



# WritersTalk

Volume 31

Number 09

September 2023

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

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## September Keynote

**Jill Lublin:**

### Get Known Everywhere

Jamal Khan

**When:** Monday, September 11,  
6:30PM

**Where:** Triton Museum, 1505  
Warburton Ave. Santa Clara

**Admission:** \$10 for members, \$15  
for nonmembers.

Just as a good writer shows rather than tells, a good marketer crafts advertisements that don't look like advertisements. To be a successful author, you must be good at both creation and promotion. It is especially important to understand the real purpose of publicity - to boost credibility and amplify your visibility. If you want to be known as an author of influence, you've got to get noticed by the media. During our upcoming meeting on Monday, September 11th, Jill Lublin will share simple strategies and doable tactics - helping you to stand out, get noticed, and go from unknown to newsworthy.

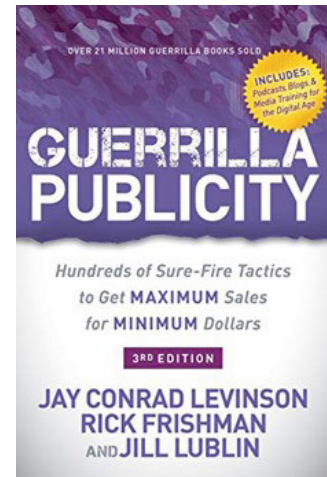
Jill Lublin is a publicity expert and four-time bestselling author. Whether you're already an author or you want to write a book, Jill will draw upon her international bestseller *Guerilla Publicity* to reveal insider secrets that any author must know. Identify the "Wow!" factor that



sets you apart from the crowd. Craft a riveting message that lets others know who you are and what you do. Learn how the pros mesmerize the masses by calibrating their message to a level that is simple but not simplistic. And pass the all-important "Who cares?" test by showcasing your expertise in a way that commands attention.

Jill's books include *Get Noticed...*, *Get Referrals*, *Guerrilla Publicity* (co-author), and *Networking Magic*. Her latest book, *Profit of Kindness*, went #1 in four categories. She is a master strategist on how to position your business for more profitability and more visibility in the marketplace. Jill is the CEO of a strategic consulting

firm and has over 25 years' experience working with over a hundred-thousand people, plus national and international media. Jill teaches a virtual *Publicity Crash Course* and consults and speaks all over the world. She has spoken on many stages with luminaries such as Tony Robbins. She also helps authors to create book deals with major publishers and agents, as well as obtain foreign rights deals.



## View from the Board

Chris Weillert

**August 7, 2023**

### **Edie Matthews, President**

Prior meeting minutes were approved. Zoom subscription not yet renewed but we are able to use the free version.

The group BBQ and Potluck was a success. We had a great turnout and there was a wide variety of dishes. We will have a new meeting location at the beginning of the year. It will still be on the grounds of the Triton Museum.

The October and November speakers have yet to be determined.

### **Trenton Myers, Treasurer**

Account Growth: -21% since June

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

Recent Open Mic stats:

July 21 - 11 readers and 11 readings

August 4 - 8 readers and 8 readings

We are still doing all our open mics via Zoom.

### **Central Board:** July 23

Officer elections were held. The only change is Geri Spieler taking over as Vice President.

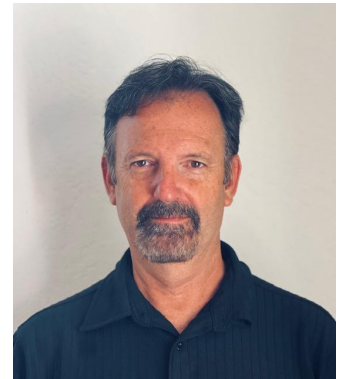
There will be changes for the *Literary Review*. The printer unexpectedly billed us thousands more this year. We will likely not do a printed version next time. Eventually print may become an option again either via Amazon or with our own imprint.

We no longer have an "Associate Member" category. Branches are encouraged to sponsor events for California Writers Week (the "third week" in October).

### **Nor Cal:** July 26

We may forgo participating in the San Francisco Writers conference this year. They are charging significantly more and granting much less access. Decision pending.

The NorCal Leadership Conference will be held September 24. Early Bird prices end August 31. The registration deadline is September 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Inga Silva, Membership:** As of August 7, we have 79 members, 2 lifetime members and 1 student.

**Brigitte Doss-Johnson: Newsletter Editor** - Brought up the usefulness of the calendar and space it uses. We could use a volunteer that would like to maintain it. In addition, we are looking for a volunteer to write the meeting recap.

### **Open Discussion:**

Continued improvement of meeting location

The next board meeting will be on September 5th, 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's Message

Edie Matthews

### Flashing on Your Teens

**A**t our August meeting, our speaker spoke about flash fiction. If you haven't an idea to write about, try reminiscing about your teen years. This is an emotional time of life and the drama is often heightened as a result. We all remember experiences or perhaps our loony friend's experience.

For example, I'll never forget this farcical encounter I had in high school.

My friend Judy pleaded with me to fix her up with Victor. He was a senior at a rival high school. I met him at the Whatzit, a community center that held weekend dances for high school students. Actually, I had a crush on him, too, but reluctantly agreed.

The plan was after the Whatzit ended at 10 PM, we'd go cruising with him and his friend, Ron.

"I'm supposed to be home after the dance," I said.

"Call you mother and ask to spend the night at my house," Judy said, handing me a dime.

I was a sophomore, and she was a senior and a cheerleader, so I guess that influenced me.

After getting my mother's consent, we got together with Victor and his friend Ron and cruised First Street. Victor drove a '63 Chevy Bel Air. Eventually, we ended up parking somewhere in the hills. While she was smooching with Victor, Ron and I took a walk. I thought Ron was cute, but he was shy, and so we just talked.

At 2:00 AM, on the way back to Judy's, she said, "You can't stay at my house. I didn't ask my mother."

"Why did you invite me to spend the night then. I can't go home now. I'll be in trouble."

"Okay," she relented. "I'll sneak you in."

Everyone was asleep, so it was easy to tip-toe



into her room and go to bed.

Early Sunday morning we were awoken by a commotion. Her mother was trying to get the family fed and dressed for church.

"Judy, where are my shoes?" asked her mother. "You wore them last."

"They're not in here," said Judy, blocking the door to her room as I hopped out of bed and hid in the closet.

"Let me in," insisted her mother.

I squeezed into a corner of the jumbled closet while her mother slid open one of the doors to search. Somehow she didn't see me.

"They're under my bed!" said Judy, drawing her mother away from the closet.

"I knew you had them!"

After her mother left, I quickly got dressed and climbed out the window. I went around to the front door and knocked. "Can Judy go to mass with me?"

"She's in her room," said her little brother.

"I went into the bedroom and collapsed on the bed exhausted from the late night. I felt too tired to attend morning mass and dreaded the thought of having to walk the mile home to my house. Finally, I left. After changing my clothes, I collapsed onto my bed and fell asleep. Later I would go to the Sunday night mass at 7:00 PM. I'd sit up in the balcony with all of my friends where there was more talking than praying.

If you take the time and think about your teen years, you likely have lots of memories that would be perfect for flash fiction stories.

## August Recap: Andrea Firth and Flash Fiction

Chris Weilert



South Bay Writers' August speaker, Andrea Firth, is a writer, journalist, editor, and educator who resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is an editor at *Brevity* Blog and the cofounder of Diablo Writers Workshop where she teaches and provides editorial consulting. Andrea was a finalist for the *Missouri Review* 2021 Perkoff Prize in nonfiction, and her essays are published in *Brevity* Blog, *Dorothy Parkers Ashes*, *The Coachella Review*, *Motherwell*, *Please See Me*, and elsewhere.

During our meeting, Andrea taught us why and how short prose, whether fiction or nonfiction, is changing the way we tell stories. She provided us with an introduction to this prose form with stories from six words to a hundred, four-hundred, and more. Andrea presented and analyzed a range of shorts, stories, and essays, and showed how they engaged readers in a small space by eliminating excess and keeping what is most essential. We explored how urgency, conflict, and a twist are keys to the form. Lastly, we saw how voice, language, point-of-view, and structure contribute to the overall impact.



Our group should feel ready to write short pieces and submit them according to the suggestions she gave. Andrea also wants to further engage with our members who are interested in pursuing the craft. She sends out a monthly newsletter and will be sending the slides she presented to the group. Thank you, Andrea, for sharing your insights and enthusiasm for your style of writing.



## September Writing Prompt: Nonets!

Tom Mach



### Good vs. Evil

There is too much evil in this world  
The devil must be quite happy  
He thinks we ought to sin more  
But he is mistaken  
Good always triumphs  
We have weapons  
Which stop him  
Prayer  
Lovea

Una Daly



### Counting Sheep

9-Come count the wandering sheep tonight  
8-Eight ewes with lambs chasing sweet dreams  
7-Seven rams mumbling prayers  
6-Six ovines chanting low  
5-Five marching forward  
4-four keeping time  
3-three tapping  
2-two left  
1-feet

Marty Sorenson



### Nonet

9 A poem is difficult to write  
8 But it is quite easy to speak  
7 And yet it's harder to know  
6 With metaphors and memes  
5 And meters and time  
4 Pentameter  
3 trochaic  
2 dactyl  
1 stress

### Awakening

9-A hallelujah of birds wakes me  
8-As air wafts in the screened window  
7-Cooling my parched skin in wait  
6-For hours before first light  
5-Baptized the morning  
4-Praying me out  
3-onto my  
2-cushion  
1-OM



Carolyn Donnell

Here's a little haiku as well:  
nonets have nine lines  
first line has nine syllables  
taper down to one

### SEPTEMBER NONET

They said write nonets in September  
Nine lines each shorter than before  
First line has nine syllables  
Next line will have just eight  
Then seven, six, five  
Four and then three  
Two comes next  
Then one  
End

## Member News

Marjorie Johnson

I love to hear about writing triumphs from South Bay Writers.

Congratulations, Mary, on your successful presentation and book signing at the Foothill Club on August 9.

**Mary Miller Chiao** presented her two books, *Death on the Funeral Yacht* and *Miss Sarah Brown, Daughter of Abolitionist John Brown*. The meeting was organized by **Louise Webb**. Mary sold lots of books and rave reviews are still coming in.

**Carolyn Donnell** writes: My short story "Deeper Colors" will appear in the volume *Paris: Love, Loss, and Longing in the City of Lights* to be released soon by Red Penguin.

Congrats, Carolyn!

**Reena Kapoor's** new play will be produced in a staged reading at EnActe Arts' New Works

Festival on Sept 16th in San Jose. There will be a talk back with the playwrights afterwards. Details and tickets here: <https://enacte.org/enactes-new-works-festival/>

Wonderful news, Reena. Not many of us are playwrights. Maybe you could talk to us about this one of these days, or, write a short piece about your experiences for *WritersTalk*. How did you get started? How did you connect with a venue? Where could one learn to write a play? I'm sure some of us would like to transform our books to screenplays.

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



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## Triton Museum

Marjorie Johnson

South Bay Writers will hold its September meeting at the Triton Museum at 1505 Warburton Avenue in Santa Clara, a beautiful but lesser-known venue. It's a privilege to meet there.

For 56 years, the Triton Museum of Art has been a destination for the community, providing a venue where local artists exhibit their work alongside regional and national artists, and where students of all ages learn about art and the creative process. Located across the street from the Santa Clara Civic Center, the Triton Museum of Art collects and exhibits contemporary and



historical works with an emphasis on artists of the Greater Bay Area. Over 40,000 people attend the museum on-site annually, through its exhibitions, education and community programs, and over 90,000 people view the museum's satellite gallery and exhibitions annually.

## Off the Shelf

Edie Matthews



*"I love your character Mr. Darcy—such a debonair name."*

*"Yes, it was my brother's favorite dog, a Schnauzer."*

## Les Prose by Kendad

Of course.  
Today's reader can't  
get past anything  
longer than a tweet.

**Les Prose**

with special guest - Wally LeFly

**Kendad**

"Les, all of your chapters are  
no larger than a paragraph."

SEPTEMBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Open Mic 7:30 pm On Zoom	2
3 	4 SBW Board Mtg 7:00 pm	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11 SBW Mtg 6:30 Triton Museum	12	13	14 Writer's Talk Deadline 15 <sup>th</sup> >>>	15 SBW Open Mic 7:30 pm	16 Rosh Hashanah
17	18	19 SF/Pen Open Mic 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23
24	25 Yom Kippur	26	27	28	29	30

## 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/>

**Local (Publishers and Editors) and Other CWC Branch RESOURCES:** See branches at <https://calwriters.org/cwcbranches/> Some allow all CWC members, others – dual members.

Name	END	URL	Comments
Redwood Writers	Sept 16	<a href="https://www.redwoodwriters.org/">https://www.redwoodwriters.org/</a>	Personal essay contest
SF/Peninsula Branch		<a href="https://www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/writers-resources/writing-contests">https://www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/writers-resources/writing-contests</a>	Lists other resources
Fremont Area Writers		<a href="https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers/">https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers/</a>	See Writers Resources tab
North State Writers		<a href="https://www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html">https://www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html</a>	Planning a new anthology soon
The Literary Nest			visual art to theliterarynest@gmail.com
Catamaran Literary Reader		<a href="http://www.catamaranliteraryreader.com/">http://www.catamaranliteraryreader.com/</a>	West Coast quarterly literary/visual arts journal

## Other Contests and SubmissionS (including sites that list contests.)

Name	END	URL	Comments
Tom Howard / Margaret Reid Poetry Contest	Sept 30	<a href="https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest">https://winningwriters.com/our-contests/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest</a>	Accepts previously published items
ICL Narrative Nonfiction Picture Book Contest	Sept 30	<a href="https://writersinstitute.lpages.co/icl-narrative-nonfiction-picture-book-contest/">https://writersinstitute.lpages.co/icl-narrative-nonfiction-picture-book-contest/</a>	Institute for Children's Literature
Zoetrope Short Story	Open July 1	<a href="https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/stories-2022/">https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/stories-2022/</a>	Short Fiction
Zoetrope Cinema	Sep 5	<a href="https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/screenplays-2023/">https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/screenplays-2023/</a>	FINAL DEADLINE Sept. 5, 11:59:59 PST.
Fractured Lit Elsewhere prize	Sep 17	<a href="https://fracturedlit.com/elsewhere-prize/">https://fracturedlit.com/elsewhere-prize/</a>	Signup for newsletter and enter contest
Missouri Review Editors' Prize	Oct 1	<a href="https://missourireview.com/contests">https://missourireview.com/contests</a>	Check their website for audio submissions and future contests
Sequestum		<a href="https://www.sequestum.org/">https://www.sequestum.org/</a>	Themed and general submissions
Chicken Soup For The Soul		<a href="https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story/">https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story/</a>	Ongoing topics
Writer's Digest		<a href="https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions">https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions</a>	Contests year round. Also classes/webinars
Frontier Poetry Roots & Roads prize	Sept 17	<a href="https://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/">https://www.frontierpoetry.com/poetry-awards/</a>	Unpublished only
Red Penguin Books		<a href="https://redpenguinbooks.com/open-submissions/">https://redpenguinbooks.com/open-submissions/</a>	Various ongoing submissions

## SITES THAT LIST OTHER CONTESTS

	SITES THAT LIST OTHER CONTESTS	
Winning Writers	<a href="https://winningwriters.com/">https://winningwriters.com/</a>	their contests and others listed
Authors Publish	<a href="http://www.authorspublish.com">www.authorspublish.com</a>	Lists contests, etc.
Funds for Writers	<a href="https://fundsforwriters.com/contests/">https://fundsforwriters.com/contests/</a>	Subscribe to <a href="mailto:hope@chopeclark.com">hope@chopeclark.com</a>
Trish Hopkinson	<a href="https://trishhopkinson.com/">https://trishhopkinson.com/</a>	blog
Freedom With Writing	<a href="https://www.freedomwithwriting.com">https://www.freedomwithwriting.com</a>	

## POETRY CONTESTS, SUBMISSIONS, AND RESOURCES

Name	URL	Comments
Academy of American Poets	<a href="https://poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes">https://poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes</a>	Lists contests/submissions
Writing Matters	<a href="http://www.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/">www.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/</a>	30 Publishers of Poetry Books & Chapbooks
Up the Staircase Quarterly	<a href="https://www.upthestaircase.org/">https://www.upthestaircase.org/</a>	
Poets & Writers	<a href="https://www.pw.org/grants">https://www.pw.org/grants</a>	
Poetry Society of America	<a href="https://poetrysocietyofamerica.submittable.com/submit">https://poetrysocietyofamerica.submittable.com/submit</a>	
The Thimble Magazine	<a href="http://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/">http://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/</a>	quarterly online journal.
Poetry Foundation	<a href="http://www.poetryfoundation.org">www.poetryfoundation.org</a>	
Poetry Pacific	<a href="http://www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/">www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/</a>	Published and unpublished.
Everywriter	<a href="http://www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/">www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/</a>	
Reedsy	<a href="https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/chapbook/how-to-make/">https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/chapbook/how-to-make/</a>	lists reputable chapbook contests
Gyroscope	<a href="https://www.gyroscopecoreview.com/welcome/guidelines">https://www.gyroscopecoreview.com/welcome/guidelines</a>	4 issues a year
Poetry Soup	<a href="https://www.poetrysoup.com/poetry/contests/">https://www.poetrysoup.com/poetry/contests/</a>	

## Facebook pages/Groups (Our Facebook group for members is South Bay Writers Club)

Poetry Center San Jose-PCSJ	Los Gatos Poet Laureate
Poetry Exchange	National Poetry Month-write a poem a day challenge
Poetry Lounge	California Poets
Willow Glen Poetry Project	The Poetry Salon Online
Cupertino Poet Laureate	Rattle
Santa Clara County Poet Laureate	No Fee Calls for Poems

## Editor Talk

Brigitte Doss-Johnson



### How Many Acts are in a Play?

Several days ago, I turned on the TV to watch something mindless while I waited for someone. I chose Family Feud. As I had fun playing along and judging the contestants for their wit or idiocy, the question, “how many acts are in a play?” was asked during the ending, fast money section. The first contestant answered, “ten.” I did a fast, disparaging chuff and thought, wow, they haven’t read or been to many plays. Ten? Who would want to sit through a ten-act play in one night? Even if time weren’t a constraint, that’s a lot of up and down drama for an audience to handle and take seriously.

As my head spends a lot of time in the singing realm, I thought of the three-act opera. Even in the first act, there is a three-part division, like the sonata form: exposition, development, recapitulation. If you divide a book into three sections, where the first section exposes the conflict, the second section and longest section, develops the conflict to a climax, and finally the end section that transitions the reader from the climax to a resolu-

tion, then the structure of the drama makes sense to the reader and helps the digestion of all the information.

Can this formula for the presentation of drama be diminutized? When conflict is the generator for keeping the reader engaged in the story, planning the conflict through structure can really help, at least to organize the multitudes of layers and details of the story in the author’s head. Would it reason then that the more conflict, the more engaged? Conflict would need to be in the whole story, in each chapter, in each scene, and each paragraph, and in the sentences. That’s exhausting to think about as an author.

I began a story a few years ago that got too big. Maybe I can apply this structure not only to the entire story, but then in each section, and so on. I’m going to think about how I could make an infographic and get back to you next month.

- to be continued.

### Three Act Drama



Rotating Editing Team:

Marjorie Johnson, Ken Roberge, Carolyn Donnell, Dave LaRoche, Marty Sorensen, Edie Matthews, Bill Baldwin.

If you are interested in being a part of the editing team, please email [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

Submit writing to WritersTalk using this form:

<https://tinyurl.com/writerstalk>

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. 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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www.southbaywriters.com

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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### October Writing Prompt: Costume Tale

Whether you like to dress up for Halloween or another occasion, write a 200-word story that tells the tale of your costume conception, getting dressed, what happened when you wore it, and how you felt about the entire experience. Of course, choose your tale to be one of fright or delight.

When you submit your Word document on the Google form, make sure you've named the file with the title and your name.

Call open only to members of South Bay Writers (or dual member).

Submission deadline: September 15

Send submissions and optional images through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/writerstalk>

If this is your first submission, please also send a headshot.

