quickly, it was picked up by Random House and republished, reaching the bestseller list. In today's publishing market, many publishers are unwilling to take the risk of acquiring, publishing, and promoting a book by an unknown author. They want to minimize their financial risk. However, once they see a book is selling well enough to be worthy of promotion, they're quicker to adopt that book for their own imprint.

For further information:

James Altucher, *The Altucher Report*, "Three tips to go from self-published to six figures...from a man who's done it himself" <https://www.palmbeachgroup.com/palm-beach-daily/three-tips-to-go-from-self-published-to-six-figures-from-a-man-whos-done-it-himself/>

Robert Lee Brewer, "8 Andy Weir Quotes for Writers and about Writing" in *Writer's Digest* <https://www.writersdigest.com/be-inspired/8-andy-weir-quotes-for-writers-and-about-writing>

Brian A. Clems, "Writing Tips and Advice from Andy Weir, author of THE MARTIAN" in *Writer's Digest* (an interview with Andy Weir) <https://www.writersdigest.com/be-inspired/writing-tips-and-advice-from-andy-weir-author-of-the-martian>



VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Chris Weilert

Board Members present:

President: Edie Matthews
Secretary: Chris Weilert
MRMS: Marjorie Johnson
CWC-Central Board Rep/Open Mic/Meetup: Bill Baldwin
Treasurer: Trenton Myers
Facebook Admin: Carolyn Donnell
Member-at-Large/Web editor/PR/: Tatyana Grinenko
Member-at-Large Alfred Jan
Membership Chair Inga Silva
Absent: Writer's Talk Editor – Gerri Forte

Meeting began 7:10 PM.

Edie Matthews, President

Approved prior month's minutes.

The next two club meetings will be via Zoom because our speakers are remote.

Proposed next writing contest to be a Halloween theme.

October Speaker is Jennifer Givhan.

December's meeting is the Annual Holiday party to be held at Edie's home on Sunday December 11th.

There is a chance we will have an in-person meeting in January 2023. Will depend on the venue accommodations and Covid status. Also considering a hybrid meeting (part zoom, part in person).

September 12th Speaker:

- 2 email reminders have gone out
- I sent a subsequent email with the new Zoom link (Luanne's)
- 2 more email reminders going out

Email List: 441 active email contacts

WritersTalk:

- Reminders to go out: Tuesday September 13th and the morning of September 15th.

Bill Baldwin. Open Mics continue on first and third Fridays.

Recent Open Mic stats:

August 5 – 8 readers,
August 19 – 7 readers,
September 2 – 5 readers

Note: With Shipra in India our open mics are now international!

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

NorCal :

Nor Cal met via zoom on August 31

The NorCal Leadership Conference has been cancelled. The details of the conference had not been ironed out – and it wasn't clear that we could break even (we used to get accommodations for free, but this year it was going to cost).

Carolyn Donnell. Facebook: Nothing new to report.

Inga Silva. Membership: As of August 3: 76 active members, 1 lifetime member and 1 student. Total 78 members

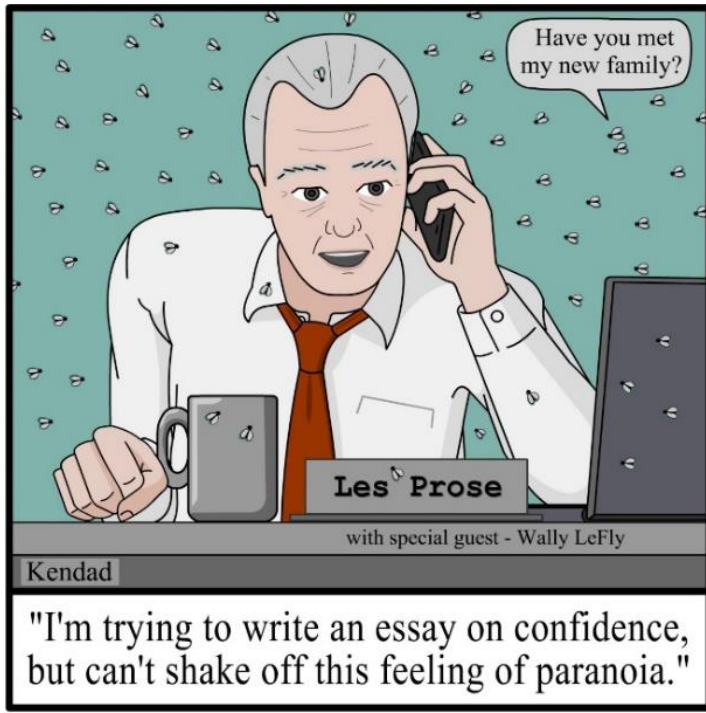
Woody Horn's widow wants the newsletter and paid the dues. One member rejoined with a new address. One member is listed as associate because she is dual, and her primary club has to change it. Two members have inquired about when we will meet in person again.

Meeting ended 8:10 PM. Next Board meeting: Wednesday, October 5th Zoom.



LES PROSE

Ken Roberge



OFF THE SHELF

Edie Matthews



The Truth about Writing Well

Submitted by Patricia Collins

During a course in rhetoric, the professor gave us an essay to read. It was not long. It had one message: ***Writing a first draft involves much less than half of the work required to complete any writing ready for submission for publication.*** Since that time, I've come across numerous rules of thumb for the ratio of time spent to produce well-written prose. Because these guidelines are for a variety of genres and writing ability, they vary.

Here's an example that blends some of that guidance:

You intend to write a 1,000-word narrative essay based on a personal travel experience (a micro-memoir, you might say). You want your essay to bring the experience alive so that others will enjoy your experience vicariously.

- *First Draft:* You estimate that you'll be able to put aside enough time in a calendar day to produce a first draft.
- *Checking & Researching:* At some point, you'll need to verify information related to what you experienced, such as a walk through a particular arboretum, your participation in a city's annual celebration of a national holiday, or a tour through an historic site). You'll review the notes you took in your travel journal. You'll reread a pamphlet you purchased and check online information. It would be a rare narrative essay that could not benefit from information or insights that require us to stop writing long enough for careful
- consideration. Maybe this research and reflection will take a calendar day or two, spending a few hours to have what you need for a more interesting personal travel story. Some of this work will take place after you've completed that first draft.
- *The Bulk of the Work:* Once a first draft is completed, you'll make changes in successive drafts, such as restructuring for a flow that will make the narrative easier to read. You'll scrutinize the clarity of your writing. You'll delete excess verbiage. You'll think from the perspective of the readers you hope to attract and ensure that the writing uses the language and focus best matched to what you believe readers will want. You'll integrate the additional information you've decided to include. It might be another week or more before your manuscript is written to the best of your ability and *ready for someone to read and recommend edits*, even if that is just for proofreading. For a literary journal publication, it might take as long as a month before you're ready to submit your manuscript. [See "Spending Time Away from a Story" in <https://phoebejournal.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-write-a-short-story/> (Kevin Binder, *The Phoebe Journal*, August 13, 2020). The information applies to any kind of writing for publication. Also see all of "How Long Does It Take to Write Flash Fiction" at the Phoebe Journal link above if you are writing fiction that is less than 1,000 words.]



While a deadline is often motivating, what this guidance tells us is that we need to get going long before that date.



MEMBER NEWS

Marjorie Johnson

ResearchGate reported **Marjorie Bicknell Johnson's** publication, "Stern's diatomic array applied to Fibonacci representations," has a new achievement: this article reached 100 reads. ResearchGate allows mathematicians and other scientists to share their research.

Marjorie also wrote an invited review for the new book, *Fibonacci: An Autobiography*, by Daniel C. Struppa, Donald Bren Presidential Chair in Mathematics, Chapman University. Struppa's work is a reconstruction of what Fibonacci's actual experiences may have been, a piece of "creative nonfiction," within the framework of major events that occurred in Europe in the twelfth century. This book makes Fibonacci come alive. Marjorie has a portrait of Fibonacci's statue hanging over her desk as well as a 600-page translation of *Liber Abaci* on her bookshelves.

Leonardo Pisano, better known as Fibonacci, was the foremost mathematician in Europe in 1202. His work *Liber Abaci*, the book of calculation, revolutionized mathematics by introducing the concept of zero and the Hindu-Arabic numerals used today and showing how to use them to multiply and divide as well as how to work with fractions. That sounds like the sixth grade, until one realizes that in 1200 Italy, computations were made with an abacus and noted in Roman numerals. To understand Fibonacci's enormous leap in mathematics, Marjorie dares you to attempt long division using Roman numerals.



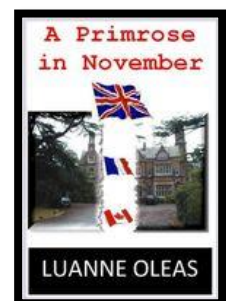
Audry Lynch had a fabulous book signing with the local Pen Women (National League of American Pen Women). Editor Gerri Forté provided the pictures.

Second Edition of *Ruben's Tales from the Amazon Jungle*, by Audry Lynch, illustrated by Kathryn Tyler, published by Luanna Leisure

Congratulations SBW Member Audry Lynch!



Luanne Oleas is the latest writer to attempt using the #booktok tag at TikTok to expand her audience. She has a few videos posted there, including a short bio, book trailers, and announcements about public readings. Stop by and give her a like and a follow at [tiktok.com/@luanneoleasbooks](https://www.tiktok.com/@luanneoleasbooks).



SEPTEMBER SPEAKER RECAP

Bill Baldwin

Brent van Staalduin, our September speaker, provided multiple reasons to cultivate short stories. They are much faster to write than a novel, there is a large market for them, and writing them hones your basic skills.



Brent van Staalduin

Having your stories accepted builds self-esteem, respect, and your writing platform. A good place to start is literary journals. Traditional publishing carries prestige, but can be intimidating: publishers receive a **huge** number of submission—thousands in a very short time! It may take *months* (or longer) to hear back, if you hear back at all! But continual submission helps build relationships in the publishing world.

Track your submissions with applications such as Submission Grinder, Duotrope, and Submittable (he prefers Duotrope, but it costs). Submit often, but target selectively (e.g. don't submit a crime story to a romance magazine!)

Enter contests. Journals don't usually pay for pieces, but with a contest, you can actually make money (or win a subscription)! The downside is that contests usually charge a fee. Invest wisely.

Use short stories to hone your basic skills. Van Staalduin usually limits his pieces to under 3,000

words. By their nature stories narrow and focus both the writer's and the reader's attention. They exemplify *economy*: a single, compact piece where every sentence sustains the mood. Van Staalduin proposes a concept, "Moment Fiction," that you can use to create stories with impact, stories that pack a punch.

Begin with a moment of crisis, a "point of no return." Hook your readers! Focus on one major obstacle and limit your cast of characters. Remember that conflict is the heart of fiction! Hold off on backstory.

Focus on one thing your protagonist wants—and their tragic flaw. Indicate why your villain is trying to stop him. All other characters must either favor the hero or the villain. Ensure that no achievement is achieved without struggle—how many ways can you say "No!?"

Keep dialogue meaningful—avoid small talk. "Keep it real!" Avoid monotony—vary your sentence length and pace. And remember that monologues do not exist in the real world.

Van Staalduin finished with some general writing advice. In summary: Read! Write! Submit!

Seriously: use the Ass-In-Chair (AIC) approach: sit down and write, Write, WRITE!

Revise, listen to feedback. Revise again.

Submit, Submit, SUBMIT!

REPEAT!!!!!!

Come to terms with rejection—develop a thick skin! And always have another project in development. You need one while waiting to hear back. Or **after** you hear!

Collage of September Meeting Participants



MEMBER COMPOSITIONS



Samhain **Submitted by *Patricia Collins***

Daylight hours are becoming shorter. Autumn harvesting is done. It is a time to celebrate the season's harvest and to transition into those darker days. You are part of the Celtic spiritual tradition of Samhain (a Gaelic word, pronounced SAH-win or SOW-in). It is time for the fire festival. The druid priests will extinguish the village fire in the communal fire pit as a symbol of the year's end and rekindle it to signify new beginnings. But in the days between that first evening and the celebration's close a little more than two days later, you and your neighbors live in a state outside of time. It is a period when caution is especially important because the barrier between the Otherworld and your physical world vaporizes into a mist. The

Sidhe spirits—benevolent and evil—may cross over from where ancestors dwell. The darker months will bring their own dangers, but for the fire festival, stranger events may occur. Your village takes precautions.

You dress as an animal or creature that is part of Celtic lore, hoping the Sidhes will not recognize you and take you or your children away. You leave offerings from the harvest. The villagers place sacrifices of bones and animals into the fire (which will later be called a bone-fire or bonfire). You don't go outside once the sun has set.

It is, nevertheless, a time to gather, come in from the fields. Ancestors will likely visit to be updated on the events of the past year, and children will entertain. There is important business to be conducted—perhaps a new monarch will be inaugurated or the trial for a serious crime will be held. You'll see debtors repaying lenders.

You could never anticipate this, living as you do in the year 400 BCE, but within 800 years, a new religious group called Christians will arrive to attempt to convert you all—people they call “pagans”—to their religion. They will try to eliminate Samhain...and will fail. So, they will try blending some Samhain traditions with All Saint's Day, even adding an All Souls' Day to acknowledge those who have passed from this physical world. They will eventually celebrate All Hallows' Eve on October 31st with a Christian calendar that marks the changes in seasons in a way that would seem strange to those in your village. Samhain does not appear on their calendar, though it would be October 31st that matches the time of your fire festival.

Your descendants will live in Northern Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. And when a famine strikes particularly hard in Ireland, those descendants will flee to a world you cannot imagine. They will bring with them the tradition of putting on costumes and singing songs to their ancestors for the village's entertainment. They will be given cakes for their efforts. (Even then, it will be best to be looking out for the Sidhes, who still love to play tricks on humans.) Instead of carving turnips, as was the tradition, these New World descendants will carve pumpkins and light candles. And your descendants will send you wishes for a happy Halloween.

photo credit for "Happy Samhain" image is <https://celtichnationsmagazine.com/samhain-blessings/>

photo credit for the image of pumpkin, fire, and animal skull is <https://wiccaweb.com/samhain/>



Boy Meets Grill

Chris Weillert



Life can change on a dime and sometimes minor decisions set off a chain of events you can't control. You either ride the wave or get bowled over in your resistance. My fate was sealed when I put an old barbecue in front of my house. I considered giving it away because I own too many possessions. Possessions is a more polite version of saying "junk" that hangs around until you die or feel inspired to downsize.

No one wanted the old cooker, so there it sat in its new home nestled on the porch with dangling cobwebs. Then comes the moment of inspiration that hits you in the middle of the night, but that didn't actually happen. It occurred when I opened the refrigerator and saw a package of **Nathan's Hot Dogs** lying on the shelf crying out for my attention. Soon thereafter, I'm grilling those tube steaks. I didn't see any buns, so sliced bread would have to do.

As I hovered over the Q, being a pitmaster and king of my domain, the smell of grilled meat waffled to the street.

Within minutes a dog walker strolled up and stopped in front of my home. As the dog lifted his leg to perform the ritual, I glanced over and the

owner looked back. She smiled, so I acknowledged her cheerfulness and followed it with the proposition, "Would you like a hot dog?" She politely refused my offer, but I proceeded with, "How about your pooch?" After her initial recoiling, she gave in because I insisted her doggie wanted one. I handed out six more hot dogs within the next half an hour. This inaugural event set me off to my new job as the neighborhood barbecue stand, my way of spreading joy with culinary delights.

I discovered a package of hamburgers encased in a block of ice at the bottom of the freezer. Their time came around to be offered to any taker wanting to indulge. Unless you are one who doesn't partake in carnivorous fairs, these burgers were hard to resist. Once I covered them in American cheese and ketchup, these babies found a home in the bellies of all those willing to accept my invitation.



In the following months, I upped my game and cooked an array of barbecue elations. It dawned on me that expanding my menu was the best way to satisfy my clientele's wide range of desires. This is how I discovered the beauty of the kabob, which is another way of saying, "cuisine on a stick." It's also a chance to clean out and unload your excess food. Those carrots no one eats and the zucchini laying

lonely in the vegetable drawer can find new life on a kabob while resting on the grill.

I didn't think the front of my house would turn into a pitstop and hang out, but the more I cooked, the more I developed my congregation. If I were an

Amway distributor hawking housewares and soap, I could have filled my coffers with new clients. When you're an author flush with your books waiting to find readers, what a better way to bribe them into taking one. If the belly is the way to a person's willingness to expand their mind, I say grill on.



A Little Poem
Carolyn Donnell

My garden is overgrown they say
but a swallowtail came by today
Said I came to see
what's here for me
And stayed for a while quite pleased.

Beta Readers Needed

Submitted by David LaRoche

Do you have an interest in literary fiction (a style, so named because it fits no other genre); and would you

like to look in on young men and women facing their lives, exploiting the fifties, under threat of *Nikita's* mutual assured destruction?



The story takes place in the San Fernando Valley—bomb shelters,

booze, and Benzedrine sold on most block corners of Ventura Boulevard; each day lived to its fullest because it may be the last. Under this threat, and the excitement of an exploding L.A., the human challenges of love and friendship, rivalry and understanding, need and compassion still present and need be resolved—and so they are, one way or another.

This is a character driven, action packed, return to the foibles and sweetness, merriment, and pain of inexperience on the loose. For some of the characters populating this book, these earlier years are the first step up the maturity ladder; for others the last step of too few.

The story is also a tome of substance, an investment that may find a place on your shelf. Send a note to dalaroche@comcast.net if interested in reading, "Ordinary Times." The manuscript will be ready for you in a couple of weeks. Thanks for your interest-- Dave LaRoche

Writer's Talk is a Scandinavian Publication
By Marty Sorensen

Professor Jan Terje Faarlund (well, not very anglophonic, is it) of Oslo University says that English is not germanic because of word order: in English it's I have read the book but in German it's *Ich habe das Buch gelesen*. Verb at the end, same as Yoda. It's trouble if you try to ever split infinitives in German. A proposition can't end a sentence in German, but in English that's something you can make do with.

Modern English owes much to the language of the Scandinavians who settled in the British Isles in the 9th century and initiated Danelaw, the historical name of the eastern and northern parts of England that they governed by Danish law. Actually, the English pronouns "they," "them," and "their," come from the Scandinavian languages. Who knew the Vikings were woke!



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 31, 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>

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>

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

OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS:

Writers Digest Contests. See details for all at <https://www.writersdigest.com/wd-competitions/writing-competitions-pricing-and-deadlines>

- 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

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.palettepoetry.com/calendar/>

Sequestum Literary Journal: Theme Reprints Diction, non-fiction and poetry. Previously published! Deadline 12/15/22. <https://www.sequestum.org/theme-reprints>

2022 CRAFT Amelia Gray 2K Contest Microfiction, flash fiction, and prose poetry! Open til October 31, 2022. Three \$1,000 awards and a bundle of the Rose Metal Press Field Guides. Editors' choices. \$200 each and publication to three pieces – editor's choice. <https://www.craftliterary.com/craft-amelia-gray-2k-contest-2022/>

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 Funny stories/poems. 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

Prowritingaid: Lists 23 legitimate, high-quality science fiction and fantasy writing contests that you can enter in 2022 and 2023. <https://prowritingaid.com/science-fiction-writing-contests>

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

<https://waterdragonpublishing.com/submissions/>

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: 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.electricletrature.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_43

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/>

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)

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/

The River Heron Editor's Prize Sept 1 - Nov 30. Winning poet \$500 plus publication.

Four finalists named and published. \$15 fee for up to 3 poems. <https://www.riverheronreview.com/submit>

Poets & Writers Lists poetry and other contests.
https://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines_43 Also lists over 1200 literary magazines.
www.pw.org/literary_magazines

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

The Thimble Magazine-A quarterly online journal. Primarily poetry www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/

Authors Publish - Poetry Manuscript Publishers No Reading Fees www.authorspublish.com

Poetry Foundation www.poetryfoundation.org
Poetry Pacific-Literary e.zine-2 issues per year. **Published** and unpublished. www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/

Everywriter-The Best Poetry Prizes. List of poetry prizes and competitions. www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/

Prospectus: A Literary Offering. Submission Periods: June 1st-Aug 31st & Dec 1st-Feb 28th

They welcome unpublished or little-published* poets as well short prose pieces and fine-art images.

See information at
<https://www.prospectusliterary.com/submissions2020.php>

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

Some FACEBOOK Poetry Groups * Some of these groups list other contests

Trish Hopkinson poet *

No Fee Calls for Poems *

Poetry Center San Jose-PCSJ

Poetry Exchange

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

SF Creative Writing Institute-drop-in poetry workshops

Rattle - Includes online critiques.

Institute For Poetic Medicine

Open Skies Poetry

Writer Beware

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5	SBW Executive Board Meeting pres@southbaywriters.com
October 7	Open Mic WABaldwin@aol.com
October 10	Speaker Meeting featuring Jennifer Givhan pres@southbaywriters.com
October 21	Open Mic WABaldwin@aol.com

SBW Annual Halloween Costume Contest



It would be a **GRAVE** mistake to miss the October 10th meeting!

For a **WICKEDLY** good time, dress to impress and win a prize.

Come as Captain Hook, Captain Kirk, Captain Kangaroo, Captain Nemo,
decide!!!

Captain Crunch, or you

Categories include Scariest, Literary, Funniest, Original, and Beautiful!

Winners must be paid-up members.





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

MAIL TO:

**South Bay Writers
Monday, October 10, 2022
7 pm
"Revision, Transformation, and Success," with Jennifer Givhan**