



WritersTalk

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

Volume 31

Number 10

October 2023

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October Keynote

Mark Purdy:

Literary Adventures and Lessons Learned

Jamal Khan

When: Monday, October 9, 7:00PM

Where: Triton Museum, 1505 Warburton Ave. Santa Clara

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



Good journalism takes what is important and makes it interesting and relevant to the reader. The same principle applies to all other genres of writing. The first draft of history is a primary source, a firsthand account that provides the scaffolding for all that follows. In the hands of a gifted writer, dry sports statistics give rise to soaring sagas of hope and loss, joy and longing, disappointment and redemption. During our meeting on October 9th, Mark Purdy will teach us how to capture the essence of a breathtaking moment and wield it as a lens to define an era.

For 33 years, beginning in 1984, Mark Purdy's name was synonymous with San Jose sports. As a columnist for the *Mercury News*, he covered 14 Olympics, 32 Super Bowls, and many other major events with clever, incisive, and thought-provoking commentary that highlighted South Bay personalities as they competed

around the globe. His keen insights earned him recognition as one of America's top 10 sports columnists by the *Associated Press* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Raised in rural Celina, Ohio, Purdy graduated from Northwestern University and worked at the *Los Angeles Times* and *Cincinnati Enquirer* before coming to San Jose. A fierce advocate for the 1993 construction of SAP Center, Purdy was also responsible for labeling the Giants' McCovey Cove in San Francisco and coined the Sharks' alternate nickname of "Los Tiburones." His whimsical annual, "Tour de French Fry," raised funds to buy bicycle helmets for local youth. In 2021, he became the first journalist to be inducted into the San Jose Sports Hall of Fame.

President's Message

Edie Matthews



The MacGuffin Reappropriated

The “MacGuffin” is a term used to describe the plot device that motivates the action. Although film director Alfred Hitchcock made the label famous, it was coined by Angus MacPhail, an English screenwriter, who worked with Hitchcock.

Originally, the MacGuffin was used in reference to film plots. The Master of Suspense first incorporated the concept in his movies *The 39 Steps* (military secrets) and *Notorious* (radioactive uranium ore)—though the word MacGuffin is never mentioned in these films.

Examples of MacGuffins in other films are the statue in *The Maltese Falcon*, the letters of transit in *Casablanca*, and the Ark of the Covenant in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Of course, many mystery and suspense novels have inadvertently made use of this plot device without acknowledging the term.

Recently, my granddaughter, Madeleine, visited me with her boyfriend, Tyler Budge. In 2022, they both graduated from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Madeleine is doing PR for Intel, and Tyler's goal is to become a sports journalist—not an easy field to break into.

However, in this day and age of social media, Tyler has, as they say, “taken the bull by the horns.” He's created his own sports network. His focus is on football teams at four-year colleges. His reports air on numerous social media sites, including TikTok, Youtube, Apple Podcast, Amazon Music, etc.

In the past six months, his postings have drawn over a million hits (views). His weekly opinions and updates regularly attract more than 60,000 hits. The Saturday he was at my house, he watched numerous college games and posted comments. By 7 pm, he earned over \$250.

Once a person regularly receives 50,000 hits, advertisers begin to contact them. DoorDash

asked him to create a 30-second ad. A company making NFL belt buckles has also contacted him.

Of course, this requires watching a lot of college football. But it's not a task for Tyler, since it is his passion. During his childhood, he and his older brother woke up early on Saturday and Sunday mornings to watch the games.

This year, Tyler also created the *COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2023 SEASON PREVIEW* magazine. This full-color 144-page magazine includes over 70 prominent college football teams. It features coaches, key players, College Bowl Championships, Major Awards, and season predictions. It cost \$28 to print and sold for \$35. A lower-price digital copy is available online.

A mountain of work went into gathering the data, organizing it, and laying out the project. (Fortunately, he was helped by Madeleine who was the editor of her high school yearbook.)

But how does it stand out from other publications—like *Sports Illustrated* that has 36 people on staff?

One way that Tyler has distinguished himself is by reappropriating the MacGuffin. He has christened the ultimate prize sought by college football teams the new “MacGuffin”. In addition, he's tracked the 144-year history of the first winning football teams beginning in 1869, a match between Rutgers and Princeton. (Rutgers won the first “MacGuffin.”)

Initially, Tyler shared the MacGuffin idea on TikTok. Viewers liked it and suggested adding Mr. MacGuffin and MacGuffin MVP.

As a result of Tyler's new concept of the MacGuffin, he's been invited to be a guest on other sport's podcasts. His fame is growing. Who knows? He could become a color commentator for *ABC Sports*.

My friends, in this day and age of publishing, a great deal of marketing a book is dropped on the author's shoulders. What is it about your story that distinguishes it? Is it reminiscent of something

previously famous that could apply to your work and help to promote it?

Furthermore, the methods of publicity have changed. Today it's powered by social media. Fortunately, it's available to all of us. Update and familiarize yourself with its possibilities. Then develop a strategy. Just imagine, the number of books you would sell if you could attract 50,000 hits—or better still a million!

View from the Board

Chris Weilert

Edie Matthews, President

Prior meeting minutes were approved.

Zoom subscription not yet renewed but we are able to use the free version.

The October speaker will be former sports journalist, Mark Purdy, of the *San Jose Mercury News*.

The November speaker has not been announced.

October will also continue our traditional costume contest. Details to follow.

Jack London Awards will be presented on October 22 by NorCal CWC in Oakland. \$65 to attend. The conference is from 9:30am to 3. Details will be provided.

Marjorie Johnson, MRMS

Always looking for member news.

Informed Board Members that the membership listing was sent out.

Alice Wu, Treasurer

Account Growth: -3.5 decrease in funds since July

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

Recent Open Mic stats:

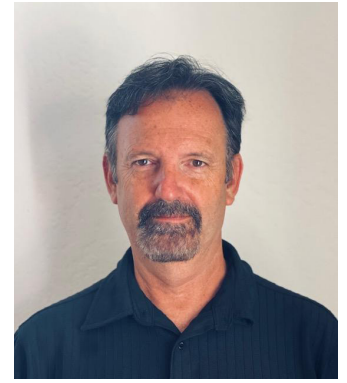
August 17 – 9 readers

September 1 – 8 readers

We are still doing all our open mics via Zoom. Please contact Bill to set up your opportunity to read your work.

Informed us that the third week of October is

October 2023



California Writers Week.

Central Board:

Nothing reported

Nor Cal:

Provided flyers for the NorCal Leadership conference on September 24.

Inga Silva, Membership: As of August 31, we have 86 members, 2 lifetime members and 1 student.

Carolyn Donnell: Facebook/Contests/Markets

– Has taken over the calendar for the newsletter. The group thinks that is a beneficial aspect to continue.

Una Daly, Web Editor:

The website was updated with speaker info and WritersTalk.

The “Join Mailing List” to include non-members.

Other info can be added to the carousel at the top of the page.

Open Discussion:

Continued improvement of meeting location.

Our new location may require changing the meeting date.

The meeting ended at 7:40 PM. The next board meeting will be on October 2, 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

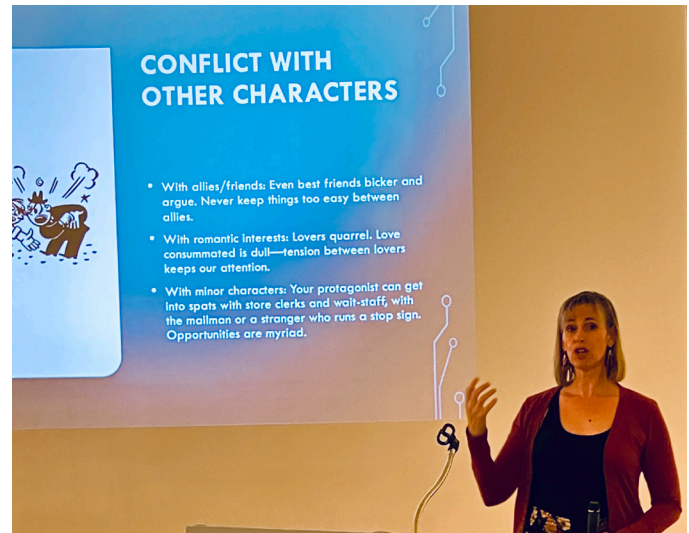
September Recap: Elements of Tension by Jordan Rosenfeld

Anna Zelenka

How do you reel in a reader with only words? Jordan Rosenfeld knows how: tension. She certainly hooked her audience during our September meeting!

Rosenfeld defines tension as how you oppose forces inside and outside of the character. Inside and outside means that tension should exist at every level, whether sentence, the inner lives of characters, plot, or character interactions. Tension can manifest as danger, conflict, uncertainty, or withholding.

Danger denotes when a character stands to lose something. Physical danger threatens bodily



injury or death; set it up with sensory imagery. Emotional/physiological danger threatens intangibles like reputation, love, or livelihood. Both kinds of danger should force your character to act or change.

Conflict consists of opposing forces, e.g. desires or plans. Conflict can endure between protagonist and: themselves; other characters; society; nature; tech; and the supernatural.

Uncertainty means that nobody knows what will happen next. That can manifest as implausibility, a situation seeming

surreal or too good to be true. Or the uncertainty of waiting, or from loss and grief, which can make your protagonist act out-of-character.

Withholding can be physical or emotional. Writers can withhold from their characters respect; material possessions; romantic union; and even information. Rosenfeld encourages writers to reframe cliffhangers as “suspending the readers in an incomplete moment.”

Concerned your inciting incident lacks tension? Drop your character into the action off the bat. Or, if you struggle to escalate tension throughout your story, remember that increasing the action will not suffice. The action must increase the emotional impact on your characters, too. Don't shy away from clearing away mundane dialogue, stage directions, info dumps, and “architectural digests” of setting along the way.

As Jung said, the greater the tension, the greater is the potential. Thanks Jordan for showing us how to unlock our potential.



Member News

Marjorie Johnson

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

This month, I have one of my own. Research Gate reports that **Marjorie Bicknell Johnson's** article, "Hexaflexagons: A Mathematical Ramble," has reached 100 reads. This paper was presented to the Fourteenth International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications in Morelia, Mexico, 2010. As you see, readership builds slowly for mathematical articles. I used this topic to write a short piece of science fiction, "The Fifth Face," *WritersTalk*, June, 2009, page 11. Past issues of *WritersTalk* appear on our SBW website, going back to 2005. Carolyn Donnell has faithfully updated the Cumulative Index every month for years and years. I hope I have piqued your interest enough to send you to look at some back issues of our newsletter.

Dennis Mattish writes: I feel good about finishing

Third Place History Category



third with my book, *History of San Jose Auto Racing 1903 - 2007*, in the history category at the 2023 San Francisco Book Festival, especially considering it was such a diverse field of authors and subjects. I have attached the complete results.

Announcement

The San Francisco Peninsula branch will be hosting a writing workshop in October.

Jordan Rosenfeld Workshop

When: Saturday, October 7, 10:00AM-1:00PM

Location: Redwood City Yacht Club (441 Seaport Ct, Redwood City, CA)

Cost: \$80

Workshop Topic: **Nail Your Story's Voice & Tone**

Every genre has its own unique signatures readers come to expect, known as voice and tone. These elements make it possible to identify the genre within a few pages and often reflect the personality, mood, and spirit of your characters and your themes. Nailing your novel, memoir, or short story's voice and tone will ensure you meet readers' expectations while increasing your chance of publication. This workshop will explore such things as: how voice emerges from character and personality; sentence structure and other voice mechanisms; how emotion creates voice; specific word choices, and much more.

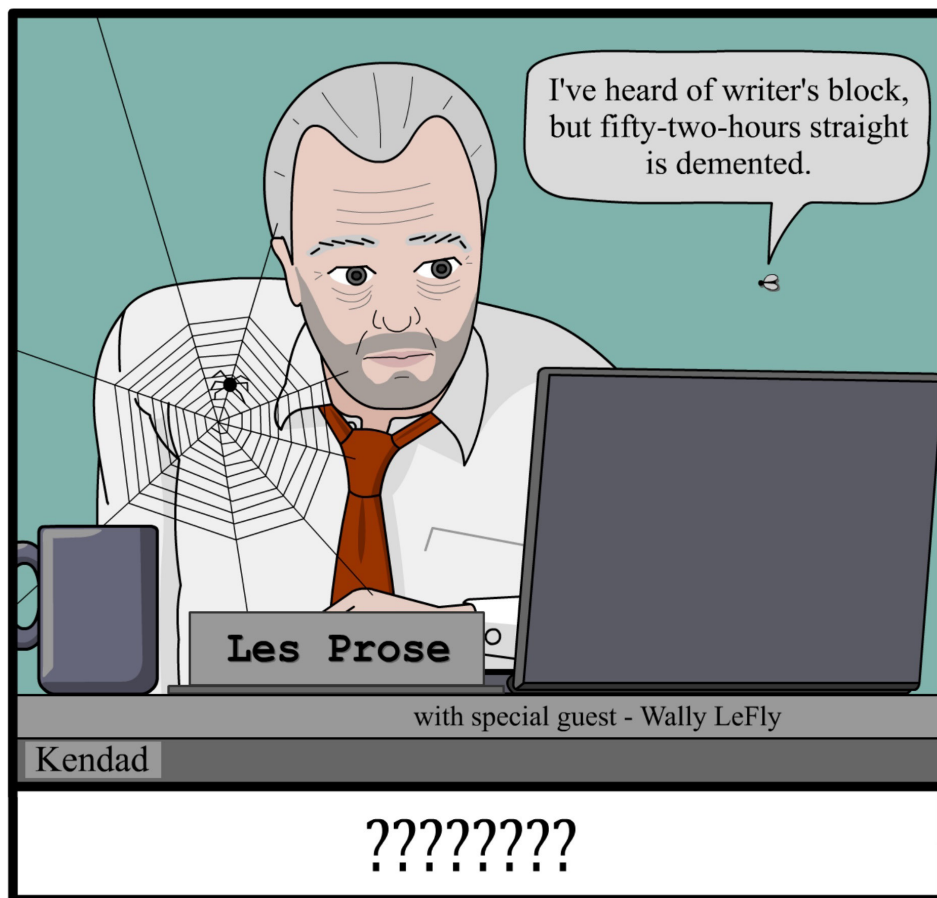
Presenter Bio:

Jordan Rosenfeld is author of the forthcoming novel *Fallout* (Running Wild Press, 2024), as well as the novels *Women in Red* and *Forged in Grace* and six books on writing craft, most recently *How to Write a Page-Turner*. Her freelance articles and essays have appeared in hundreds of national publications such as *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and *Writer's Digest*. She is a freelance manuscript editor and writing teacher. Find her at Jordanrosenfeld.net.

Direct Website & Registration: <https://www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/https://wwwcwc-sfpeninsulaorg/store/p/p/jordan-rosenfeld-workshop>

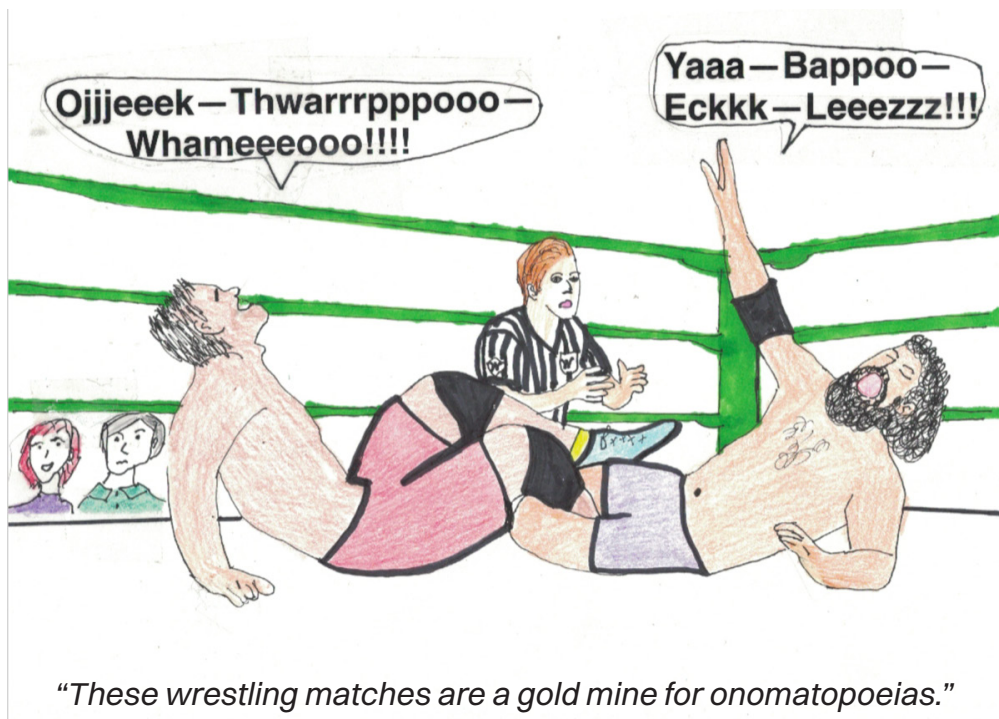
Please share your writing news by sending it to membernews@southbaywriters.com.

Les Prose by Kendad



Off the Shelf

Edie Matthews



Search & Destroy (continued from April WritersTalk)

Brigitte Doss-Johnson

In April, I introduced my method of searching out and reworking overused words. I've even given workshops on this fun, easy, and useful method. I had listed the first 80 words in the April Writer-sTalk, page 11, which you can view on the South Bay Writers website, newsletter link. <https://southbaywriters.com/writerstalk/#back> Here is the continuation of that list and the method I use:

When I finish my piece, I print out the over-used-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 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 highlight many words, picking a different 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.

If you know of any that are missing, email me. newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

Few	Help	Like	Nod
Fill	Hope	Literally	Nonsense
Fine	Hopefully	Little	Not
Finish	Hurt	Look	Often
Forever	If	Lots	OK
Fulfill	Important	Love	Old
Funny	Including	Main	Only
General	Incredible	Make	Open
Get	Inhale	Man	Otherwise
Give	Interesting	Many	Par
Go	Is	Mean	Part
Good	It	Mood	People
Got	Job	More	Perfect
Great	Joke	Most	Plan
Guess	Joked	Must	Pleasant
Guy	Just	Myself	Ponder
Had	Keep	Need	Precious
Happy	Kid	Never	Pretty
Hard	Kind	New	Probably
Hate	Know	Next	Prove
Have to	Laugh	Nice	Quick

“Glitter”

Geraldine Cynthia Forté

Glitter had joined our congregation one Sunday in August after falling to her knees at the altar in tears moaning that she was not worthy to even be alive. I was assigned as her mentor during her tenure with the New Member Ministry. Oh, she was such a brilliant individual who was fighting demons that had started to attack her when she was merely nine years old.

This woman who had college degrees in accounting was employed by one of the most prestigious CPA firms in California, had received numerous accolades for her work as a CPA, had Community Service Awards from United States Congressmen and local civic officials, had never married, never become a mother, and she was addicted to crack cocaine. She relayed her story to me during those counseling sessions, and knowledge of the pain that she experienced as a child often brought me to tears.

Her closely intertwined family consisted of three generations living together in a large wooden house in Richmond, California. With the number of siblings and cousins living together, there was always someone to play with as well as someone to share facilities with. When she wanted to be alone, Glitter would routinely hide in a toy box under a baby blanket and a sufficient layer of soft stuffed animals on top of her so that no one could find her. This proved to be advantageous when they were playing Hide and Go Seek, or when there was some communal butt whipping to be meted out. No one could ever find her, and she never divulged her hiding place. This toy box that was the symbol of her refuge became the symbol of her disparagement the night of the Big Fire.

The old wooden house in Richmond, California belonged to her paternal grandparents, and as such, it was always a safe haven for family members who needed it. Glitter, her parents, siblings, her widowed aunt with four children, and the grandparents shared that house. There was always good food in that house because Big Mama kept a vegetable garden and a chicken coop in the backyard, and Pawpaw grew fruit



and nut trees as well. Sharing that one bathroom was tedious, but they managed. There were four bedrooms; one for Big Mama and Pawpaw, one for her parents, one for her Aunt Gretchen and her two teenage girls, and the last one was for the younger kids – both male and female who slept in three sets of bunk beds.

The night of the Big Fire, the younger kids had been playing Hide and Go Seek. Glitter had hidden in her traditionally safe hiding place in the toy box. When she heard the clamor and the screams of “Fire!”, she thought that they were just trying to roust her out of her hiding place, so she stayed put. When her father had counted heads outside, everyone was accounted for except for Glitter. Her father had reentered the house to look for her, and Pawpaw had followed him stating that he would search in the basement. After directing Mama and Aunt Gretchen to remain outside with the children, Big Mama also reentered the house to help with the search. She planned to pull open all of the kitchen cabinets where a small child might try to hide. When Glitter realized from the smell of smoke that there actually was a fire, she started to cry, and that is when her father heard her. He followed the sounds of her cries, found her under the stuffed animals in the toy box, and took her outside to safety. Realizing that Big Mama and Pawpaw were still inside, he was about to reenter the house when the entire roof caved in launching sparks and small balls of flame

towards the family members huddling together outside. They could all hear Big Mama and Pawpaw screaming for only a moment, and then there was that deathly silence.

Big Mama and Pawpaw succumbed to the Big Fire, and Glitter never forgave herself for not relinquishing her perfect hiding place and leaving the fiery abode when everyone else did. If she had not been hiding in that toy box, there would have been no need for anyone to reenter that burning inferno that had once been such a happy home.

Glitter had excelled in public school, at the university, and in her profession as a CPA, but she never forgave herself for what she considered to be her role in the demise of her paternal grandparents. She had started to mask her pain with alcohol, moved to marijuana, powdered cocaine, and ultimately to crack cocaine. She was in pain, and she was seeking redemption. I held her hand during the Sunday School and Bible Study sessions, and I met with her sometimes as many as three times a week to let her know that God loved her, did not blame her, and spared her life because of the plans he had for her. Crack cocaine was the devil's tool, and she was strong enough to overcome the temptation and ultimate destruction that it would bring. We prayed together. We cried together. She initially was assigned to work with the Senior's Ministry and assist them with their Tax Returns. She found such joy in her work. She became the daughter and granddaughter of the seniors, some of whom ranged in their late 90s. She was there at every one of their celebrations: birthdays, anniversaries, and their final memorials. Glitter, whose life had been on a downward spiral, became the angel of the Senior Ministry. Her story is a testament to the power of belief and prayer. I am so happy that I had a chance to work with her. Her story is also a testament to the blessings of my work with the New Members Ministry. I truly believe that there is nothing, no calamity, no illness, no misfortune that cannot be alleviated with prayer and belief in the power of God.

October Writing Prompt: Costume Tale!

My Tongan Wardrobe Malfunction

Gerri Forté

During my doctoral research phase in Tonga, I was picked up by a member of the Education Department and transported to different school sites each day. While I loved the interaction with the teachers and students, I looked forward to interactions taking place in the marketplace, restaurants, and church. I made copious plans for my visit to the local church where the Royal Princess worshipped.

I planned my ensemble very carefully. A midi-length dress with sleeves, jewelry accents, mid heels, and flesh-colored stockings. While at church, I noticed that the other women wore sleeveless cotton dresses, flowers in their hair, and sandals without stockings! The following Sunday, my worship costume was more appropriate. I wore a sleeveless cotton muumuu, a hibiscus in my hair, no stockings, and walking sandals. It was Communion Sunday, and I proceeded to the altar with my row to receive the sacrament. Upon kneeling down at the altar, I noticed that while my dress and hair were perfectly in alignment with everyone else, all the others had removed their shoes and came to the altar in bare feet. I still had on my walking sandals!

My perfect church costume was imperfect, again!

Chinchilla Madness

Marjorie Johnson

A chinchilla is a small silvery gray rodent native to South America, its soft fur prized by coat manufacturers. The skins from as many as thirty chinchillas may be pieced together to make one full-length coat. Only those with the finest fur need apply. The others are sold for pets. At Andy's Pet Shop in San Jose, several chinchillas whose coats were seconds or thirds in the fur trade cuddled together sleeping, a silvery breathing fur pillow. One lifted its head and locked eyes with my husband Ben, a serial animal owner who had come into the shop for a book on how to raise the puppy that he bought yesterday.

When the two of them came home, the chinchilla was already in charge, with a new cage, a plastic tub filled with pumice dust, and packages of special food. Ben had purchased a book on how to raise a chinchilla, but he had forgotten the book on puppies. I didn't mention it: Who knows what would come home if he made another trip?

Ben started the chinchilla with a food treat followed by a dust bath in powdered pumice, recommended for his coat. Dust flew everywhere, a fine gray dust. The chinchilla hopped out of the tub and bounded around the room, jumping against one wall at a corner and rebounding off the other. It was fast. It left little gray footprints on all four walls of the dining room before shooting out the door into the living room where it took a bite out of a corner of each windowsill.

Ben and both children tried to corner it while I stood holding the squirming, yipping puppy, pee soaking through my blouse.

"Head him off!" Ben yelled.

The chinchilla was impossible to catch until it bit into the cord of a lighted table lamp. Its fur stood on end, and it stopped for a few seconds, shaking its head. When our son Steve tackled it, the critter chewed a hole in his sleeve but luckily not in his arm. Our daughter Jeannette chased it to a corner where Ben grabbed the silver menace with a pair



of leather gloves.

After that, Ben kept the door closed whenever he gave the rodent pumice dusting privileges. He tried to develop proper chinchilla trapping procedures by barricading the tub into a corner with plywood sheets and arming himself with a fishing-net to drop over the animal if it hopped out, but the chinchilla was over the plywood and running about before he could lift the net. Next Ben cut off the bottom half of the box used to ship a refrigerator and placed the dusting tub inside, but the chinchilla scrambled out over the four-foot cardboard wall. Finally, Ben bought a cage large enough to enclose the tub of pumice. That restrained the chinchilla but not the pumice. Fine gray grit coated the entire house.

The pumice bath problem was solved, but cleaning the cage—and the house—remained a challenge. After the slightest opportunity, the chinchilla danced throughout the house and the children gave chase, laughing and squealing. Ben would wait until the children and the chinchilla tired and then scoop the animal into the fishing net.

Despite his fine fur coat, after some months the chinchilla died of pneumonia, but not before it had chewed a corner off every windowsill in the house during periodic escapes, leaving little gray footprints low on every wall.

Editor Talk

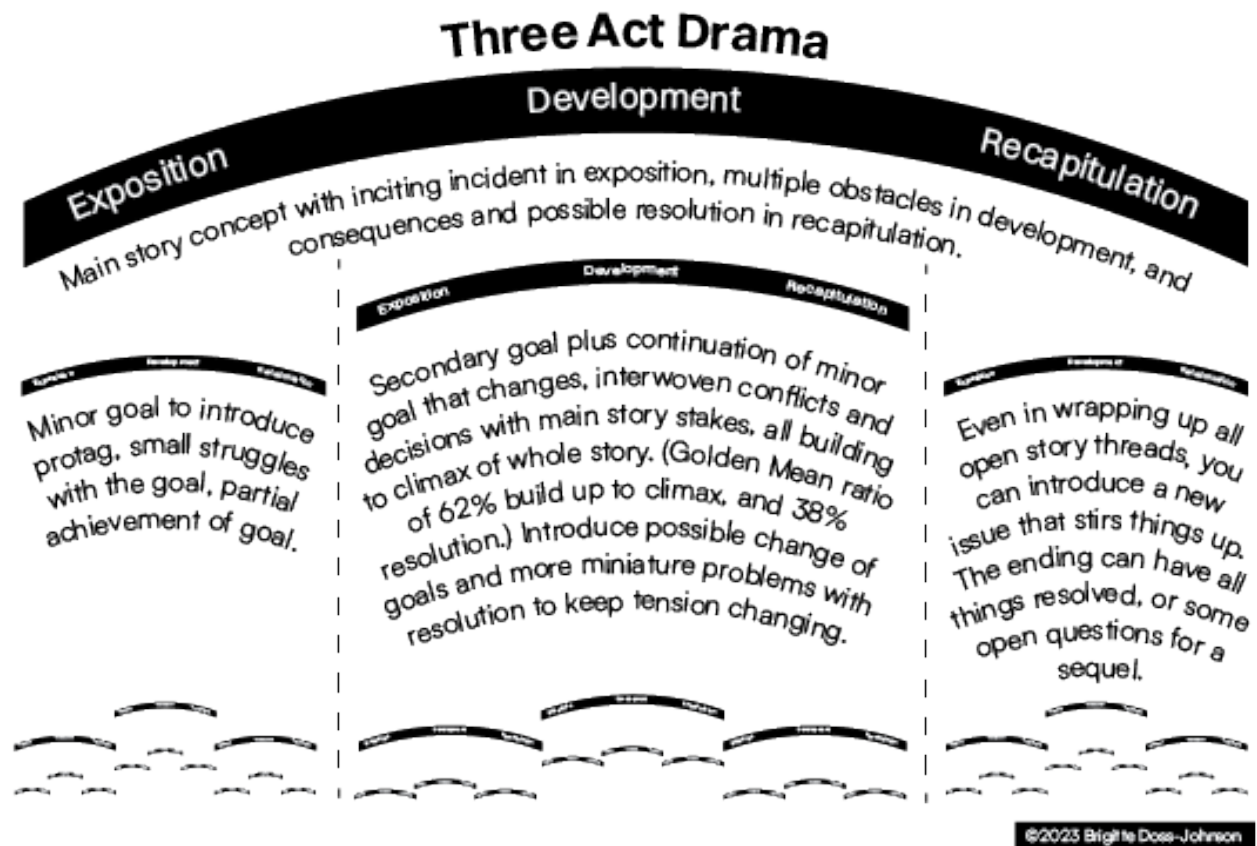
Brigitte Doss-Johnson



How Many Acts are in a Play? (Continued)

I realized as I thought about the under-layers of conflict, they became concentric. Oh, all this geometry. Marjorie will be ecstatic! Long ago in music theory class, I learned about the Golden Mean in plays and stories. More math. Being creative inside secure guides can set off an avalanche of plot ideas. Good craftsmanship will keep your stories from seeming formulaic.

Wouldn't it be fun to make up a group story with this guide, which looks like a bunch of flying bats? Maybe that's what I'll do for Halloween as each costumed kid comes knocking on the door. This has been a great exercise for me to really sit down and think through the weave of conflict a story can carry.



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

Submit writing to WritersTalk using this form:

<https://tinyurl.com/writerstalk>

Contests and Markets

Carolyn Donnell

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	URL	COMMENTS
SF/Peninsula Branch.	https://www.cwc-sfpeninsula.org/writers-resources/writing-contests	Lists other resources
Fremont Area Writers	https://cwc-fremontareawriters.org/resources-writers/	See Writers Resources tab
North State Writers	https://www.northstatewriters.com/nsw-anthologies.html	Planning a new anthology soon
The Literary Nest	www.theliterarynest.org	visual art theliterarynest@gmail.com
<i>Catamaran Literary Reader</i>	http://www.catamaranliteraryreader.com/	West Coast quarterly literary/visual arts journal

OTHER CONTESTS AND SUBMISSIONS (including sites that list contests.) * = on Facebook

NAME	DUE	URL	COMMENTS
Zoetrope Short Story	Oct 1	https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/stories-2023/	Short Fiction
Sequestrum		https://www.sequestrum.org/	Themed and general submissions
Chicken Soup For The Soul *		https://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story/	Ongoing topics
Writer's Digest		https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions	Contests year round. Also classes/webinars
Romance Writers of America		https://www.rwa.org/chapterevents	Lists by month
Red Penguin Books		https://redpenguinbooks.com/open-submissions/	Various ongoing submissions
SITES THAT LIST OTHER CONTESTS			
Winning Writers *		https://winningwriters.com/	their contests and others listed
Authors Publish *		www.authorspublish.com	Lists contests, etc.
Funds for Writers		https://fundsforwriters.com/contests/	Subscribe to hope@chopeclark.com
Trish Hopkinson		https://trishhopkinson.com/	blog
Freedom With Writing		https://www.freedomwithwriting.com	

FACEBOOK PAGES/GROUPS (Our Facebook group for members is South Bay Writers Club)

Anthologies Seeking Submissions

Writing Competitions and Contests

Open Submission Calls for Short Story Writers

Poetry Center San Jose-PCSJ

Poetry Exchange

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

The Poetry Salon Online

No Fee Calls for Poems

Open Submission Calls for Short Story Writers

POETRY CONTESTS, SUBMISSIONS, AND RESOURCES

NAME	DUE	URL	COMMENTS
Academy of American Poets	n/a	https://poets.org/academy-american-poets/american-poets-prizes	Lists contests/submissions
Writing Matters		http://www.randalssanctuary.wordpress.com/2020/08/11/publishers-of-poetry-books-chapbooks/	30 Publishers of Poetry Books & Chapbooks
Up the Staircase Quarterly		https://www.upthestaircase.org/	
Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition	Dec 15	https://dystopianstories.com/events/minotaur-books-mystery-writers-of-america-first-crime-novel-competition/	
Poets & Writers		https://www.pw.org/content/upcoming_contest_deadlines_87	Lists upcoming deadlines
Poetry Society of America		https://poetrysocietyofamerica.submittable.com/submit	
The Thimble Magazine		http://www.thimblelitmag.com/submissions/	quarterly online journal.
Poetry Foundation		www.poetryfoundation.org	
Poetry Pacific		www.poetrypacific.blogspot.com/	Published and unpublished.
Everywriter		www.everywritersresource.com/best-poetry-prizes/	
Reedsy		https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/chapbook/how-to-make/	lists reputable chapbook contests
Gyroscope		https://www.gyroscopereview.com/welcome/guidelines	4 issues a year
Poetry Soup		https://www.poetrysoup.com/poetry/contests/	
Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition	Nov 30	https://dystopianstories.com/events/gregory-odonoghue-international-poetry-competition/	Other contests listed as well
Rattle chapbook prize	Jan 15	https://www.rattle.com/chapbooks/prize/	
The Moth Poetry Prize 2023	Dec 31	https://www.themothmagazine.com/a1-page.asp	
Mslexia Women's Poetry Competition 2023	Dec 4	https://mslexia.co.uk/competitions/	women any nationality any country. Other contests as well.

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Have you ever thought,
 “If I was in charge of the newsletter, I would change _____.”
 Well, that opportunity is waiting for you!
 Please email pres@southbaywriters.com
 to jump at editing WritersTalk in 2024!
 Training and coaching included.

.....

OCTOBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 SBW Board Mtg 7:00 pm	3	4	5	6 SBW Open Mic 7:30 pm	7
8	9 SBW Mtg 7:00 Triton Museum In Costumes	10	11	12	13	14
15 Writer's Talk Deadline! California -	16 - Writers -	17 - Week -	18 	19 -----	20 SBW Open Mic 7:30 pm -----	21 -----
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

ONGOING EVENTS

Know of a regularly occurring event for writers? Email information to cdonnelltx@yahoo.com

OPEN MICS - on Zoom

South Bay Writers branch

1st & 3rd Friday

www.meetup.com/south-bay-writers-cwc/

Peninsula branch

3rd Tuesdays

www.meetup.com/california-writers-club-peninsula-branch/

California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
www.southbaywriters.com

Executive Committee

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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

Halloween Costume Contest!

It would be a GRAVE mistake to miss the October meeting!
For a wicked good time dress to impress and win a prize.
Come as Captain Hook, Captain Kirk, Captain Kangaroo, Captain Nemo, Captain Crunch, or you decide!!! Categories include Scariest, Literary, Funniest, Original, and Beautiful! Winners must be paid-up members.