



# WritersTalk

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

Volume 31

Number 04

April 2023

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## April Keynote

### Keith Ekiss Imaginative Realms: The Authentic in the Fantastical

Jamal Khan

**When:** Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 AM

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

**Admission** (includes continental  
breakfast): \$10 for members, \$15 for  
nonmembers



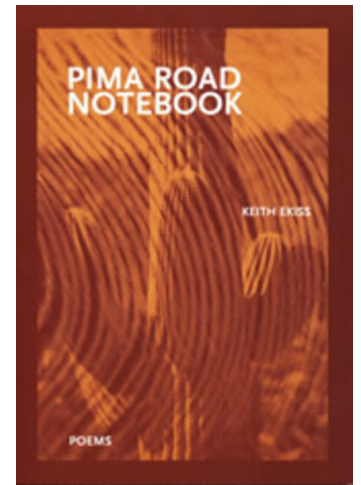
Many of our literary classics were, in fact, written as genre fiction for the masses. Examples include Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (horror), H.G. Wells's *The Time Machine* (science fiction), J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* (fantasy), and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* (utopia/dystopia). How have these beloved books endured over time? Their careful character development is as meticulous as their vaunted world-building. Their rich descriptions and backstories stimulate a reader's imagination without being so overbearing as to suffocate the narrative flow. And in settings so unfamiliar and fantastical, they contain stirring moments that strike a chord within a reader's mind, heart, and soul. During our meeting on April 8, Stanford University lecturer, Keith Ekiss, will teach us how to subtly infuse imaginative realms with human authenticity, conjuring useful lessons for writers of any genre.

Keith will reveal the elements that make up a compelling literary universe. How can a story that challenges the boundaries of reality have contemporary social significance? Drawing on contemporary and historical texts, including magical realism, ghost stories and other horror tales, robots and artificial intelligence, and utopias and dystopias, Keith will help us understand the tradition of writing that boldly goes beyond realism. Focusing on the writer's craft, we'll explore the challenges unique to fantastical literature, including narrative authenticity, believable characterization, world-building, and human relevance. Reading as writers, we'll examine the expectations of genre as we discover innovative ways to craft compelling stories and poems.

Continued on next page.

Keith Ekiss is a lecturer in the Department of English at Stanford University. He was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford from 2005-2007. Keith is the author of *Pima Road Notebook* (New Issues Poetry & Prose, 2010). As a translator, his books include *The Fire's Journey* (Tavern Books, 2019), an epic poem by the Costa Rican writer, Eunice Odio, in four volumes, and *Territory of Dawn: The Selected Poems of Eunice Odio* (The Bitter Oleander Press, 2016). He also translated *March 10, NY* (Abstracta Ediciones, 2014) by Mexican poet, Jeannette Clariond. Ekiss's creative non-fiction has been anthologized in *Permanent Vacation: Living and Working in Our National Parks* (Bona Fide

Books, 2011). He is the recipient of fellowships, scholarships, and residencies from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, The Community of Writers, Santa Fe Art Institute, Millay Colony for the Arts, and the Petrified Forest National Park.



## Off the Shelf

Edie Matthews



*Once upon a time there were three Little Pigs.*

## Board Talk - View from the Board

Chris Weilert

The South Bay Writers Board met as it always does, zooming at 7:00 PM. on March 7th. SBW Board members are listed on page 2 of *WritersTalk* with their emails.

Meeting began at 7:10 PM.

Edie Matthews, President

On April 8th at the Headen-Inman Museum our speaker will be Keith Ekiss, author of *The Imaginative Realm*.

The May speaker will be Ellen Kirshman, a clinical psychologist/mystery writer who is an authority about using law enforcement themes in novel writing.

Meetings will be on Saturdays from 10:00-1:00 PM. Members are \$10 and non-members \$15. 10:00-11:00 AM is continental breakfast/networking/socializing. 11:00 AM introduce speaker. Meeting ends noon.

The next writing contest (Family vacations) will be June 2023. Never too early to submit your entry.

Elections for the Board members will be held in June. An election committee will be formed to find candidates.

Marjorie Johnson, MRMS

All membership addresses are updated.

Please send any member news to Marjorie for publishing in *WritersTalk*.

Trenton Myers, Treasurer

Account Growth: -.1.1% since January.

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

Recent Open Mic stats:

February 17, 9 readers.

March 3, 11 readers.

Central Board:

Next meeting in July.

Nor Cal:

Discussion included the survey of branch needs. These mostly concerned maintaining memberships and how to transition to live meetings.

Plans for a Leadership Conference are moving forward, to be held between upcoming Central Board meetings in August or September, at the Oakland Airport Holiday Inn. Registration planned to be \$40.

Bay Area Book Fair is happening May 7th. We have not decided whether to go ahead with this. It will depend on getting volunteers to run the booth. We need to decide by some time in April.

Inga Silva. Membership: February 2023: 87 active members, 2 lifetime members and 1 student.

Brigitte Doss-Johnson Editor of *WritersTalk*:

April is national poetry month, submit your poems.

The meeting ended at 8:10 PM. The next board meeting will be on April 4th, 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](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

# President Talk

## Computer Purgatory

Edie Matthews



I couldn't take it anymore! My seven-year-old computer was frustratingly S-L-O-W. I felt like my life was passing me by as I sat waiting for the Apple pinwheel to stop spinning so I could continue with my task. Now I admit, I'll open a lot of windows. I also jump around a lot. I might be working on a story and need to verify a fact, so I'll go on the browser and google a topic. Then I'll get distracted by enticing headlines.

Of course, I may want to see what's happening on my Facebook page. Has anyone noticed my latest posting? Did I get a few LIKES? Maybe someone was inspired and wrote a comment. Did I say something controversial and start an avalanche of comments and arguments?

Oh, I'd better check my email and see if someone is trying to reach me. One of my kids? Or perhaps an Evite to something fun. Yuck, a reminder of a dentist appointment, 8 AM! I'll have to change that time slot.

In between all these diversions I'm stopped by the sloth of a pinwheel spinning, spinning, spinning.

That's it! I'm not getting any younger. It's past time for a new computer.

I purchased my first Apple Mac in 1986. Back then, there was minimal memory and we had to rely on disks which filled up pretty fast. Still these Apples were marvelous even with the nine-inch screen.

So, I'm an Apple gal. I don't recall how many I've owned over the past 30-plus years. I don't have the graveyard of obsolete computers in my basement. Oh, I have one, and my son is always after me to get rid of it.

I check the price of new Macs online. Yikes, they've gone up. Typical.

The next day my cell phone wouldn't open. Another Apple product. That was worse than the pinwheel of death! I needed directions to several

places. When I was out, I needed to place a call. Since I didn't have the number, I couldn't even borrow a phone to call. I used to always keep a little phone book in my purse. I used to have numbers memorized. But no longer. All of this info is on my iPhone. Plus, the iPhone is not even that old.

Once I managed to get through the morning, I headed to the Apple Store in Valley Fair. The greeter welcomed me and I said, "I need a new computer and a new cell phone." I held out my phone and it had turned on. My eyes must have bulged. "I swear, it hasn't worked all day."

"That happens." He smiled. "They reboot when you walk in the store."

Apple has gone back to colored computers. Red, blue, green, pink, orange, and purple. The only colors they had available in my model were pink and green. No, I wanted blue. I've learned if you don't get what your heart desires, you regret it. Every Apple Store had Blue EXCEPT Valley Fair. So off I went to the Cupertino Store at Apple Park to purchase the Blue model.

I returned 90 minutes later lugging my new computer. Turns out the box is as heavy as the items inside it! (Apple doesn't skimp on packaging.) I made a second trip out to my car for my old computer. I wanted them to transfer the data. At least they no longer charge \$100 to do it. Plus, I received a \$50 discount as an educator and received \$75 for my old computer.

That was the easiest part of my odyssey. Now I need to activate Microsoft Word. I'd paid a flat fee for the old software, but now you must buy a subscription. Once again, I'm in computer purgatory. I did purchase a discounted subscription, but after three days of frustration, I haven't been able to download it. No help available on the weekend. Sheesh!

Consequently, this month's President's Message is being written in my email. At least that's working!



# March Recap: Martha Conway

Bill Baldwin

Our March speaker, Martha Conway, from Stanford's Continuing Studies Program, shared ways to deepen and enrich our fiction—specifically through subplots, complications, and secondary characters.

Extended fiction requires some variety—you don't want your novel to get monotonous! Rather than focusing on a few major characters and a single plot, weave in secondary characters to provide variety. But tie everything together.

It's well-known that some novelists meticulously map out the structure of their story (with diagrams or slips of paper taped all over their walls). Others claim to make their story up as they go along. (I'm wondering, though: the people with the slips of paper and diagrams—do they make that all up as they go along?).

A balanced approach would be to make up a story, expand it, then review and structure it until it suits you.

You have an idea, you write it out. You have several main characters and plot twists.

You probably have other characters too. Maybe you added some on the spur of the moment, then sensed something might be going on below the



surface. What would that be? You get interested! You hadn't been thinking of them much, then all of a sudden—! Some possibility grabs your interest.

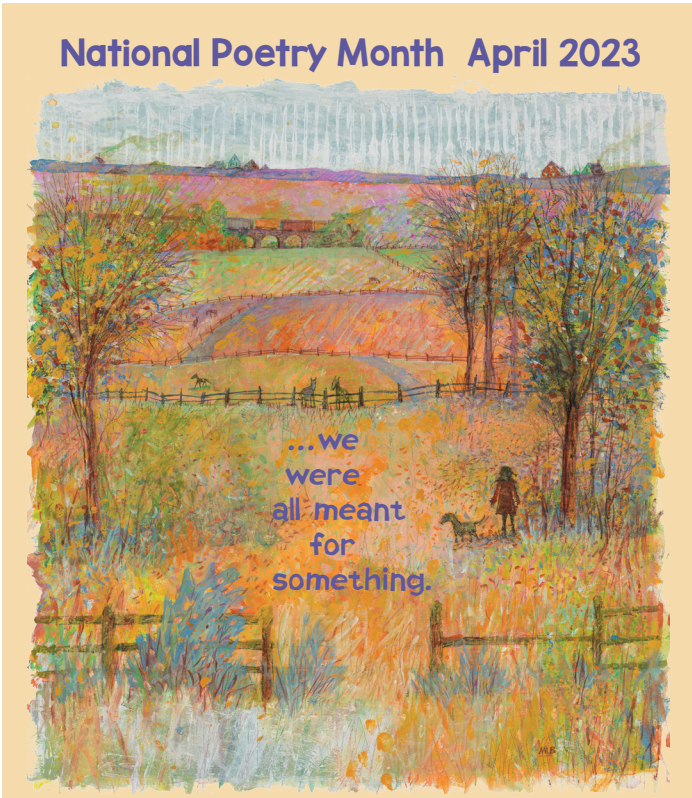
Who are these people? Suddenly they want their own story! But—should we allow them that story-space? What if they take over?

Welcome them in! They have much to offer! They bring new complexities! Rather than a constant focus on the main characters and their stories, we now enjoy a back-and-forth between the main plot/characters and these other, less predictable entities. And while you're allowing “minor” characters to come alive and do things you hadn't expected, consider the possibility that your major characters have depths and actions in them that you haven't considered?

The trick is to create a structured, balanced whole. But let your characters come alive! Let them surprise you! Don't force them to be more predictable than they need to be. Don't be afraid to allow new complexities into your book



April is National Poetry Month  
[poets.org/national-poetry-month](https://poets.org/national-poetry-month)



Ongoing Call for Poetry

WritersTalk is looking to have a poetry presence.

Send a submission every month!

|            |                         |              |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Limerick   | Pantoum                 | Haiku        |
| Narrative  | Erasure/Blackout Poetry | Free verse   |
| Occasional | Blank                   | Lyric Poetry |
| Lyrics     | List Poem               | Sonnet       |
| Ode        | Prose                   | Palindrome   |
| Elegy      | Sestina                 | Diminishing  |
| Epigram    | Concrete                | Acrostic     |
| Ballad     | Epics                   | Ekphrastic   |
| Rispetto   | Villanelle              | Echo Verse   |







## Winter in Texas

Shipra Shukla

Shards of icy glass shroud the hardy tree  
Who waves his distress silently glassy  
Now I understand why these trees are  
Natural to this land  
They can bear the intemperate climate  
And still not turn a hair  
They can bruise in winter, batter the storms  
Unfed, unwatered, untended, can still survive  
To see another season, another year, another life.



## Peony

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

Lyrics

Cold in the ground  
Searching for sun  
The strength building firm  
In the dead of frost

Hoping not  
to be outdone  
Straining for light  
Breaking through at all cost.

Sweetness encased,  
All balled up in a bud,  
Ruffled and full,  
Many petals to bloom.

Colored so bright  
Like life-giving blood,  
Blossoming grandly  
A gift to the groom

Rising in peril  
Ignorant of fear  
Let the exertion  
Not be in vain

In your time  
I will be near  
Making it right  
Helping you not to wane.

Resplendant glory  
Worth the wait  
No love story  
Can equate.

Scarlet  
Crimson  
Vermillion  
I'll be staid and true.  
I'll never assume.





## HAVE FUN & MAKE FRIENDS GET INVOLVED!

Edie Matthews

Elections are around the corner and we need you! Join the board. We have something for everyone.

After two years of isolation, this is an opportunity to make up for all the social fun you've missed.

Consider a position you'd enjoy. Are you good with numbers? Ah, become the treasurer. Do you enjoy meeting authors, agents, and inspiring speakers? That's the vice president's job. Whether you're outgoing or shy, working as a meeting hostess will enhance your social life. Do you like to be in charge? Become the president. Are you a computer wiz? We need a webmaster. Have you always been good at English? Help edit the newsletter.

Send your inquiries to Edie Matthews, President, [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)  
WE NEED YOU!!!

## South Bay Writers Election June 2023

Marjorie Johnson

**Yes, it's time** for South Bay Writers to elect officers. Our current burned-out officers have served throughout COVID and before. **Here's what they do:**

**President**—Leadership, Vision, Policy and Precedence:

Leads the branch through a productive, enjoyable one-year term.

Sets agenda and presides over meetings.

Appoints committee chairs, state rep, newsletter editor, and webmaster.

Coordinates with Vice President on planning meet-

ings.

**Vice President**—Advice, Programs, Presidential Stand-in:

Advises President and Board in Club matters.

Plans and produces monthly programs, obtaining and introducing speakers.

Prepares program and workshop related write-ups and photos.

Assumes president's duties in his/her absence.

**Treasurer**—Finance Management:

Plans flow of money—e.g., budgets.

Controls flow of money.

Establishes and maintains bank accounts.

Authorizes expenditures and signs checks.

Receives and deposits revenues.

Accounts for all movement of money through book-keeping process.

Reports treasury activity and balances to Branch Board monthly and to Central Board quarterly.

**Secretary**—Branch business records:

Records, obtains Board approval, and publishes minutes of official business meetings.

Writes "View from the Board" for newsletter.

Stores all published minutes and official Branch correspondence. At end of term, transfers archives to new Secretary.

Follows and reports progress on actions accepted and motions passed.

**Two Members-at-Large**—No special portfolio.

Each Member-at-Large participates as any other Board member and may focus on opinions and insights garnered from members; may fill in for absent officer or chair; may use position as training ground for future additional responsibility.

### Here's how it works:

(Lifted directly from our By-Laws)

In April of each year, the president, with branch board approval, shall appoint a committee to solicit and present nominations for election.

The slate of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two members at large) shall be presented at the May general meeting and published in the South Bay branch newsletter preceding the June general meeting. Nominations



must have the consent of the nominee. The election shall be held at the June general meeting. Nominations from the floor or by petition to the nominating committee may be accepted at any time preceding the election with the prior consent of the nominee. The election shall be by simple majority of the members present. If there is more than one nominee for an office, voting shall be by written ballot.

The incoming officers shall assume their offices at the July general meeting. The California Writers Club fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

**Please note:** You may volunteer and/or nominate yourself. Step One is that Nominating Committee. Please email Edie Matthews about what position you are interested in serving in. [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

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## Les Prose by Kendad



## THE CWC BULLETIN: A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

Joyce Krieg  
Editor, CWC Bulletin

The California Writers Club *Bulletin* is a quarterly newsletter emailed to members of all 22 branches as a PDF attachment. The latest issue was sent on March 22. If you don't recall receiving it, you might want to check your spam folder, or if you're on gmail, the Promotions folder.

The current and past issues of the *Bulletin* may also be found at <https://calwriters.org/bulletin>.

The *Bulletin* was extensively revamped and revised a year ago, and is now full of helpful articles on the writing craft, publishing, and marketing. Equally important, there are now several opportunities for members to promote their books and literary achievements.

Announce your latest book release in the Member Spotlight. Also welcome is news of literary achievements: short stories, poems, or articles published, plus awards and honors. Send your announcements, 50 words or less, to [editor@calwriters.org](mailto:editor@calwriters.org). Attach a copy of your book cover in JPEG format. Be sure to indicate which branch you belong to. This is a free service to CWC members, so do take advantage of it!

The *Bulletin* is also looking for articles on writing craft, marketing, publication, and the writing life. Word count can be anywhere from 200 for short tidbits to 1200 or so for long pieces.

Send a brief proposal to [editor@calwriters.org](mailto:editor@calwriters.org).

Contributors receive a short blurb and a photo, so this is a great way to promote your books or your writing-related services.

The deadline for the next issue of CWC's *Bulletin* is **June 1, 2023**, with publication slated for June 15.

## Member Talk

Marjorie Johnson

**K**udos to Audry Lynch and Jim Ciardella this month. We live vicariously when we hear about your successes.

To share your writing news, send information as a Word document and graphics in jpg format to [membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com)

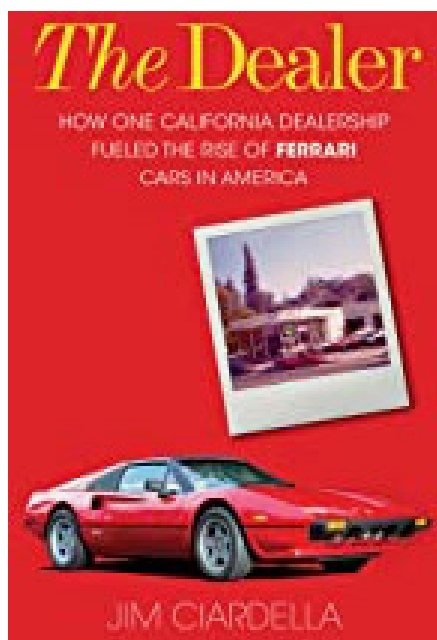
Dr. Audry Lynch, Steinbeck Scholar, reports: The Harvard Radcliffe Institute has accepted the gift of Audry Lynch's papers. They will be kept in the Schlesinger Library.

Jim Ciardella writes:

I've been a member of the California Writers Club South Bay Branch for several years and I wanted to let you know that my book, *The Dealer*, was published. I read in the recent newsletter that members should share information about our achievements, so I'm letting you know.

I've attended past club meetings (in-person and virtual) where authors talked about their journey to getting published, and I'd be happy to do that for the club if desired. I started writing at the age of 60 and I'm 73 today so I'm living proof you can do it at any age.

Here is a link to an interview I did with *Sports Car Market Magazine*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqiPdfL1FSU>



### **The Dealer: How One California Dealership Fueled the Rise of Ferrari Cars in America.**

Jim Ciardella

Find out what really happened to the number one Ferrari dealership in North America in *The Dealer: How One California Dealership Fueled the Rise of Ferrari Cars in America*. The book was written by Jim Ciardella and published by Globe Pequot, a division of Rowman & Littlefield.

When Ferrari of Los Gatos opened, few people could afford an expensive sports car. In 1976, the average annual income was \$12,686, and a new home cost \$48,000. In addition, motorists in California could only buy gas on odd- or even-numbered days based on the last digit of their license plate due to the global oil crisis. Times were tough, and people were hesitant to take chances, especially with a car that cost more than a house.

During that same time, Brian Burnett and his friend Richard Rivoir had the idea of starting a Ferrari dealership. *The Dealer* tells the story of how Ferrari of Los Gatos fueled the rise of an iconic Italian sports car in the U.S. market and became the number-one Ferrari dealer in North America. Even Enzo Ferrari took notice, flying Burnett and the other dealers to Italy to show his appreciation for their success. Customers included movie stars, sports celebrities, entertainers, and some with unusual sources of income and a strong desire for a low profile. Along the way, Burnett made friends, enemies, and millions of dollars, only to lose everything in the blink of an eye.

Author Jim Ciardella reveals a side of Ferrari no one has ever seen, with behind-the-scenes stories as told to him by Burnett and Rivoir, their customers and employees, and other North American dealers.

*The Dealer* can be purchased wherever books are sold or on the author's website [www.jimciardella.com](http://www.jimciardella.com) where more information is available.

# Search & Destroy

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

I've gathered a list of 249 overused words to check for in your manuscript. When I finish my piece, I print out the overused-word list, search for each word, and then jot down how many there are. I love this data. Depending on the word, I'll estimate a percentage I feel is acceptable. For example, I'll overlook a higher number of uses for the word "by" than for the word "cute." Working with the highest culprits first, I run the "find and replace" program and replace the word with the same word highlighted. That way I can see how close each instance is and whether there are too many too close. I once read a popular book where multiple sentences on one page began with "it was." My eyes were rolling.

Anyway, back to this exercise. I read each instance and decide if a simple word swap will suffice or if the whole sentence requires

reworking. The word swap can't use something on the overused list, of course.

Highlighting overused words gives me quick visuals on the condition of my writing. Sometimes I'll do many words, picking a different highlight color for each word. My manuscript looks rather like a punch card.

With this editing tool, I began to see how to improve my word choices and feel more confident about my writing. This exercise doesn't address big story edits, but it does clean up and add more variety to your words.

I thought I'd share a portion of the list whenever there's room in the newsletter. Here are the first 80 of the alphabetized words. If you know of any that are missing, email me. [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).

|            |           |            |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| A bit      | Awful     | Change     | Everyone   |
| A lot      | Bad       | Choose     | Everywhere |
| About      | Basic     | Completely | Exact      |
| Absolutely | Basically | Could have | Excellent  |
| Activity   | Beautiful | Cried      | Exciting   |
| Actually   | Because   | Cry        | Exhale     |
| Add        | Begin     | Cute       | Eyebrow    |
| After      | Began     | Decent     | Fall       |
| Again      | Begun     | Deep       | Far        |
| All        | Believe   | Definitely | Fast       |
| Almost     | Better    | Down       | Fat        |
| Also       | Big       | Easy       | Favorite   |
| Always     | Boring    | Effective  | Feel       |
| Am         | Both      | Emphasize  | Felt       |
| Amazing    | Breath    | End        |            |
| Any        | Breathe   | Energy     |            |
| Are        | But       | Enjoy      |            |
| As         | By        | Enough     |            |
| Ask        | Cause     | Entire     |            |
| Asked      | Certain   | Ever       |            |
| Awesome    | Certainly | Every      |            |



# 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/>

**APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH.** Check the following websites for daily prompts and activities. Also check the other Poetry sites listed below (Internet and Facebook) on April First to see if they have any other activities for April.

**NaPoWriMo 2023** **NAPOWRIMO** (National POetry WRiting MOnth) will post an optional daily prompt among other activities. <https://www.napowrimo.net/>

**WRITER'S DIGEST PAD** [www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/2023-april-pad-challenge-guidelines](http://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/2023-april-pad-challenge-guidelines)

**ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS.** See activities and resources at <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>

**TWO SYLVIAS PRESS.** 30 NEW prompts delivered directly to your inbox each day in April. See at Winning Writers website <https://winningwriters.com/meta-nav/our-sponsors/two-sylvias-press-write-30-new-poems-in-april>

**TRISH HOPKINSON.** Site lists National Poetry Month activities at <https://trishhopkinson.com/2022/04/05/april-is-national-poetry-month-napomo-prompts-galore-other-ways-you-can-participate-4/>

See Carolee Bennett's site for NaPoWriMo and other prompts.

<https://gooduniversenextdoor.com/2022/03/25/poetry-prompts-napowrimo-22/>

**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. They 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 AND EDITORS) AND OTHER CWC BRANCH RESOURCES:

See branches at <https://calwriters.org/cwcbranches/> Some allow all CWC members; others, 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/>

**North State Writers.** They are planning a fourth anthology. The last one accepted all CWC members. [www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html](http://www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html)

**Catamaran Literary Reader.** West Coast quarterly, literary/visual arts journal. [www.catamaranliteraryreader.com](http://www.catamaranliteraryreader.com)

[catamaranliteraryreader.com/](http://catamaranliteraryreader.com/)

**The Literary Nest.** A local online publication. See details at [www.theliterarynest.org/](http://www.theliterarynest.org/)  
Also visual art in high res .jpeg, .gif, or .png format to [theliterarynest@gmail.com](mailto:theliterarynest@gmail.com)

## **OTHER POETRY CONTESTS, SUBMISSIONS, AND RESOURCES** (\* On 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.randallssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/](http://www.randallssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/)

**Up the Staircase Quarterly.** Submit 3 to 6 poems in a single document. Submit up to 10 .jpps for art. No previously published poetry, but previously published artwork is okay. See more at [www.upthestaircase.org/](http://www.upthestaircase.org/)

**Poets & Writers.** Lists poetry and other contests. See <https://www.pw.org/grants> Also lists more than 1200 literary magazines. [www.pw.org/literary\\_magazines](http://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/](http://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/)

**Authors Publish.** Poetry Manuscript Publishers No Reading Fees [www.authorspublish.com](http://www.authorspublish.com)

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

**Poetry Pacific:** Literary e.zine-2 issues per year. Published and unpublished. See [www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/](http://www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/)

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

**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.gyroscooperreview.com/welcome/guidelines>

**Poetry Soup.** Lists free poetry contests. <https://www.poetrysoup.com/poetry/contests/>

## **Other FACEBOOK Poetry Groups:**

No Fee Calls for Poems: Lists other contests

Poetry Center San Jose: PCSJ

Poetry Lounge

Willow Glen Poetry Project

Cupertino Poet Laureate

Santa Clara County Poet Laureate

Los Gatos Poet Laureate

National Poetry Month: poem a day challenge

California Poets

Rattle: Includes online critiques.

## **OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS WITH DEADLINES IN APRIL OR EARLY MAY:**

(See on-going submissions list in previous *WritersTalk* issues online at [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com))

### **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>

**The Masters Review:** Anthology XII. Deadline: April 2, 2023. 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>

**Winning Writers:** 24 hour contest. Spring deadline April 15. <https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

**Palette Poetry:** Rising Poet Prize Deadline April 15. See calendar at <https://www.palettepoetry.com/calendar/>

**Missouri Review 2023 Perkoff Prize:** Deadline extended to April 2. <https://missourireview.com/contests/perkoff-prize/>

## Editor Talk

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

South Bay Writers has an amazing team of rotating editors who proofread, advise, and overall elevate the writing in *WritersTalk*. I've already been passing on the things everyone has taught me to other writers. Three months into compiling *WritersTalk*, I'm gaining a vision for our newsletter. In the realm of imaginative grandeur, how exciting would it be for these pages to give our author readers encouragement, inspiration, creative flashes, courage in the cobblestones of publishing, a sense of endearing inclusion for all authors, and most of all, camaraderie.

During the sleepless nights of making the first newsletter, I searched the web for images of the contributing editors and learned about their other cool talents. At last month's club meeting, when signs on chairs and cabinets cautioned visitors to preserve the antique treasures, a fellow editor commented with a youthful tone, "You know, I bet this floor is antique." I almost fell off my chair.

Our writing club gathers such unique and ingenious people together — it brings me much joy. Having stated that, if a submission of yours needs more polishing, please accept the second chance to make improvements in the writing and tenor of your piece then submit again for publication. If your sentences become postmodern scratch art when diagramming or any audience of readers are subtly or brashly patronized, we hope you'll see our request to rework your article as an opportunity to build your author muscles. Think of what your rewards will be for sweating in the writing gym. At the very least, anger is a superior motivator and you could pants a novella in a few hours.

All in all, authors and editors need each other and I hope we can make our relationship produce the best *WritersTalk* and the best authors. I have much thanks for all of you.





California Writers Club  
**South Bay Branch**  
www.southbaywriters.com

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to [membership@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membership@southbaywriters.com) or use MRMS.



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## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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### Writing Contest: Childhood Vacation

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. Contest open for members of South Bay Writers (or dual member). If you're not already or you need to renew, do it now! ([southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com)).  
**Contest deadline:** June 15.  
**Email entry to:** [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com)

### Memoir for May: Mom's Mini Dream

Write 150 words or less about a mini dream your mother, grandmother, or mother figure wants to, wanted to, or did achieve. In this memoir, a "dream" is a goal, quest, or desire that your mom took steps to fulfill. The scale of the dream you choose should be able to be justified in 150 words. Call open only to members of South Bay Writers (or dual member).  
**Submission deadline:** April 15.  
**Email memoir to:** [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)