



WritersTalk

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

Volume 31

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March 2023

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March Keynote

Martha Conway: Subplots, Complications, and Secondary Characters

Jamal Khan

When: Saturday, March 11, at 10am

Where: Headen-Inman House Museum, 1509 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara

Cost: \$10 Members, \$15 nonmembers, cash or check

When your characters stop talking to you and start talking to each other, your writing is going well. When a subplot neatly links back into the main narrative in a way you couldn't anticipate, your writing is under the masterful control of the muse. And when a secondary character unexpectedly jostles to the forefront of the proceedings, subverting your carefully crafted outline, your writing is white-hot. Don't resist these divergent impulses. Instead, ride the flow as long as you can. During our March 11 meeting, Martha Conway will teach us how to seamlessly blend rigor and spontaneity to get the most out of subplots, complications, and secondary characters.

Martha Conway is the author of several novels including *The Underground River*, which was a *New York Times* Book Editor's Choice (entitled *The Floating Theatre* in the U.K.). Her novel *Thieving Forest* won the North American Book Award for Best Historical Fiction. Martha's short fiction has appeared in the *Iowa Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *The Quarterly*, *Carolina Quarterly*, and other publications. She has reviewed fiction for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Iowa Review*, and is a recipient of a California Arts Council fellowship in Creative Writing.

Martha is an instructor of creative writing at Stanford University's Continuing Studies Program. She received her BA from Vassar College in History and English, and her MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Born in Ohio and one of seven sisters, Martha now makes her home in California.



Contest Winners

First Place: *Jarvis* by Geraldine C. Forte

Second Place: *Lucky* by Michael Shipp

Third Place: *Animal Husbandry* By Chris Weilert

More results and the stories on page 6.



President Talk

Between the Lines: Jack Kerouac A Contradiction

Edie Matthews

California has a rich history of famous writers such as John Steinbeck, Jack London, and William Saroyan. Some, like Mark Twain, John Muir, and Dashiell Hammett, migrated to the Golden State.

Jack Kerouac falls into the latter category. He became a seminal influence in a social movement that began with a core group on the East Coast and flourished in the West, especially after *On the Road*, his phenomenally successful novel, was published in 1957.

The counterculture generation rejected conventional society and distinguished themselves by dressing in black: black leotards, tight pants, baggy sweaters, berets, and sunglasses. The hipsters were jazz fans, smoked pot, and spoke slang: daddy-o, square, cool cat. They gathered in coffee houses and cellar nightclubs and read poetry accompanied by bongo drums. They didn't clap—they finger snapped.

Kerouac described them as “Beat.”

“Beatniks,” Herb Cain christened them in his *SF Chronicle* column (1958). He added the suffix “nik” after Sputnik, the Russian satellite that orbited the globe. Yep, they were “far out.”

Kerouac considered the label disparaging.

The “Beat Generation,” a term Kerouac coined, evolved from a 1948 discussion with his friend, writer John Clellon Holmes. Kerouac referred to beat as a “sense of weariness” or “worn down.” He grew up poor and identified with the working class.

While visiting his childhood church in Lowell, MA in 1954, he had an epiphany. “I suddenly realized, Beat means Beatitude! Beatific!”

The Beatitudes are sayings delivered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:3-12.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the

kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called so of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in

heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Kerouac was no saint, but he was not Dean Moriarty, the wild man in his novel. That was his friend Neal Cassady.

On the contrary, Kerouac had been an altar boy and as an adult was still influenced by his Catholic upbringing. On nearly every page in his diary, he drew a crucifix or wrote a prayer asking Jesus for forgiveness.

He was a patriot and loved our country. He said America “gave my Canadian family a good break...” He did not identify with liberals or participate with those who were trying out communism. He was a conservative and admired William F. Buckley. He

“I suddenly realized, Beat means
Beatitude! Beatific!”

~Kerouac

and his family always voted Republican.

Even though Jack Kerouac became the embodiment of the Beat Generation, his fans missed the theme of his book. The hectic racing and crisscrossing the country in *On the Road* was a search for God.

Headen-Inman Open House



Top row: Bob Stetson, Edie Matthews
Seated: Marjorie Johnson, Alfred Jan

On the first Sunday of each month, there is an Open House at our new venue, the Headen-Inman Historical House Museum. Since SBW has become a member, we are required to have three members act as docents once a year. I signed us up for February so we could fulfill this obligation early. A number of board members volunteered, but since we only needed three, I thanked the extras and told them that the job was covered.

Unfortunately, it was wet and rainy all day. Even the adjacent park was vacant except for the custodian emptying trash. But the volunteers were able to explore the House/Museum, and we enjoyed each other's company. I'm also becoming more adept at operating the furnace and the security system.
-Edie Matthews



Editor Talk

Juggling and Adjusting

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

Newsletter number two. I'm happy and relieved you're reading it. That means I got it out. I won't bore you with the tasks involved, but I'm proud to say this month was easier than last, only by a smidgen. I want a well designed newsletter and I'm still experimenting. I dream of the day this whole production takes single-digit hours. I dream big.

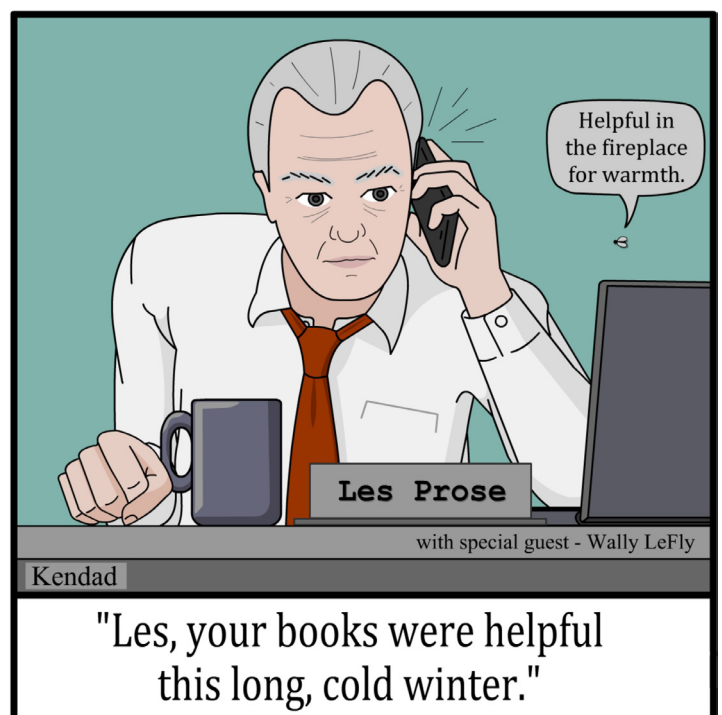
I'm ever grateful for the input from guides and proofreaders. Thank you!

I would like to see a few more corners in the newsletter - maybe news about critique groups, more poetry, bare-bones writing tips/reminders, a blurb about genres and marketing specific to them, book reviews, and something about the tech side of writing, like keeping track of queries.

Send ideas and new blurbs my way!

Les Prose

Kendad





Workshop Talk

Recap: Jordan Rosenfeld Workshop on Plot

Bill Baldwin

January 28, 2023

I was interested to hear Jordan Rosenfeld's thoughts on Plot, as I am deeply involved in editing my second novel. Her Saturday workshop proved insightful.

What is a plot? A story involving a character we can relate to, that we care about. Why? Because they are striving towards a compelling goal while facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

There are three layers of plot. There are actions. There are emotions, forming an emotional arc. And there are themes, ideally expressed through visual images.

A goal and obstacle clarify what is at stake for your character. We may or may not like this person, but we need to understand what they want, what gets in their way, and what they are risking if they fail. How will the character's life be changed by what happens?

A character has flaws and may make bad decisions. As they struggle, tensions rise. This escalation can be internal, external, or interpersonal.

Dealing with backstory—events that have already happened before you begin the story—is necessary but challenging. Reveal backstory judiciously. Backstory pulls you “out of scene,” out of the present. Only go into backstory for a reason inherent in the action. Some event should trigger the revelation. Limit backstory to the necessary. Reveal backstory via flashbacks rather than explanations!

Move the story forward in an interesting way. Consider causation. Keep the characters involved in the story. Throw them situations that force them to respond. Demonstrate, don't lecture. The more sensory you can make the action, the better. Make your triggers plausible. Coincidence is the enemy of good fiction.

Foreshadowing can be as challenging as backstory. Don't impose actions on a character. Hint at what might happen so that it won't seem coincidental. Surprise the reader in a way that doesn't seem contrived.

To consciously pace your story, you need to be aware of plot structure. Many stories follow a “three-act structure,” though other structures are possible.

Some action provokes the story—an “inciting incident.” Further actions (turning points) force the character to change.

The story begins in the ordinary world. Something disturbs this mundane environment and leads to a “point of no return” where the character can't go back to the old life. Changing, however, brings more and more challenges. They can't go back; they recommit to their quest—and sink deeper and deeper into the quagmire. The quest now seems hopeless. And yet...abandoning the old life, the character eventually triumphs! The struggle has transformed them. They are no longer who they were at the beginning; they are someone new—and their story has engaged us to the end.

Good to keep in mind in developing your story!



Recap: Sal Pizarro

Marjorie Johnson

Sal Pizarro, columnist for *The Mercury News*, spoke to South Bay Writers on Saturday morning, February 11 at the Headen-Inman House in Santa Clara, our first in-person general meeting since the Covid pandemic. Sal speaks from his heart. He investigates local happenings that interest him. As he put it, “If it doesn’t interest me, how can I interest you?”



Here’s an example from one of Sal’s columns. *Mercury News*, Local Section, Friday, February 10: “Fox Tale Fermentation Project brewing success.”

The article begins: “Fox Tale Fermentation Project owners Felipe Bravo and Wendy Neff are brewing magic in their little Hobbit hole of a café in downtown San Jose. Actually, it’s probably more apt to say they’re fermenting magic.

“Even though Fox Tale was recently named the nation’s best new brewery by *Hop Culture Magazine*, there’s a lot more than beer happening at 30 E. Santa Clara Street.”

In 2012, Sal replaced Leigh Weimers, who amused and informed legions of readers during his 47-year career at *The Mercury News*. Sal said he didn’t think anyone would replace him because newspapers are dying—their subscribers are dying. Just as with *WritersTalk*, younger folk

prefer digital news.

Sal fielded questions about what being a columnist was like and how he does it. He said that he both records conversations and takes notes. When he writes from his notes, he tends to use his favorite words instead of those used by the interviewee, a problem he corrects by listening to the recording.

Here’s a second excerpt from one of Sal’s columns. *Mercury News*, Local Section, Sunday, February 12: “Developer Michael Van Every goes from burn victim to benefactor.”

“Van Every suffered serious burns in a garage fire in 1971 when he was a toddler. He spent years in the hospital and over the next several years underwent dozens of corrective surgeries and skin grafts. He was bullied mercilessly in elementary school. He still stings from a memory of Valentine’s Day in fifth grade when he received no cards from any of his classmates. Now he’s raising funds for Valley Medical Center’s burn unit.”

Sal mesmerized his audience on February 11. One attendee said afterwards that Sal was the best speaker that SBW has ever had.

You can contact Sal Pizarro at spizarro@bayareanewsgroup.com.



"Mom, can you help me find the ironing in Hamlet?"

Edie Matthews

Contest: Pet Stories

First Place: Jarvis by Geraldine C. Forte

Second Place: Lucky by Michael Shipp

Third Place: Animal Husbandry By Chris Weilert

Fourth Place: Feline Aristocracy by Patricia Collins

Fifth Place: Princess and Me by Giselle Stancic

Jarvis

Geraldine C. Forte

As a babe, he slept beside me sucking milk from my fingers

Oh, how the memory still lingers.

He terrorized birds, chased squirrels and cats. The back yard he daily would roam.

He would dig under fences to explore the outside, but his tags always brought him back home.

Under my piano, curled up in my lap, or jumping about at my knee.

Such joy he brought exclusively while he was here with me.

He munched salmon, lettuce, apples, lamb, green peas, yams and rice.

He flipped with joy when to his water bowl I added a little ice.

A congestive heart at the age of twelve caused him to take his last breath.

My heart still breaks when I think of my babe – I weep upon recalling his death.

If there is a Heaven for chihuahuas anywhere

My baby boy named Jarvis is sure to be there!

Lucky

Michael Shipp

Lucky is a small cat that thinks he's a big bad ass. He got into a lot of fights at night, so I had his nuts cut off, but it didn't fix anything. I got tired of taking him to the vet.

His dad was a big tuxedo that prowled around knocking up everything he could get his paws on. There are so many tuxedos in the neighborhood they should hold a winter formal.

Lucky's coat is jet black with a white 'lobster bib' on his chest and four matching white mittens. He

looks just like his dad only smaller. I wonder if he'd kept his jewels a little longer he'd grown bigger.

I spoil him with crab and shrimp and tuna and in return I'm allowed to sleep on his bed. At least, I think that's the deal. I used to speak Dog and now I'm learning Cat.

Animal Husbandry

Chris Weilert

My wife keeps bringing home animals and I always say stop, enough already, but our home zoo keeps expanding. One dog turned into two dogs; two dogs turned into three. All of them refugees that were probably headed towards a shortened life. Our home has turned into a destination for any critter who needs a meal and a bed. We are a sanctuary for every stray cat that roams our neighborhood. I was asked to build an opossum house in a tree for the furry family that lives under our barn. There are bird seed trays and hummingbird feeders everywhere that I always seem to bump my head into. Populating our back yard with lizards and frogs completes the ecosystem. I finally drew a line, no rats as pets. Surprisingly, we all coexist, and I continue to be a softie no matter how much I complain.

Feline Aristocracy

Patricia Collins

Lyla's tail points upward anytime she is wandering through the house, her self-confident and curious feline personality on display. She mirrors the stereotype of a royal British woman of a century ago who would turn up her nose to look down on her servants, making clear her superiority. Do not refer to Lyla as a housecat.

She is certain that human-suggested rules do not apply to her. Or rather, rules do not apply unless my footsteps can be heard nearby. Then, a less regal posture appears as she leaps from a countertop or table to the hardwood floor where claws have no way to prevent the indignity of a slippery landing before she quickly settles in to clean her whiskers and nose, as if she had not just been where even privileged cats should not be. She waits, knowing I will leave, and the house will become her castle again.

Princess & Me

Giselle Stancic

On my first day of volunteering at the cat shelter, I was introduced to a senior kitty who had endured a lifetime of neglect.

At first, she stayed huddled up in the back of the cage. But over time she let me pet her and I discovered she loved to be brushed. But something changed at the shelter and she pulled back. She didn't want to interact and she stopped eating. That's when I decided she was coming home with me. Princess was our cat now.

We rebuilt our connection in the quiet of her room (my office). Nowadays she explores the house and plays with her cat toys, living the kittenhood she never had.

Princess teaches me every day about accepting her where she is, not where I expect her to be. She is the Princess of our hearts and we're grateful we're her family now.

GROUNDNED!!

Luanne Olea

INCIDENT REPORT: Purrlot B14CKB3RRY made a hard landing after engaging in a desperate dogfight with an unrestrained C4N1N3 earcraft. B14CKB3RRY is an experienced (if somewhat unlucky) purrlot at Chonky Black Cat Earlines and has a long and checkered history with the FAA (Feline Aviation Administration). Still, the ground crew was stunned to witness this earcraft make a misguided, three-story take off, hit a second-story roof, and land on a first-floor awning. The purrlot was immediately confined to the tarmac for 12 weeks after breaking the rear landing gear in two places. He was restricted to the tie-down area and had to follow the V.E.T. protocol which included wearing a bootie on aforementioned gear when not in the hangar. Note: The purrlot registered major complaints to the ground crew about bootie and most of the other V.E.T. restrictions.

Chasers

Eddie Matthews

As newlyweds we lived in a hilltop cottage on a ranch overlooking San Jose. The owner issued us one of the stray dogs. Since I fed mine, he gained a

buddy. The two chased our car down the dirt road barking at the wheel.

One day, my impatient friend said, "Drive, they'll get out of the way."

Cli-clunk!

Slowly I got out of my car and bent down. No dogs. I returned to the house. Trembling, my dog was reluctant to approach me. I took a steak from the refrigerator. He perked up immediately.

Later my husband couldn't believe I fed his T-bone to the dog. We went out for dinner and afterwards stopped by his parents' home.

He announced, "My wife gave my steak to the dog." I tried to explain to exclamations, "You ran over the dog?!!"

Running on the embankment, the dogs still chased our car.

Tweedle-Dee

Marjorie Johnson

Bald red bodies, bulgy closed eyes: the ugliest babies I had ever seen cheeped a pathetic plea for food. My father had brought home a songbird's nest and I couldn't let the hatchlings die.

I skewered small balls of raw hamburger with toothpicks and stuffed them into open mouths. At twelve years old, I became their mother.

I named them Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee and tended to their needs every day for a year, changing their diet to seeds. Water splashed everywhere from their pedestal-candy-dish birdbath. They perched on my fingers while the three of us sang with music from the radio.

One day, I found Tweedle-Dee feet up on the cage floor. After tears, I lined a matchbox with rose petals and read the "Twenty-third Psalm" over her thumb-sized body. Then I released the grieving Tweedle-Dum, who flew away with a flock of other linnets.

My nest was empty.

Grandpups

Jana McBurney Lin

We have two grandpups. Bear, a German-shepherd mix, was first to be adopted, and thus is king of the house. Molly, a similar hybrid, is younger and not bothered by his attitude. While Bear sits

regally in the back when we go on a drive, Molly jumps excitedly from back to front. While Bear waits patiently, Molly dances to key words: *treat, walk, dinner*. And despite Bear's growling, Molly jumps all over him when she's happy. Recently, she's learned to paw my leg for attention. The other day, moments after I gave them treats in their toys and returned to my computer, Molly was at my side pawing my thigh. What? Did she need to go outside? Again? I went to let her out when I spotted Bear devouring treats from her toy. I had to laugh. I could almost hear the now-very-bothered Molly: *Help, Gram. He's being a bully.*

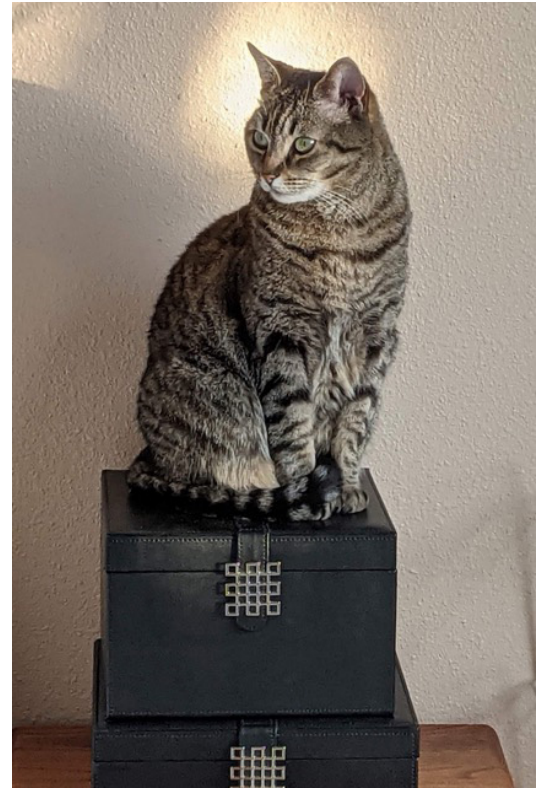
Guard Dog

Shipra Shukla

Django, the Doberman 'guard dog' captivated us so completely that we did not notice his blunt nose and stocky legs. In deference to his 'guard dog' status we readily gave up the front seat of the car. In the same spirit of competition, he slid his bottom on the 'forbidden' settee and if we dared to take his sugar free cookie Django would growl softly.

But the scales fell from our eyes one day. Spying a rat scurrying on the floor, all of us leapt on the bed and shrieked, "Django attack," only to find Django standing next to us trembling with fear.

We knew then that Django was a mutt, but we did not love him any less for that. In a swift reversal of roles, it was our role to 'guard' the dog in the same way he would have, had it been in him!



Humor-writing Online Conference

Robb Lightfoot

It's time to hang out online with some fun, uplifting, and talented writers and writing coaches. The '23 humor-writing online conference is open for registration, and early birds can get a discount of 20% by using the coupon "20-off." Here's a link with information about the online event, on April 1st, <https://thinkingfunny.com/register-for-thinkingfunny23>

This year will include information on creating comic characters, self-publishing via Kindle, a newbie-humor-writer's panel, a panel of columnists and publishers, stand-up comedy, writing funny song lyrics, and an agents/editors panel, too. Write me if you need more information. I'd love to see writers step up and try to put some laughter in their work. Do join us for the conference and the fun.

And if you already have some fun stuff written, then submit it to one of our humor-writing contests. Several of these have no fees to enter and include categories for young writers.

Do check us out at www.thinkingfunny.com.



Member Talk

Marjorie Johnson

Evelyn Preston writes: I understand that not just Palo Altans are super-serious about recycling. Either I'm just an old fud who finds life funny, or I deserve what I got. I should have added a disclaimer that no sanitation workers were harmed, and that in fact, I gift my compost driver See's candy and wine at Christmas and goodies throughout the year as he often brings my bins up from the curb.

The essay following was a Guest Opinion in Jan. 27, 2023, *Palo Alto Weekly*.

Fame! Not fleeting enough for me!

Over the years I've written humorous essays published in the *Palo Alto Weekly*, no small feat as Palo Altans are serious folk not given to poking fun at themselves. So, I was delighted at the cheers I received a few years ago for a piece on garbage—spoofing the crazy-making dilemma of sorting among the blue, black or green bins. It raised the laugh meter when I added the pitfalls of home maintenance like those chirping out-of-reach smoke alarms.

Nothing succeeds like success, so I reprised the garbage bin subject for my tongue in cheek parody, "Snoop du Jour," on the pre-dawn Garbage Police who peered into my bins to check and correct my garbage sorting skills. Turns out I was derelict and deficient according to municipal codes, county directives, and state regulations. Funny, no? The *Weekly* editor complimented my bit of levity and printed it.

Lulled by a few compliments from friends, I took some online negatives in stride. Residents take their garbage seriously. But I was ill prepared for the following week's vitriolic Letter-to-Editor that lambasted my mocking of sanitation workers. The writer conferred sainthood on them while damning me (thrice repeating my full name) for my ignorance, lack of humility, smarminess

and daring to laugh at the sacred subject of recyclables. At least she slammed the editor for giving me voice and space.

I was crushed, hurt and ... scared. Would she egg my house, dump roof rats at my door? Go be a celebrity, even with 15 minutes of fame. What do actors do? Supreme Court Justices and beleaguered politicians? Accolades I can graciously handle. But scathing criticism? My writing's never been good enough for that!

Victoria M. Johnson: I am thrilled to announce the launch of my new venture. I have created a website, Creative Breath, that describes all of my literary offerings. I am unique in that I include embodiment practices in my literary teachings: Meditations to release stagnant energy and invite in creativity, breath work to fuel your brain, and clarity work to inspire your writing spirit. Visit my website to get a freebie guide: "How to Overcome Writer's Block in 10 Minutes." And if you visit the Creative Breath for Writers Facebook page you'll see current Calls for Submissions and other interesting, inspiring posts.

Website: <https://www.creativebreath.net>

I had my own moment in the sun this week, when I found this notice in my email from Maria Papadopoulou, University of Athens: "On behalf of our University, it's my pleasure to formally invite you as an Invited Speaker at the 4th International Conference on the Environment, Chemical Engineering & Materials (ENCEMA), to be held during April 11-13, 2023 in Ierapetra Beach, Ierapetra, Crete, Greece." Of course, I answered that I was honored to be invited; I think the notice was actually for one of my colleagues as I know nothing about chemical engineering.

Thank you for sharing, Evie and Victoria.

Please send writing triumphs or other writing news from our members to membernews@southbaywriters.com by the fifteenth of the month.



THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE: WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE RACE

Shipra Shukla

The brown and boring tortoise decides to go for a makeover to get the same attention as the fair and furry bunny!

Continued:

Burt Reynard: But French is necessary for those wanting to move up in social circles. You don't have to learn the whole language but a word here and a phrase there is all that you need.

O Zee: My favorite is Oo-La-La and (bats her eyelashes) Mon Cheri, when addressing certain members of the male fraternity.

Burt Reynard:(backing out) Yes, to be sure (rubbing his hands) So it is all settled then. We'll expect Totty, I mean Dukey here tomorrow at 10.00 sharp. Please bring the full fees. My secretary will give you the details.

Banana Drama: Right ho, that's settled then. Now let's be off to the Professor now. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that he'll sort out your mental confusion and not leave you more confused than before. Knowing him and his long words, you never know.

(Banana Drama leaves pushing the wheelchair)

O Zee and Burt Reynard look at each other gleefully.

O Zee: What a catch Mr. Burt Reynard.

Burt Reynard: Yes, there's one born every minute. But we have to make a living too! Come hell or high water, we'll make a good example of this reptile. So more clients can walk in and we can change their savage ways of Jungle Land to the more polished and fancy ways of the city!

O Zee: (with a tinkling laugh) Oh ha ha ha I'm quite looking forward to the change. They won't know what hit them once they see the change in Totty, I mean Dukey!

Fade out

Scene 3

Time: Day/Late evening

Place: Jungle Land, a tree branch on which an owl sits, looking blearily around

Characters: Professor Ollie, Banana Drama, Totty, Happy Hare.

Banana Drama walks in pushing the wheelchair in which sits Totty.

Ollie: Good God! What happened? How did the little fella hurt himself?

Banana Drama: He was trying on skates at Mallwart and slipped and fell.

Ollie: Good Lord! Why was he trying on skates, pray?

Banana Drama: He wants to live life in the fast lane, move up the food chain, become successful, a man about town.

Totty: A man turtle.

Banana Drama: Yes, yes, a turtle who wants to overtake the hare and leave him far behind.

Ollie: Hmmm, that's going against nature but surely there must be a reason for that.

Totty: I'm sick and tired of being ignored by everyone. And I don't want Happy Hare to make fun of me.

Banana Drama: And that's why Professor, we are here. We want you to give him a mental makeover so that he can lose his inferiority complex and become more confident, more interesting and more dynamic.

Ollie: (looking at Totty thoughtfully): Hmmm that's going to take some doing as turtles by nature are diffident creatures.

Banana Drama: Diffident! What's that Professor? We'll be grateful if you could cut out the big words and talk in simple English.

Ollie: That's simple English, you ignoramus. It means one who retreats in his shell at the drop of a hat.

Banana Drama: That describes our Totty here to T. By the way he is no longer Totty now, but Dukey. On the advice of Burt Reynard, the acting coach we have changed his name from Mr. Little Tittle Tottle to Duke Marmaduke Van Tottenham or Dukey.

Ollie: I see, that's very interesting. A name does make a difference. Now look at mine for example. It is Professor Martin Ddrroowwzzyy -Ooddiiuuss-Ssqqqeaakky -Ssqqaawwkky -Ppiibbaallddy -Jjaacckkaassy-Ffuunyny -Ffuunyny-Ffuuzzbbaall Critter, Professor Emeritus. Ph.D. All alphabets to be written twice, for example, Professor Martin Ooddiiouuss, with a double Oo, a double dd, a

ii, a double oo, a double u, a double ss, hyphen, Ssqqeeaaakky with a

Banana Drama: Woooah Woooah ! Stop right there. It'll be morning by the time you finish telling us your name. We get the picture but it's not about you but about Totty, I mean Dukey here. Can we move along?

Totty: Well, that will be difficult as I'm not in a state to move.

Banana Drama: No, no, no. I meant the Professor should now help you with the mental makeover.

Professor: Hrrrmph. All right, I'll begin by asking Totty, I mean Dukey some simple questions to gauge his personality; tell me, Totty, I mean Dukey, why do you want to race the Hare? The first time he had challenged you and you won because he fell asleep. But he's not going to sleep every time.

Totty: Yes, but that's not what bothers me, what bothers me is that even after winning the race no one bothers about me, they only run after the Hare. He's the star and I'm the also ran. I want to change all that.

Banana Drama: Yes, that's why he's going for a makeover at O Zee Van To Die Riche Two's spa. He'll be scrubbed clean and will become lily white. There was some talk about a top hat, a cane and a monocle.

Ollie: Ah! I see. The Mr. Peanut effect! Very interesting.

Banana Drama: And foxy, I mean Mr. Burt Reynard is going to give him a sense of style by improving his diction and deportment. So now the ball is in your court Professor.

Ollie: So, the winning is not important but the attention after.

Totty: I don't mind the winning but, like you said, he may not sleep in every race. But whether I lose or win, I don't want to be ignored. In that department, I want to give him a run for his money.

Banana Drama: For a slow creature you are always talking about running, have you noticed!

Ollie: That's his innate desire coming to the surface.

Banana Drama: Innate? What's that? There you go, using big words.

Duffy

Joan Cabral

I don't know how we ever ended up with Duffy. Who brings a donkey home? That big gray donkey was crazy about Dad. Duffy knew Dad's schedule, arriving home each evening at 5:30 after working all day at the P.M. Lumber Mill, the largest mill West of the Mississippi.

Duffy could hear dad's truck tires humming on Homestead Road as he headed for home in his one-ton 1957 orange Chevy pickup. As soon as Duffy's big ears heard Dad's tires he would start braying from the barn.

Buster loved Dad too, and he'd start howling in unison with Duffy. Every evening it was the same, Duffy hee-hawing from the barn and Buster howling and running in circles on the gravel driveway.

Dad would charge up the long ranch driveway trying to run down Gussie, Aunt Betsy's little orange and white chihuahua. Dad hated that dog. I guess the feeling was mutual because every evening Gussie would chase Dad's truck trying to bite its hug rubber tires. Now who's going to win that battle!

Dad would park his truck in front of the old barn as Buster wagged his tail spinning in circles of delight now that The Alpha was home. Dad would give Buster a few Alpha pats and acknowledgement, then head straight for the barn.

It was the same routine every evening. Dad would swing up onto the big gray donkey's back and away Duffy flew, up the driveway, a sharp left behind our house, into the orchard and under the same low hanging branch of a walnut tree, forcing Dad to bail for this life or lose his head. Duffy never broke stride. He kept running all the way back to the barn.

The three of them like their routine, some kind of male bonding ritual I guess.

Boys!



Contests and Markets

Carolyn Donnell

The writing contests and markets listed serve as information. South Bay Writers neither vets nor endorses any listings. Please practice safe handling of your stories and information.

WRITERS BEWARE

Warnings about contests, submissions, etc.
<https://www.sfw.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

2023 SAN FRANCISCO BOOK FESTIVAL.

Deadline submissions in each category must be received by the close of business on May 25, 2023: Call for entries to its annual program celebrating the best books of the spring season. The San Francisco Book Festival will consider nonfiction, 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://tinyurl.com/2pfpczyy>

LOCAL PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, AND OTHER CWC BRANCH RESOURCES:

Branch information: <https://calwriters.org/cwcbranches/> Some allow all CWC members.

Redwood Writers. <https://redwoodwriters.org/contests/>

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/>

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. www.catamaranliteraryreader.com/

The Literary Nest-A local online publication. See details at www.theliterarynest.org/

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>

45th Nimrod Literary Awards. 1st prize: \$2,000 and publication 2nd \$1,000 and publication.
Deadline Apr 1, 2023

<https://artsandsciences.utulsa.edu/nimrod/nimrod-literary-awards/>

New Pages. Programs, writing contests, and more. Lists many contests with March deadlines. See at <https://www.newpages.com/submission-opportunities/writing-contests/>

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

The Masters Review Anthology XII. Deadline: April 2, 2023 @ Midnight PT. Unpublished works of fiction and narrative nonfiction
<https://themastersreview.submittable.com/submit/250872/the-masters-review-volume-xii-judged-by-toni-jensen-5-000-awarded>

The Writer Magazine. See the latest contests at <http://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 See details at [https://www.sequestum.org/](http://www.sequestum.org/)

Winning Writers -24 hour contest. See current information at <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

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

Chicken Soup For The Soul. See current submission list at

<https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/story-guidelines>

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

Poets & Writers contests/deadlines See at 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. See www.fundsforwriters.com/contests/
•**Freedom With Writing** * Submissions, contests, jobs, and more. <https://www.freedomwithwriting.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 See www.electricleit.com/free-or-cheap-resources-for-emerging-writers/

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

Trish Hopkinson. No Fee, some publishers accept reprints.

<https://www.trishhopkinson.com/where-to-submit-reprints/>

Writer's Relief. See at www.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. See at <http://www.awpwriter.org/contests/overview>

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

NewPages.com News, information, and guides to literary magazines, independent publishers, creative writing

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 See at 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 .jggs for art. No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork is okay. See more at www.upthestaircase.org/

Poets & Writers. Lists poetry and other contests. See <https://www.pw.org/grants> Also lists over 1200 literary magazines. www.pw.org/literary-magazines

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

The Thimble Magazine-A quarterly online journal. Primarily poetry See 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. See www.poe.org

poetrypacific.blogspot.com/

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

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

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

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

Gyroscope Review 4 issues a year. See <https://www.gyroskopereview.com/welcome/guidelines>

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

No Fee Calls for Poems *

Poetry Center San Jose-PCSJ

Poetry Lounge

Poetry Exchange

Willow Glen Poetry Project

Cupertino Poet Laureate

Santa Clara County Poet Laureate

Los Gatos Poet Laureate

National Poetry Month-write a poem a day challenge

Coffee House Perculator Writing Group

California Poets

Poetry Pacific

How Writers Write Poetry Community Group

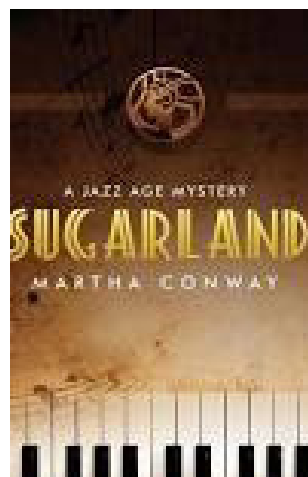
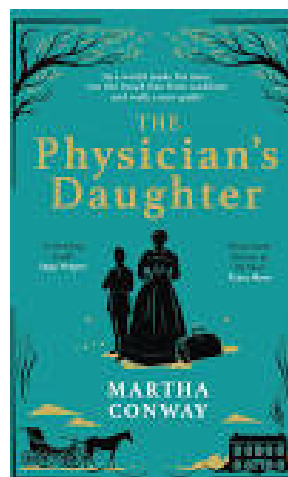
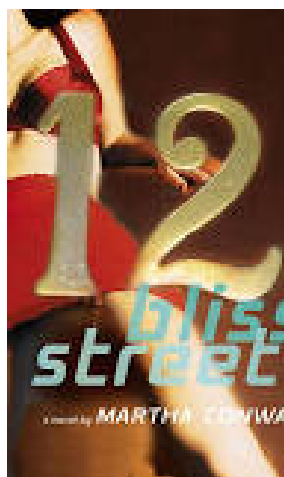
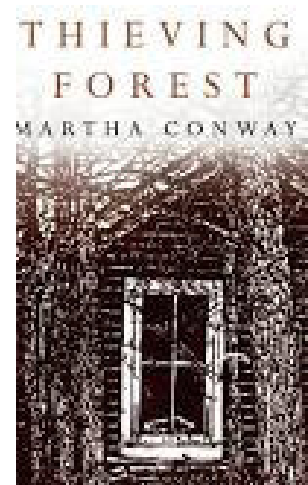
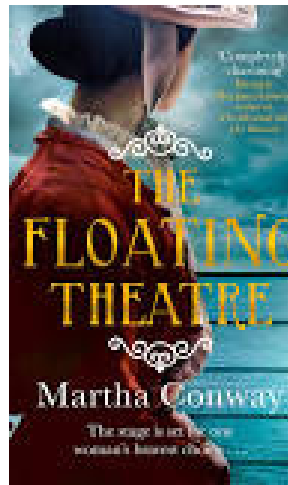
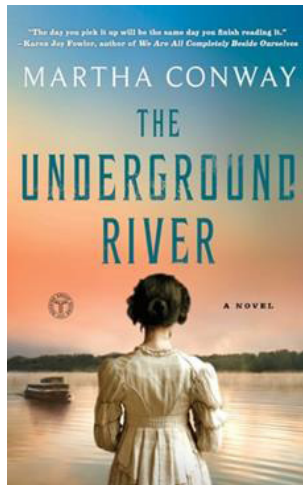
SF Creative Writing Institute-drop-in poetry workshops

Rattle - Includes online critiques.

Institute For Poetic Medicine

Open Skies Poetry

Books by Martha Conway, the keynote speaker for March



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
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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 Microsoft Word file (.docx) that has been *peer edited* to newsletter@southbaywriters.com. Elements of font and style will be cleared so how you send it is unimportant. Attach any desired graphics on the same email. Inclusion of graphics are by the discretion of the editor. If no confirmation email is received in a few days, please resend.

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.

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www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

Writing Contest: Childhood Vacation

Rules

Write 100-to-200 words describing a childhood vacation. Did you go to the beach or the mountains? Water ski or snow ski? Did you camp in the backyard or stay in a castle in Europe. Describe the experience in prose or poetry.

First place prize \$50. Second and third place runners-up will receive a Barnes & Noble's gift card. No entry fee required.

YES, IT'S FREE!!! However, you **MUST** be a member of South Bay Writers (or dual member) to be eligible to submit to the contest. If you're not already or you need to renew, do it now! (southbaywriters.com). Contest deadline: June 15.

Email entry to: pres@southbaywriters.com