



WritersTalk

Volume 31
Number 02
February 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

If you've read the San Jose Mercury News in the past 18 years, you will recognize the name— Sal Pizarro. He has written the Around Town column since 2005. Or perhaps you've seen him when he emceed at

Silicon Valley Reads, San Jose Jazz, or Conquest, interviewing Nicholas Cage.

Sal has spent his entire career as a working journalist. A native of San Jose, he attended Santa Teresa High School, San Jose State University where he wrote for the Spartan Daily, and eventually transferring to UC-Santa Barbara.

After graduation in 1993, he returned to his hometown and joined the staff at the Mercury News. For over a decade, Sal worked primarily as an editor for the Local News and Sports sections.



Writing the First Draft of History

Sal Pizarro
Columnist

Saturday, February 11, 2023 10am
Headen-Inman House Museum
1509 Warburton Ave. Santa Clara

In 2005, when Leigh Weimer retired, Sal became a columnist. He covers a variety of people, places, and events in Silicon Valley. Occasionally he contributes news stories to the paper and more recently pens Cocktail Chronicles, a feature column on Silicon Valley bars and nightclubs.

He is a past president of the Rotary Club of San Jose and the current chair of the Leigh Weimer's Emerging Artists Awards. In his private life, he collects comic books, is an avid James Bond fan, and occasional homebrewer. Sal lives in the historic Naglee neighborhood of San Jose with his wife, Amy, two children, and dog Parker.

Join us to hear Sal discuss his writing career and share insights he's learned as a columnist and reporter.

NEW

MEETING TIME & LOCATION

IN-PERSON MEETINGS BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 11th, SATURDAY, 10 am
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

MEMBER \$7, NONMEMBER \$12 cash/check
Headen-Inman House Museum
1509 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara

Contents

- 2 Editor Talk
- 3 Board Talk
- 3 Cartoon: Orient Express
- 4 President Talk
- 6 The Hare & the Tortoise, What Happened After the Race
- 8 Les Prose

- 8 Day Jobs and Famous Quotations
- 9 Word Talk
- 10 Member Talk
- 11 ChatGPT: My Pet Chameleon
- 12 Contests and Market
- 14 Poetry Talk
- 15 Officers & Submissions

Editor

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

Contributing Editors

Edie Matthews

Marjory Johnson

Ken Roberge

Marty Sorensen

Carolyn Donnell

Editor Talk

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

Wish me luck on this first newsletter. I've written concert programs and newsletters for my private music studio, but this is my first job on a multi-page newsletter for an entity other than my own doing. I'm not a complete newbie, though. I've been surrounded by art and design my whole life with BFA and MFA people in the family and ever since I took a class at Mission College on Adobe Illustrator back in the '00s, life and opportunities have opened up.

The look of the newsletter will probably change a few times before settling on its final design - I'll be seeking input from my graphic design son. My default sense of style is overly busy and decorated - look at my red walls in my picture - but I'll need to adopt another new persona for this newsletter. That's probably inline with the fresh paint I've just put on my red walls. I'm sad to say bye to the red coral and poppy theme, but it's had a good run for 15 years. The thought behind it was to encourage music students to feel warm and brave to play music. Now, though the walls are white with an eggshell finish, I'm counting on the LED strip lighting to cast different colors with the push of a button on the light remote.

Aside from design, another factor in the look of the newsletter is my astigmatism. My eye doctor

says I can no longer wear contacts because none are

made for my degree of astigmatism. Did you know the moon is an oval? And everything has a shadow? Serif fonts on a screen triggers a chain reaction that results in crankiness. Since this newsletter will be archived on the website, and because I'll probably reference it on the screen, and since two versions of the newsletter doesn't make sense, I'm opting for the sleek, calming effect of sans serif.

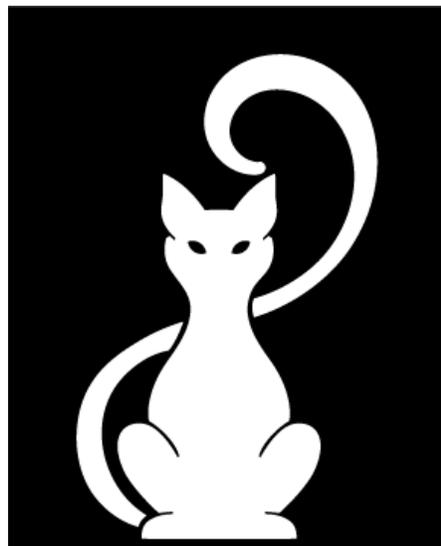
Overall, I'm excited to put together this newsletter for all of you in South Bay Writers branch. Please send me your stories, poems, prose, blurbs, cartoons, and all writings. Take part in writing contests and



have fun. Take a pause from the opus WIP, shake up the imagination, and send a pet story for February. My pet story is guaranteed to be pretty grumpy.

Did you know cats hold grudges? Don't get me started ...

I look forward to placing your writing in the newsletter to share with the South Bay Writers!



Board Talk

Chris Weilert

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7 p.m. on January 10th. SBW Board members are listed on page 2 of WritersTalk with their emails.

Meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Edie Matthews, President

As members of Headen-Inman Museum, we're required to docent (once or twice a year). Our turn to docent is Sunday, February 5th, 1-3pm. Need volunteers. I will be there and bring my husband, that's two. More than three are welcome to participate.

Our next group meeting will be on February 11th at the Headen-Inman Museum. The speaker will be Sal Pizaro, San Jose Mercury News columnist, the topic will be "The First Draft History."

On March 11th at the Headen-Inman Museum our speaker will be Martha Conway, a professor at Stanford University. The topic is TBA.

Meetings will be on Saturdays and will begin at 10am to 1pm. Members are \$7 and non-members \$12. Between 10 and 11am is continental breakfast/networking/socialize. 11am introduce speaker and 12:00 -12:15pm meeting ends.

The San Francisco Writers Conference will be held on February 16-19, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. Details to follow.

The next writing contest (Pets) entries due by February 15th.

Marjorie Johnson, MRMS.

All membership addresses are updated. Please send any member news to Marjorie for publishing in WritersTalk

Trenton Myers, Treasurer

Account Growth: 6.84 since November

Bill Baldwin. Open Mics continue on the first and third Fridays. (Zoom)

Recent Open Mic stats: December 18th – 10 readers. January 6th – 10 readers.



Central Board: No meeting this month

Nor Cal: Meeting on January 4, 2023

Carolyn Donnell: Facebook Contests/Markets:

Has been condensing the contest page on the newsletter. She is looking to archive all of photos on the website and Facebook from Shutterfly.

Inga Silva. Membership: November 2022: 85 active members, 2 lifetime members and 1 student.

The meeting ended at 8:10 PM. The next board meeting will be on February 7, 2023 on Zoom. SBW members are always welcome at Board meetings. To attend a board meeting, send an email to Edie Matthews at pres@southbaywriters.com

Off the Shelf by Edie Matthews



President Talk

Rewriting

Edie Matthews



After teaching English for a number of years, I think the four types of sentence structure dominate my writing. These include:

- **Simple** (subject, verb, and a complete thought) John kissed Mary.
- **Compound** (two simple sentences, also called independent sentences) John kissed Mary, and she slapped him.
- **Complex** (dependent and independent sentence) When John kissed Mary, she slapped him. (A dependent sentence has a subject and verb, but is an incomplete thought).

- **Compound-complex** (dependent and two independents) When John proposed to Mary, she said yes, and she kissed him.

These are simplified examples since there are oodles of variations when you add in compound subjects, compound verbs, prepositional phrases, etc.

After writing a first draft, I will go back and try to improve my work. Of course, this is a challenge since there are a half dozen elements to consider. In addition to sentence variety, I'm mindful of the spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, clarity, plot, tension, etc. As the playwright Neil Simon said,



Diego Rivera Exhibition

“Good writing is rewriting.”

One way of improving your skills is reading. Often, I’ll read with a pen or pencil. I like to underline interesting words. Not words that send you to the dictionary. Words that I may not generally use and would expand my repertoire. I especially like words that paint a picture: crisscross, demure, bolster, grueling, streamline.

I’ll also notice interesting sentence structure. Here’s an extensive sentence in *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

“He was tall, dark, and conventionally handsome in a pair of swimming trunks, a Hawaiian shirt, and sandals, standing in front of Trancas Market, smoking a Marlboro and holding a bag of groceries.”

It provides so much detail without resorting to a series of nouns and adjectives, but also using gerund (words ending in “ing”) phrases. How many times have you wanted to include details in your work and avoid an infernal list of nouns?

Recently I went to see the Diego Rivera Exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA). One wall featured his pictures of hands in various angles and poses. (Apparently, hands are extremely difficult to draw.)

I was impressed at the care and practice Rivera took to improve his skill. It is similar to what writers need to do to improve their craft—practice, practice, practice.

I read that the English writer, William Somerset Maugham, author of *In Human Bondage*, taught himself how to write by hand copying the work of authors he admired. That attention to detail has got to be beneficial.

At a museum, I like to immerse myself in the experience—an obsession described to me as “examining the fingernail clippings.” I rent the audio tape description and also read the details posted next to the exhibit.

Whoever writes that information does an

excellent job. Here’s one from the Guo Pei Fashion Exhibition that you had to see to appreciate.

Constructed of individual vertical panels, it is completely embroidered using a couching technique, creating a repeat pattern of the lotus pod and trailing plants—symbols of everlasting exuberance and purity

of mind in Chinese culture. I see this as a kind of reincarnation, like the sun rising out of darkness; it is reborn.

An interesting technique used in this description is the use of personification. That’s giving an inanimate object human characteristics. But personification is a topic for another time.

As the playwright Neil Simon said,
“Good writing is rewriting.”

Guo Pei Fashion Exhibition



The Hare and the Tortoise, What Happened After the Race

Shipra Shukla

ACT 1 SCENE 2

Time: Day / Afternoon

Place: A reception area of a spa

Characters: Ostrich: O Zee Van To Die Riche Two, fox: Burt Reynard, monkey: Banana Drama, tortoise: Totty



O Zee, an elegant ostrich with coiffed bouffant in the old Hollywood style, chandelier earrings and long pearl necklaces dangling in front is polishing her nails. There is a knock on the door. O Zee sashays to the door and opens it and moves aside. Banana Drama walks in pushing a wheelchair in which sits Totty.

O Zee: (who has a very chi chi manner of speaking) Oh! Goodness gracious. What happened?

Banana Drama: **He fell down and sprained his (looks at Totty's little legs) legs when he was trying on skates.**

O Zee: **Well then take him to the hospital. This is a spa, not a hospital.**

Banana Drama: **I did, that's where I got the wheelchair.**

O Zee: **But why was he trying on skates?**

Banana Drama: **Well, he wants to go from a slow coach to a Speedy Gonzales, that's why!**

O Zee: **For God's sake he's a tortoise, he's**

supposed to go slow; why in the Lord's name is he trying to speed up?

Banana Drama: **That's a very long tale but to put it in a nutshell he wants to live life in the in the fast lane like Happy Hare. He wants fast cars, a fast life , a fast ...**

O Zee: (tittering) **A fast girlfriend, I hope not!**

Totty: (looking down, morose) **Who will look at me. I'm not someone girls fling themselves at, they find me boring and brown and dull as ditchwater.**

O Zee: (brightening up) **You have come to the right place, my friend. We specialize in makeovers. Your brown color will soon be a thing of the past. And as for your personality, I've the right person to help you, he's just next door and will be here in a jiffy.** (she picks up the phone and presses a button) **Hello, Mr. Burt Reynard, this is O Zee Van To Die Riche Two speaking from next door. I have a client for you. Can you pop in, just for a second,** (pauses) **thank you.**

(In a second the door flies open and a fox slides in)

Burt Reynard: **Hello, hello, hello my fine folks. As I was telling my dear friend Zee Zee Two here that I'm very busy with my many clients but I can never say no to her for she is a pearl among swines, a queen among the riff raffs** (O



Zee simpers) **a cut above the rest, a real ...**

Banana Drama: (cutting him short) **yes, yes Mr.**

(The fox bows low)

Burt Reynard: **Mr. Burt Reynard at your service, former actor, producer of many movies and manager to many stars. Ah! showbiz is my biz.**

Totty: **Then what are you doing here Mr. Reynard? Shouldn't you be in Hollywood among all the glamorous folks?**

Burt Reynard: (taken aback but thinking quickly) **Ah yes. I was a big part of that world but then the glitter and glamour began to pall and I felt it's time to give back. So here I am, acting coach with a personal touch.**

Banana Drama: **That is all very fine and dandy but how are you going to help our Totty here. As you can see he's very shy. How can you prevent him from retreating into his shell at the drop of a hat.**

O Zee: **That is going to be very easy peasy for our Reynard here He has many tricks up his sleeve to draw out a person from his shell. You'll see soon enough the change in ...** (looking at Totty, pauses)

Banana Drama: **Mr. Little Tittle Tottle or Totty for short.**

Burt Reynard: **Mr. Little Tittle Tottle, that's a tongue twister for sure. The first thing I'm going to do is change his name to something more grand; what about Duke Marmaduke Van Tottenham?**

O Zee: (clasping her hands/wings to her breast) **Oooooh sounds fancy shmancy. It's got duke twice, that's royalty and Van just like moi!**

Banana Drama: **Yes, but he's not royalty, our Totty here. In fact he comes from a long line of mud turtles who enjoy messing around in the mud. That's not what royals do!**

Burt Reynard: **You'd be surprised at what the royals are capable of, mucking around is just a part of their activities so Totty here is in good company.**

O Zee: (gushing) **Don't worry Mr. (pauses)**

Banana Drams: **Banana Drama at your service. I'm a D.J. and remix artiste and ready to rock**

your world whenever you want to let down your hair and dance the night away.

O Zee: (clapping excitedly) **Oh, Oh, Oh. That is wonderful. You are from showbiz too. We make quite a team, the three of us. Between us, Totty, I mean Duke Marmaduke Van Tottenham, can look forward to a real change in his life. His personality will be such that no one will recognize him. I'll go work on his outer appearance. (claps her hands) Yes, we'll need some lotions, bleaching agents, some skin softeners, scrapers (she trails off in a thoughtful way)**

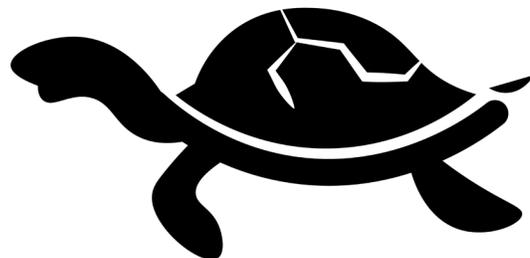
Burt Reynard: **Yes, and I'll take care of his speech, diction, deportment. I'll need some advance for a set of trendy threads. We have to smarten up Dukey here. (thinks, then snaps fingers) Ah, yes, a top hat and coat tails will add a certain *je nais sai quoi*.**

Banana Drama: **What, what did you just say - jenna sa, what?**

Burt Reynard: **That is French for a certain quality but I can't put a finger to it, or I can't describe it or ...**

Banana Drama: **Whoa, whoa, whoa! Stop right there. Don't go all Professor Ollie on me Foxy. Plain English is good enough for me.**

Burt Reynard: **But French is necessary for those wanting to move up in social circles. You don't have to learn the whole language**



Les Prose by Kendad



President's Writing Contest

Subject: Pets

Write 100 to 150 words describing your pet. It may be the worst pet you ever encountered, your favorite pet, the most interesting pet, the zaniest pet, or perhaps a combination of characteristics. Describe the animal in prose or poetry.

First place prize \$50. Top four runners-up will receive a Barnes & Noble's Gift card. No entry fee required.

You **MUST** be a member of South Bay Writers (or a dual member) to be eligible to submit to the contest. If you're not already or you need to renew, do it now!

(Go to southbaywriters.com).

Contest deadline: February 15th.

Email entry to: pres@southbaywriters.com

Day Jobs and Famous Quotations

Luanne Oleas



Quotations have fascinated me for more than 50 years. Since my teens, I've written them on whatever scrap of paper was handy and stuffed them in a manila envelope. Something possessed me this week to try and organize them.

This was no small task because it wasn't only quotes. There were theater tickets from 1992, my daughter's birth announcement, a windscreen repair sticker from England, and some crazy notes to myself. That last item really jolted me.

In the mid-1990s, I had a literary agent who had shopped around a manuscript of mine titled *Pilots & Priests*. After a year of submitting it to publishers, she gave up though she claimed to still love the book. With that in mind, I sent her another manuscript for a different novel titled *Wild Dancing* and hoped for better results.

Without me the literary industry
would not exist ...

Eventually, the literary agent did call me about *Wild Dancing*. I took notes as she spoke. I wanted to remember every wonderful thing she said about my latest

attempt at the great American novel. This bit of note taking was the scrap of paper I came across recently.

Her first comment described it as a “novella,” not a novel. It was shorter than the first book I had sent her. Novellas weren’t overly popular in the 1990s. In fact, in hindsight, it wasn’t a compliment. Next to the word “novella,” I had scribbled her next comment, “needs some lengthening.” Since long books have always been my specialty, I wasn’t worried. Yet.

Next came the note, “like something from *McCall’s*.” *McCall’s* was a monthly women’s magazine that ran from 1873 to 2002. This definitely wasn’t a compliment, but I had grown up reading *McCall’s* and loved the stories in it.

After that comment came a series of descriptors, that, looking back, were difficult to record. “Not enough, no complex relationships, a dalliance, slight, predictable, lacking.” What must have been her final comment was the one I remember most vividly. “Go write a real book.”

But those weren’t the only words written on that piece of paper. Another word was “options” and, below that, “Meet tomorrow with Katherine.” Since this note was near 25 years old, my first thought was “Katherine? Who’s Katherine?”

Then, I turned the paper over. It had Katherine’s first and last name. Below that, some numbers. \$12 x 40 hours = \$480. And \$480 x 4 weeks = \$1920. The abbreviation, “Admin. Asst.” came next. Not many folks can record the turning point in their life. This note showed the moment I gave up on writing novels and opted for a \$2000 per month job.

That job led me into the high-tech arena of Silicon Valley and more than 20 years as a technical writer. No more *Wild Dancing* for me. I was a button-down, businessperson who had a career. Someone who could write more than a dalliance. Someone who could make money from writing “real books.” Unfortunately, this wasn’t the writing I wanted to do.

At my day job, I wrote the *Advanced Reporting Management for InterScan Web Security Administrator’s Guide* and, after that, the *Content Security and Control Manual for the Software Security Module, v6.6.1*. (Yes, it had the word “security” twice in the title but that’s what happens

when you edit by committee.) At night, I rewrote my unsuccessful *Pilots & Priests* novel, but I didn’t touch *Wild Dancing*.

I thought with my novels I could write my way out of my day job. Sure, that job paid well, but that never really scratched the itch. Nonsensical behavior perhaps, but in my manila envelope full of quotes, I came across a quote that let me know I wasn’t alone in my struggle.

“And it does no harm to repeat, as often as you can, ‘Without me the literary industry would not exist: the publishers, the agents, the sub-agents, the sub-sub-agents, the accountants, the libel lawyers, the departments of literature, the professors, the theses, the books of criticism, the reviewers, the book pages- all this vast and proliferating edifice is because of this small, patronized, put-down, and underpaid person.’” — Doris Lessing

Eventually, the *Pilots & Priests* novel was published under a different title. One day, I may even have the courage to pull *Wild Dancing* out of the drawer.

Word Talk

Brigitte Doss-Johnson



Love. As a word, it serves as a noun or verb. Is it ever an adjective? Love substitutes in an adjectival position, but when a noun modifies another noun, it gets a new fancy title:

- attributive noun
- noun adjunct
- noun premodifier
- qualifying noun
- appositive noun

What are these words?

Love affair

Love handles

Love life

Love letters

Love birds

Love poem

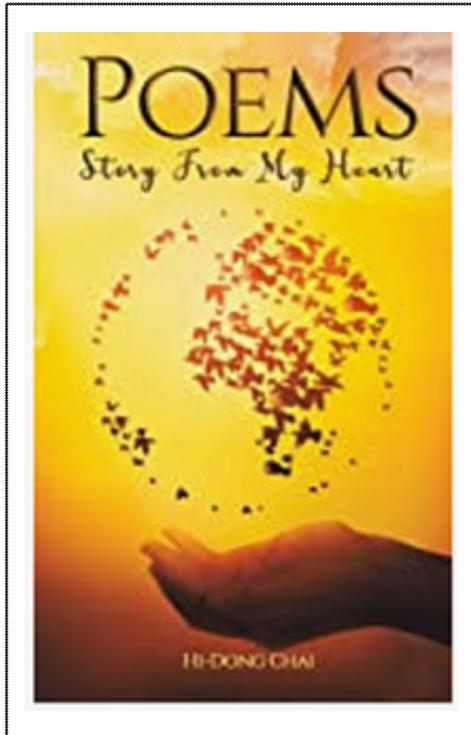
Love struck (sometimes this has a hyphen)

Can you think of more? I thought of lovelorn and lovenest but these are simply compound words.

Member Talk

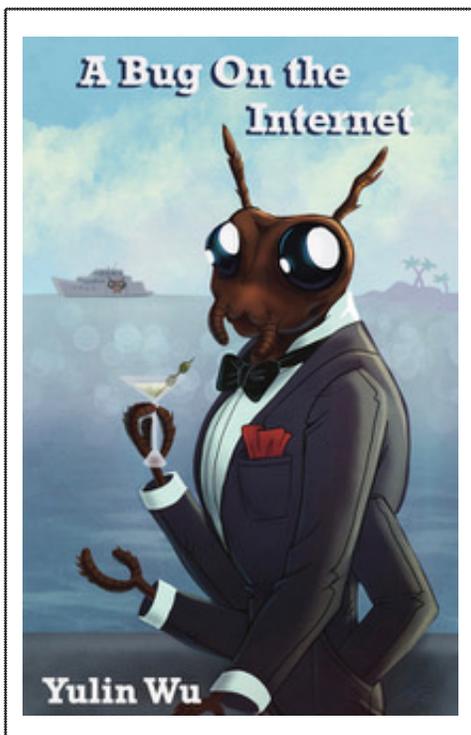
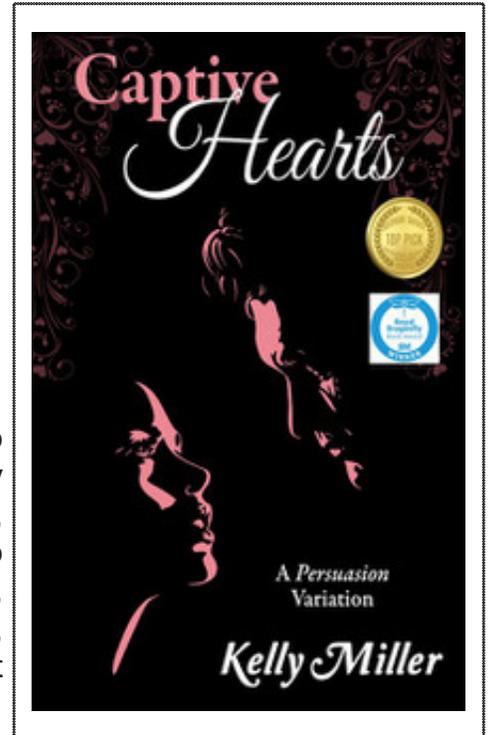
Marjorie Johnson

Carolyn Donnell: My cat story, “Simply, Bebee,” will be published in an upcoming issue of *Bollman Bridge Review*. See their website, Bollman Bridge Review Home/About/Bollmanbridgereview. The story is about how my mother’s cat saved her from the bees after she had a fall. It was previously published in *Chicken Soup For the Soul* as “The Magic of Cats.”



Hi-Dong Chai: I am an old man, 86 years old, living at the Terraces of Los Gatos. My book of poems, *Poems–Story From My Heart* was published in 2022 by New York publisher Austin Macauley, and appears on Amazon.

Kelly Miller: I am pleased to announce that my Regency romance, *Captive Hearts*, has been recognized with two awards: 2nd Place, Romance, Royal Dragonfly Book Awards, and Top Pick, Author Shout Reader Ready Awards.



Alice Wu: My new book is entitled *A Bug on the Internet*. Please note that I wrote it under the name “Yulin Wu” instead of my usual name, Alice. Here’s a short description:

Gregory Samsa woke up from a night of troubled sleep and found himself turned into a giant bug. But that’s okay, because he’s an American with a can-do attitude, who will work through his misfortune with a combination of gumption and moxie. Sure, he faces discrimination as people are not very tolerant of giant bugs, but he maintains the fortitude to endure his mistreatment. In the end he becomes an Internet celebrity with an attractive girlfriend and lives in a fancy house.

In this twenty-first century re-imagining of *The Metamorphosis*, Kafka’s giant bug has to deal with modern issues such as racism (or in his case, speciesism), Internet fame, capitalist exploitation, and humans who are sexually attracted to insects. A fun romp that is surely going to leave you falling on the floor and rolling around in laughter.

Congratulations, Carolyn, Kelly, Chai, and Alice.

Please send your writing news to: membernews@southbaywriters.com

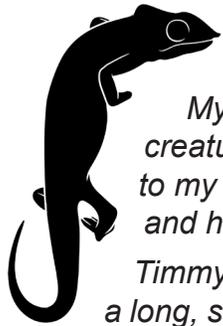
ChatGPT: My Pet Chameleon

Marjorie Johnson

The headline grabbed my attention: “The New Chatbots Could Change the World.” (Business section, *San Jose Mercury News*, Monday, December 26, 2022.) There I read about an open AI (Artificial Intelligence) code called ChatGPT, an interactive program that allows a robot to reply to questions, to compose term papers, or to write résumés for job applications.

I had to try it.

I put ChatGPT into Google and placed “Write an essay about my pet chameleon” in the request line. I was amazed when, in less than a minute, GPT spit out the following essay:



My pet chameleon is a small, exotic creature that brings joy and fascination to my life every day. His name is Timmy, and he is a veiled chameleon.

Timmy is about the size of my hand, with a long, slender body and delicate, grasping toes. His skin is covered in tiny scales that shimmer and change color depending on his mood and surroundings. He is most often a pale green color, but he can also turn brown, yellow, or blue. His eyes are large and expressive, with vertical pupils that allow him to focus on his prey.

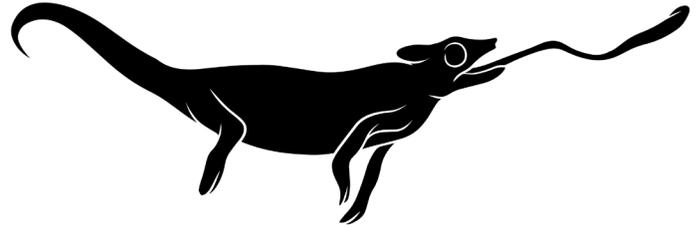
Timmy is a very active and curious pet, and he loves to explore his surroundings. He is always climbing on his branches and vines, searching for new sights and sounds. He is also a skilled hunter, stalking his insects with patience and precision.

Timmy is not a particularly cuddly or affectionate pet, but he is still a joy to be around. He is mesmerizing to watch as he moves and changes color, and he has a calm and peaceful presence that is soothing to be around.

Overall, Timmy is a unique and delightful pet that brings a touch of the exotic into my life. He requires a lot of care and attention, but the rewards of owning a chameleon are well worth it. I am grateful to have Timmy as a part of my life, and I look forward to many more years of adventure and discovery with him.



My request sounded as if I were a child; GPT wrote a child’s essay and named the lizard Timmy. Had I written it, even as a nine-year-old, I would have added that chameleons are tree-dwelling lizards that can focus their eyes independently and look in two directions at once. In nature, they hunt for insects and grab them with tongues twice as long as their bodies, so fast that you can’t see their tongues as they shoot them out. (And I would not have named it Timmy, nor started three paragraphs



in a row, “Timmy is ...”)

So who is this GPT? The acronym denotes Generative Pre-trained Transformer, who, like a chameleon, copies something that isn’t and puts the pieces together in logical sequence.

So, English teachers, beware. That assignment you’re reading could have been written by GPT. However, I hear that college professors have the antidote: a program that can determine that GPT has been at work.

Also, ChatGPT cannot replace the thought process, according to Linda Hora in “ChatGPT will not change what we teach to writers,” Editorial Page A6, *San Jose Mercury News*, Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Linda Hora is an advanced placement language and composition teacher at Miramonte High School in Orinda who has taught high school students in the Bay Area for almost 20 years.

Ms. Hora argues, in part, “AI creates a product. Writing an essay, however, is so much more than a product; it is a process.”

“... The process of writing allows us to not only learn but think, feel, dream, inspire. That same process allows us to create something unique, to present an old thought in a new form, to communicate in a way so that another will understand.”

“... A product created by a machine can never replace the process of thought nor the reward that process brings.”

Contests and Markets

Carolyn Donnell



Let us know if you have any success with any of the contests listed in WritersTalk. (Or any other contest.)

Members of our Facebook group, South Bay Writers Club, see contest postings/notifications on Facebook.

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.

WRITERS BEWARE site. Check out this website for warnings about contests, submissions, etc. <https://www.sfw.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

2023 San Francisco Book Festival Call for entries to its annual program celebrating the best books of the spring season. Submissions in each category must be received by the close of business on May 25, 2023.

The San Francisco Book Festival will consider non-fiction, fiction, biography/autobiography, children's books, memoir, compilations/anthologies, young adult, how-to, cookbooks, science fiction, business, history, wild card, gay, photography/art, poetry, unpublished, technology and spiritual/religious works. There is no date of publication restriction.

Details at <https://mailchi.mp/0a9a2356c6>

[45/2022-san-francisco-book-festival-call-for-entries-13861738](https://www.sfbookfestival.org/call-for-entries-13861738)

LOCAL (PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS) AND OTHER CWC BRANCH RESOURCES: See other branches at <https://calwriters.org/cwcbranches/> Some allow all CWC members, other – dual members.

SF/Peninsula Branch. See their website <https://www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/writers-resources/writing-contests>

Fremont Area Writers See Writers Resources tab. <https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers/>

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

North State Writers They are planning a fourth anthology. The last one accepted all CWC members. www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html

Catamaran Literary Reader-West Coast quarterly literary/visual arts journal. Fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and fine art. www.catamaranliteraryreader.com/

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

ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION Early-Bird Deadline: May 5, 2023

SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS Early-Bird Deadline: April 3, 2023

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

WOW! Women on Writing Two quarterly contests: fiction writers-flash fiction and nonfiction-essays. See www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php

The Writer Magazine-2023 Essay Contest. Deadline February 28, 2023. See www.writermag.com/contests/

AWP Association of Writers and Writing Programs.

See at <https://www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview>

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

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

Sequestum Literary Journal: Theme Reprints Fiction, non-fiction, poetry <https://www.sequestum.org/>

Winning Writers—Next 24 hour contest. See <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

Chicken Soup For The Soul. <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

Water Dragon Publishing: Check out their website. <https://waterdragonpublishing.com/submissions/>

Literary Mama Submissions year round-anyone who identifies as a mother. <https://literarymama.com/submissions>

OTHER RESOURCES (* = On both the Internet and Facebook.)

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 *- www.thewritelife.com/writing-contests/

Hidden River Arts-Book award deadlines listed at www.hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com/

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

Funds For Writers-Contests, submissions, grants, etc. See www.fundsforwriters.com/contests/

Freedom With Writing *-submissions, contests, jobs, and more. <https://www.freedomwithwriting.com/>

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

The Best Writing Contests curated by Reedsy www.blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/

Monday Markets and Jobs for Writers Erika Dreifus – Lists competitions, contests, and calls for submissions. <https://www.erikadreifus.com/2022/09/monday-markets-and-jobs-for-writers-188/>

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

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

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

Trish Hopkinson. No Fee, some publishers accept reprints, etc. <https://www.trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/>

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

Prowritingaid: Lists science fiction/fantasy contests. <https://prowritingaid.com/science-fiction-writing-contests>

Association of Writers and Writing Programs www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview

Publishedtodeath Lists literary magazines accepting reprints <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2016/01/163-literary-magazines-accepting.html>

NewPages.com News, information, and guides to literary magazines, independent publishers, creative writing programs, writing contests, and more. www.newpages.com/classifieds/writing-contests

POETRY CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES (* = both Internet and Facebook.)

Academy of American Poets* <https://poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes>

Writing Matters 30 Publishers of Poetry Books & Chapbooks www.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/

Up the Staircase Quarterly-Submit 3-6 poems in a single document. Submit up to 10 .jpgs for art.

No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork is okay. www.upthestaircase.org/

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

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

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

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

Poetry Foundation www.poetryfoundation.org

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

Everywriter-The Best Poetry Prizes. List of poetry prizes and competitions.

www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/

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

Unpublished or little-published. <https://www.prospectusliterary.com/submissions2020.php>

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

Southern Arizona Press <https://www.southernarizonapress.com/current-submissions/>

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

- > 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
- > 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

Poetry Talk

February calls for a love poem. Here's one I wrote that was later set to music by an Estonian composer, Andres Lemba.

March calls for shamrock or good/bad luck poetry. If you have one, please send it in!

Wind, the Matchmaker

Brigitte Doss-Johnson



Wind, who goes through my
fingers,
with a lover's touch that
lingers,
did you come from
the hand
of my love, in a far
away land?

When will you bring him to me,
laden with the mist of the sea?
So, like you, he may kiss my cheek,
and leave an impression of mystique?

Wind, is it you who plays with my hair?
I wish you'd declare,
that you came at his request,
to lift and shift and twist.

How real the love you interlace,
when we can not meet face to face.
In every gust you give
me a sign,
that you know ...
the one ... who
is to be mine.



California Writers Club South Bay Branch

www.southbaywriters.com

Executive Committee

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
Members-at-Large
Tatyana Grinenko.....member-at-large1@southbaywriters.com
Alfred Jan.....member-at-large2@southbaywriters.com
Central Board Rep Bill Baldwin.....WABaldwin@aol.com
NorCal Rep Bill Baldwin.....WABaldwin@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Programs Jamal Khan.....vp@southbaywriters.com
Publicity and Public Relations
Tatyana Grinenko.....pr@southbaywriters.com

Facebook Admin Carolyn Donnell.....cdonnelltx@yahoo.com
Hospitality TBD
Membership Inga Silva.....Ingasbwmembership@gmail.com
MRMS Admin
Marjorie Johnson.....mrms@southbaywriters.com
Member News
Marjorie Johnson.....membernews@southbaywriters.com
Newsletter
Brigitte Doss-Johnson.....newsletter@southbaywriters.com
Open Mic Bill Baldwin.....WABaldwin@aol.com
Web Editor
Tatyana Ginenko.....webeditor@southbaywriters.com
Web Master TBD

SBW Mission

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



Join Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Dual membership: \$25. Contact Membership Chair, Inga Silva, or sign up online at southbaywriters.com. Or, send a check to CWC-South Bay Writers, P. O. Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055
Note: California Writers Club uses a fiscal year that runs from July 1 through June 30 each year.

Contribute to WritersTalk

Members of the South Bay Writers Club are encouraged to submit their creative works for publication in WritersTalk. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Send a Word file that has been peer edited to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Attach any desired graphics on the *same email*. If no confirmation email is received in a few days, please resend.

Creative Works

Short Fiction (1000 words)
Memoir (1000 words)
Poetry (300 words)
Essay (1000 words)

Send information about your news or achievements to

membernews@southbaywriters.com.

Information should be of interest and value to writers that does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator and is published free of charge.

Advertising of workshops, conferences, and events is accepted from other Branches of California Writers Club. The 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation status of California Writers Club, prohibits WritersTalk from accepting advertising of events or services that benefit an individual, or of politics.

Authors retain all rights to their work. WritersTalk gratefully acknowledges the authors' permission to publish their submissions here. Contact individual authors for permission to reprint their work.

Circulation: 150

Copyright © 2023 California Writers Club South Bay Branch.

Change of Address: Send changes of address to membership@southbaywriters.com or use MRMS.



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
P.O. Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055

www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

Be our Valentine? Come for your See's candy!
Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am
Details of our new meeting time on page 1.



Pet story contest. Send to pres@southbaywriters.com by February 15.
Up to 150 words. Details on page 8.