



# WritersTalk

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

Volume 31

Number 05

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## May Keynote

### Riveting Array of Character Quirks & Foibles!

Ellen Kirschman: Mystery Author & Clinical Psychologist

Jamal Khan

**When:** Saturday, May 13 at 10:00 AM

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

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

During our meeting on May 13th, Ellen Kirschman will explain how her professional experience as a clinical psychologist enriches and enhances her mystery writing. In creative work, art and science are deeply intertwined, like the double helix of DNA that writes the story of our existence.

For example, Stan Lee, the pioneering writer of *Marvel Comics*, achieved unparalleled success by merging classical mythology with modern psychology, featuring heroes whose god-like powers were balanced by their all-too-relatable human foibles and insecurities. Flip through the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5 Manual (or its Wikipedia summary) and behold a dazzling array of mental quirks that can form the basis for a riveting cast of characters.

Called the "cop doc," Ellen has been a clinical psychologist far



longer than she has been a mystery writer. Her specialty is treating first responders, police officers, and firefighters who are suffering from work-related traumatic stress. She is indebted to her clients and colleagues for inspiring her with their stories. The acclaimed *Dot Meyerhoff* mystery series "marks author Ellen Kirschman as a novelist of exceptional storytelling talent," according to the *Midwest Book Review*.

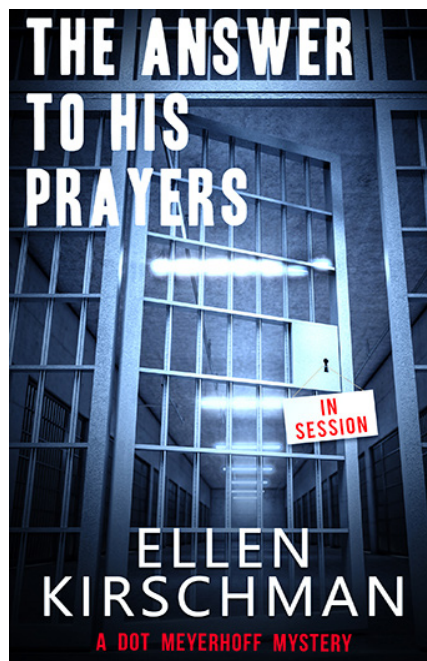
Ellen's protagonist, police

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psychologist, Dr. Dot Meyerhoff, is a spunky fifty-plus-year-old who takes orders from no one, including her chief. Dot never gives up on anyone, which is important because cops are difficult clients. They hate reaching out for help because it makes them feel weak, and they don't trust outsiders, especially "shrinks." These overlapping tensions add rich psychological layers to Ellen's intricately plotted mysteries.

Ellen started her writing career with nonfiction and is still at it. Along the way, she has earned

awards from The California Psychological Association for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology and the American Psychological Association for Outstanding Contribution to Police and Public Safety Psychology. She blogs at *Psychology Today*, serves on the Northern California board of Mystery Writers of America, and belongs to Sisters-in-Crime, Public Safety Writers Association, The American Psychological Association, and The Association of Chiefs of Police psychological services section.



## Board Talk - View from the Board

Chris Weillert

**Edie Matthews**, President: We are looking for a fantasy writer/speaker for a future meeting.

Even though the current meeting location is sufficient, future growth may dictate we find a larger venue. A few ideas are being considered, including the Triton Museum.

We discussed the upcoming elections. Other members need to consider taking a role on the board. Opportunities abound to meet people and to make your suggestions heard.

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

**Trenton Myers**, Treasurer, reported a slight account change, -.2% since February.

**Bill Baldwin** reported that our ever-popular Open Mics continue on the first and third Fridays on Zoom. Contact Bill at [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com) for the link.

**Inga Silva**, Membership: As of March 31, we have 93 members: 90 active, 2 lifetime, and 1 student.

The next board meeting will be May, 9, 2023 on Zoom. SBW members are always welcome at Board meetings. Bring your suggestions and send an email to Edie Matthews at [pres@southbaywriters.com](mailto:pres@southbaywriters.com) for a zoom link.



# President Talk

## Join the Fun!

Edie Matthews

I've made so many friends since joining California Writers Club! I love getting together with creative people! I feel energized afterwards. Writing is such a solitary endeavor, the opportunity to meet with others is invigorating and gets me motivated to continue with my work.

I love attending our meetings and being inspired by the speaker. Even if I'm not particularly interested in the topic, I'm pleasantly surprised by the tips and tricks shared.

Being part of the board has enhanced the experience. Though I'm involved in other groups and social activities, my first allegiance has been to South Bay Writers—which is why I ran for President in 2018. Like the song in the musical, *Hamilton*, I like being in “the room where it happens” or as of lately “the Zoom where it happens.” (For convenience, we still hold board meetings on Zoom.)

I look forward to our special events like the Summer Potluck BBQ. The table is filled with a smorgasbord of delights. It's a relaxing afternoon. No deadlines. No schedules. Just an opportunity to chat, get to know other members, and enjoy the tasty dishes and fresh air.

The Halloween Costume Contest is a hoot. I'm awed by the clever ideas created by members. It's fun to arrive in costume. It puts a smile on people's faces when they see you dressed up. And let's face it—smiles warm our hearts.

December's Holiday Bash features another wonderful potluck. We do all the traditional activities: sing “Twelve Days of Christmas,” play the gift stealing game, and generally relax and enjoy the food and holiday spirit.

Soon after I joined in 1999, I became VP. I wasn't sure what to expect. But having the opportunity/excuse to contact speakers and provide an opportunity for them to speak to our group had its advantages. I made dozens of contacts in the writing world. Not only with authors, but also with agents and publishers. I became acquainted with many on a first-name basis.



Now as our election nears, we need some members to step up. Since COVID, most board members have been in their position for four to six years. I'm proud of their commitment. Not every branch survived. However, not only did SBW survive, our membership is picking up. No problem: we already have an alternate meeting place if/when we outgrow the Headen-Inman House.

As president since 2018, I will be stepping down. I do plan to remain on the board—perhaps as Hospitality Chair—helping to set up our Saturday morning continental breakfast—and picking up the slack as needed.

So dear friends, we need you. We like you. As they say, many hands lighten the load.

Join the fun. You'll be glad you did.

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## PoetryTalk



### Boy on a Cycle

Shipra Shukla

Boy on a cycle  
Heart ringing with joy  
Feet pedaling, calves pumping  
Heart thumping, eyes sparkling  
A cool breeze lifts his spirit  
As he rushes down a leafy lane  
Boy on a cycle  
Memories will lift his spirit  
When he nods on his wheel chair  
And remembers the magic of this day  
When he was just a boy on a cycle  
Feet pedaling, calves pumping  
Heart thumping, eyes sparkling  
Just a boy on a cycle  
Enjoying the blessed day.



## April Recap: Tim J. Myers

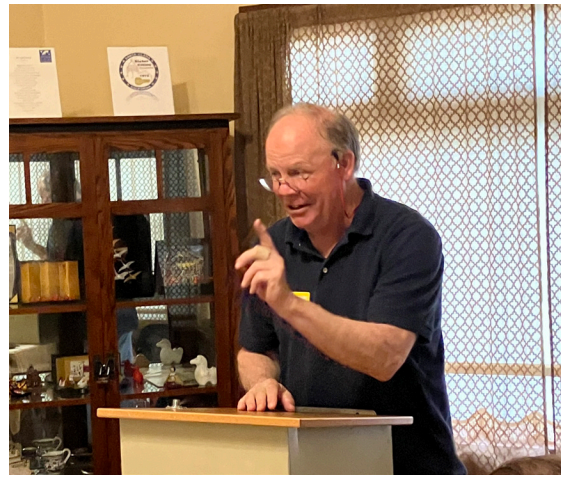
Tamara Bell

### The Magic of the Writer's Life Can Be Yours

South Bay Writers' April speaker, Tim J Myers, is a writer, songwriter, storyteller, and Senior Lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences at Santa Clara University. His children's books have won recognition from the *New York Times*, NPR, and the Smithsonian; he has 15 out and more on the way. He's published over 140 poems, won a first prize in a poetry contest judged by John Updike, has three books of adult poetry out, published a nonfiction book on fatherhood, and won a major prize in science fiction. He also won the West Coast Songwriters Saratoga Chapter Song of the Year Award and the 2012 SCBWI Magazine Merit Award for Fiction.

Our lives would be dull and dreary without storytellers. Writers add depth and color to our everyday world.

Tim's mantra is, "A writer should not take anything for granted." Good writers know the ordinary doesn't exist. Behind and inside every action lies a meaning, discovered and brought into the light by the writer. If it's worth mentioning, it's worth exploring. Writers have a love for wordsmithing to get just the right word for their



story.

Dealing with rejection is always tough, but carefully read those rejection letters that have comments. Consider re-editing and submitting elsewhere. Tim was rejected over 70 times for one of his successful books. Tim says 95% of all manuscripts received by publishers don't follow the submission guidelines. Follow each individual guideline for your submission. Hard work is required but never a guarantee of compensation. But, continue to submit.

How do you bring enchantments into your life? Find your personal vision before you write. Have persistence and self-definition. Tim notices writer's eyes light up when they share their current story. What moves you most? Writing is self-discovery. We writers are like mockingbirds in spring—we have the urge to bring out our song.

Always have a notebook or recorder nearby including next to your bed. The spontaneous act of being creative is inside the writer.

Pay attention as you go through your day. Always have a manuscript in submission. Know that our deep gladness is meeting the world's deep need for story.

As a freelance writer, Tim feels good when he wakes up on Monday morning. He sees enchantment through the blinding fog of routine and the ordinary.

Thank you, Tim, for sharing your enthusiasm for writing and love of the writer's life.

# What did you do on your summer vacation?

Marjorie Johnson

I ask you; have you ever had to write a composition at school about what you did on your summer vacation? You didn't go anywhere so you write the official story: "I went to the beach, and I went to the movies, and I had lots of fun." But what really happened? The dog had puppies, the neighbor backed into somebody's living room, and you built a tree house in your secret place.

On my summer vacation, I went to Wales to find out what kind of a place my grandparents came from and to Scotland to attend a meeting of mathematicians, and I did have lots of fun, but that isn't the story I want to tell you because something truly remarkable happened. (Story follows.)

## What Really Happened on My Summer Vacation

### Grandma

At the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, I walked into the exhibit called "Mammoths and the Ice Age," or "*Mamothiaid ac Oes yr Iâ*" in Welsh. In fact, the overhead speaker gave the whole story in Welsh, an ancient Celtic language still spoken at home by about 25% of the people of Wales. I understood not one word.

Seeing the well-preserved mammoth skeleton found in Wales in 1986 and the life-like robotic mammoths within scenes of life in the ice age was like walking through the pages of *The Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean Auel, one of my favorite authors. I could have stayed all morning.

As I turned the corner to leave the exhibit, a life-like Celt stood there, bare to the waist. He had elaborate blue tattoos all over his body and his hair needed combing, but he looked enough like me to be my brother. It was the first time that I knew that I had a Celtic nose and a Celtic footprint. We stood and stared at each other.

I wanted a souvenir to remind me of my newly found brother. The museum store had brooches, replicas of Celtic jewelry used to fasten one's cloak together. I didn't often wear jewelry, but these were beautiful.

While I tried to choose, someone walked up

behind me and whispered, "Those are just junk. Wouldn't you like to see a real one?"

I whirled around, almost bumping a little old man just my size, with blue eyes and white hair, lots of wrinkles, and a Celtic nose. I followed him downstairs and down the block to Gwilliams Antiques, Ltd.

"Here you go," he said. "This one dates back to the days of Merlyn." The brooch had blue-violet copper enameling with an unknown symbol worked in gold. "In fact, legend has it that this very one belonged to Merlyn himself."

He must tell that story to every tourist, I thought. Merlyn was King Arthur's wizard, born in Wales, and known to me from *The Sword and the Stone* by T. H. White. I didn't need a brooch, especially one that expensive.

"Just hold it up and see how beautiful it looks on you."

The brooch felt warm, perhaps from proximity to the light bulb in the display case. I wanted it. I needed it. I had to have it. It cost two months' salary but I had a Visa card. I pushed its spindle through my shirt and fastened it over my heart.

Back in my room it was getting late. In the semi-dark, I undressed in front of the mirror. When I put my hand over the brooch to unpin it, it felt almost too hot to handle. There was a strange red reflection in the mirror, like some kind of lettering. I saw nothing behind me that should make a reflection. When I put down the brooch, the lettering disappeared.

I climbed into bed and fell immediately asleep, but not for long. I dreamed that someone needed my brooch. I got up and pinned it, still warm, to my nightshirt. A pentagram in the mirror—I often make up an image when I don't have my glasses on. I had to help Merlyn save King Arthur. I wore a long green brocade dress with lots of lace, and my hair wasn't gray anymore.

The next morning I wore the brooch as became my habit every day. I didn't think about these strange occurrences because nothing unusual happened. In fact, I didn't remember the

Continued on page 7



# Memoir for May: Mom's Mini Dream

Three submissions for the May writing prompt came in. 150 words can cover a lot of ground. Read and see! I hope you'll show your chops on the June writing prompt described on the back cover.

## Motorcycle Momma

142 words

Luanne Oleas



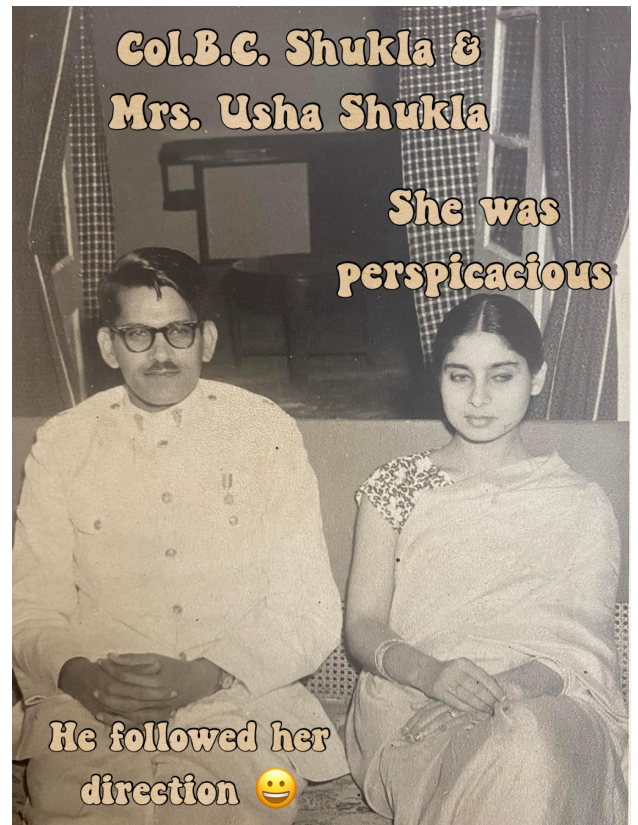
My mother was always drawn to the colorful. She made vibrant quilts, grew award-winning roses, and took lovely photos. But her dream, at age 40, was to ride a motorcycle. On her first attempt, she went straight down the driveway, sailed across the street, and hit the neighbor's retaining wall. She went one direction, the bike another. Determined, she eventually mastered it. She bought leathers, joined a local motorcycle club, and rode all over California with my dad. Helmets hid their gray hair. At 85, after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's, we took her out to lunch. She wandered toward some Hell's Angels across the restaurant and said, "I used to ride. What kind of bike do you have?" To my surprise, they were kind and talked with her for a long time. She forgot a lot, but never her love of motorcycles.

## Bridge Over Troubled Waters

144 words

Shipra Shukla

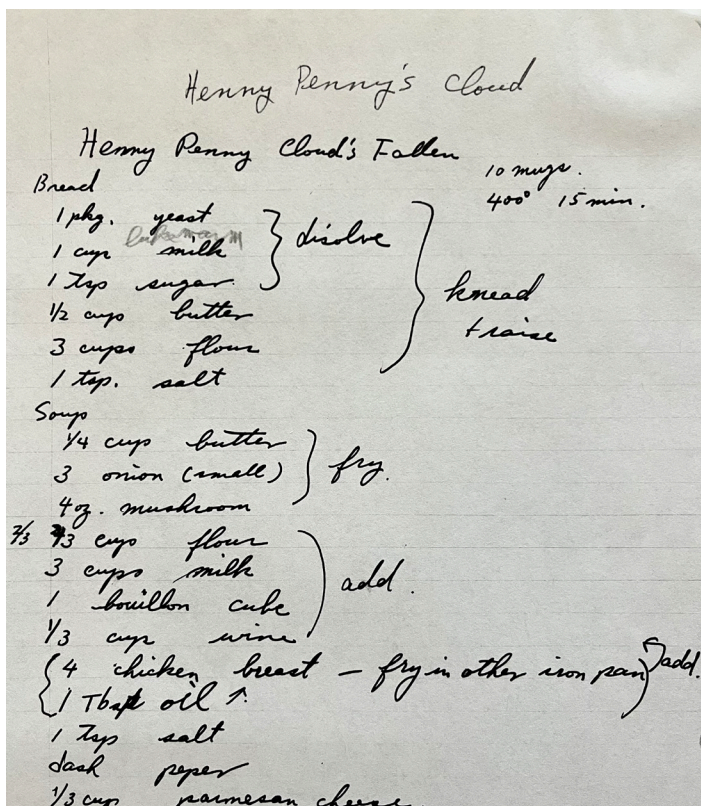
As a new bride to an army officer, my mother took stock of her surroundings. What she noticed was that life of the retired folks was not what it was cracked up to be as the "golden years" but rather a "grey decline" as they walked the treadmill of breakfast, lunch, walk, dinner endlessly. Perspicaciously she persuaded my father to take up a shared hobby and by a stroke of luck it turned out to be "bridge." Thereafter followed many joyful evenings in the club playing a couple of hands of bridge along with a cup of steaming, aromatic tea and moist, toothsome sandwiches. Fifty years have gone by and they never lack for friends, fun and laughter. "Bridge" became the bridge that connected their yesterday to the present, spanning the apprehensions of the troubled waters of the boredom and loneliness of old age.



## Henny Penny's Cloud

149 words

Brigitte Doss-Johnson



*Sunset Magazine* held recipe contests and my mother was determined to win one year.

I remember her watching cooking shows, jotting down recipes in her shorthand, filling up multiple binders. She tried out dishes from all over the world on the family.

For the *Sunset* contest, she wanted to be clever. She came up with a white-wine chicken soup served in an earthenware mug and draped with French bread dough. During baking, the bread puffs like a cloud. To eat it, the bread has to be pierced and pushed into the soup, thus Henny Penny's Cloud. My mom was so proud of her recipe and quite upset when she opened the next *Sunset Magazine* and didn't see her recipe.

She then complained about how plain the winning recipes were. Who knows why these things happen, maybe the title? But I love that she was always going out for things.

Continued from page 5

first day with the brooch or the pentagram in the mirror until a week later when I went to my first horserace. That morning, I thought I saw "2, 3, 5, 8, 13" in the mirror, but I attributed it to working too late on my paper on Fibonacci numbers. The brooch was quite warm, but I had put it, still pinned to my shirt, over the radiator while I was in the shower.

At the horse race, the brooch got so hot that I almost took it off in the restroom. I read "3, 3, 5" in the mirror. Maybe I have been working with numbers too long. Almost time for the fifth race: the third horse listed was Lwcus, "lucky" in my phrasebook, at three to one. What the heck? I put £10 on Lwcus, and he won me £30.

It took another time of the brooch heating up and numbers in the mirror for me to figure out that I was getting hot tips. This time the mirror showed "5, 6, 19, 31, 34," not Fibonacci numbers save for 5 and 34. But, at lunchtime, I saw a street vendor selling lotto tickets and that's how I won £100.

I could hardly wait to get home to the California lottery, but I guess this brooch only works in Wales because it hasn't warmed up since I came home.

## Off the Shelf

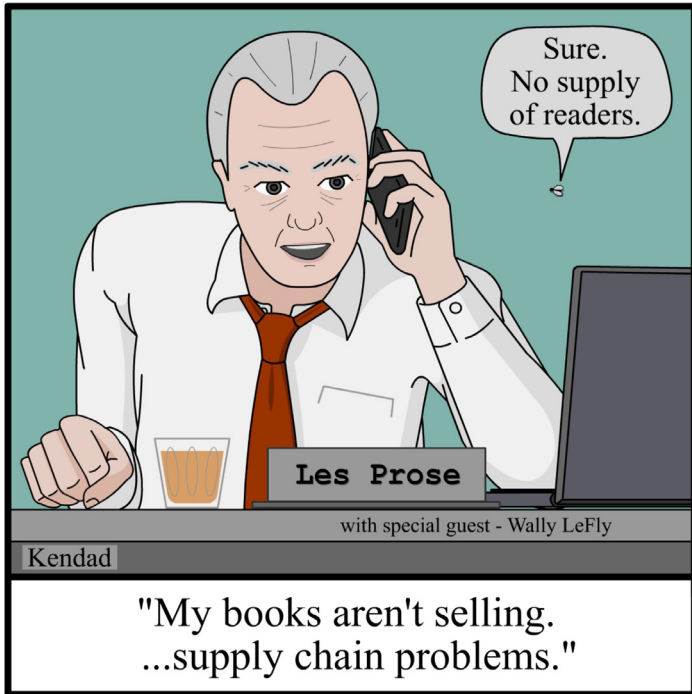
Edie Matthews and Madeline McEwen



"Can I take notes? I'm a thriller writer."



## Les Prose by Kendad



## South Bay Writers Election June 2023

Marjorie Johnson

### These positions need nominations:

**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 meetings.

**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 bookkeeping 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:

(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)

## Announcement: Independent Press Award

Ted Olczak

Here is a preview of the 2023 Announcement of the Independent Press Awards.

[https://issuu.com/independentpressaward/docs/ipa23\\_announcement\\_issue](https://issuu.com/independentpressaward/docs/ipa23_announcement_issue)

Authors share on "Publishing Independently" and on "Being Recognized."

The Independent Press Award magazine is available through the library on Libby.

To see a list of the interviews to be available on streaming services, see <https://www.independentpressaward.com/thegabtalks>.



# 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.

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/>

**Redwood Writers.** Two submissions coming up: 2023 Poetry Anthology (deadline June 1) and 2023 Prose Anthology (deadline June 30). Open to all CWC members. <https://www.redwoodwriters.org/>

**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/)

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

## POETRY CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS:

**2023 Frontier Breakthrough Chapbook Prize.** Deadline May 11, 2023. \$2,000 and publication (digital and print) <https://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/>

**Red Wheelbarrow.** Deadline July 31. <https://redwheelbarrow.submittable.com/submit/>

**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 – 6 poems in a single document. Submit up to 10 jpgs for artwork. 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 over 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.** 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). Also on Facebook. <https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/chapbook/how-to-make/>  
**Southern Arizona Press.** <https://www.southernarizonapress.com/current-submissions/>

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

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

## Other FACEBOOK Poetry Groups:

No Fee Calls for Poems (also lists 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: Write a poem-a-day challenge.

California Poets

Rattle: Includes online critiques.

## OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS: MAY OR LATER DEADLINES.

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

**The Writer:** 500-word contest. Deadline May 16. Any genre. Grand prize \$1,000/publication.

<https://www.writermag.com/the-writer-contests/500-word-contest-2023/>

**Writers Digest:** Annual writing competition. Early-Bird Deadline: May 5, 2023. See details <https://www.writersdigest.com/wd-competitions/writing-competitions-pricing-and-deadlines>

## Member Talk

Marjorie Johnson

**Audry Lynch** received a letter from a senior secondary school in Soma, The Gambia, West Africa, asking if they could name a writer's club in her name. What an honor, Audry.

**Kelly Miller** has had amazing successes with her Regency romance series. She writes: "I am pleased to announce that my Regency romance, *Captive Hearts*, has been recognized with the following awards: First Place, Clean Romance, Incipere Awards; Finalist, Romance, Chanticleer International Book Awards; and Red Ribbon Winner, Wishing Shelf Book Awards. I have attached a copy of my cover, listing my awards."

Research Gate reported that

**Marjorie Bicknell Johnson**

has had more than 3,000 reads of her publications on Fibonacci numbers and more than 610 citations.

Research Gate is an outlet for sharing research papers on mathematics and science. Esoteric? Yes. Fun? Yes. Where else would one find a reader for the mathematical?

Please share your writing news by sending it to [membernews@southbaywriters.com](mailto:membernews@southbaywriters.com).



## Editor Talk

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

**NEW!**

# SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Making life easier is a wonderful idea, isn't it? Sometimes there are pains of adjustment while new steps are tried, but we should still try.

On my end, receiving multiple emails that contain portions of articles, requests to change things in the article, images, and more are exhausting and I began ignoring some of them until the last minute.

I've made a Google Form that will collect your submission and any accompanying pictures all

into one place. I hope you'll give it a try and that the process will be straightforward. You do not need a Google account to use the form. You'll need to know how to select your file on your computer to upload it.

I'll see how it goes in May and report back about ease of use.

I look forward to seeing your submissions!

**<https://tinyurl.com/writerstalk>**



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 Editor

Brigitte Doss-Johnson.....newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Open Mic Bill Baldwin.....WABaldwin@aol.com

Web Editor

Tatyana Grinenko.....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.

Submissions are now being accepted on this form:

<https://tinyurl.com/writerstalk>

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month.

Inclusion of graphics are by the discretion of the editor.

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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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](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

## 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)

### June Writing Prompt: Style, Man!

Write 150 words or less about how a father figure dressed, what he thought about his own style, and what you think about his style or lack of it. You can write this as research, opinion, or humor. Call open only to members of South Bay Writers (or dual member).  
**Submission deadline:** May 15  
Send submissions and optional images through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/writerstalk>