



WritersTalk

A South Bay Branch
Writers Club Monthly

Volume 13, Issue 5, May 2005 Non-member subscription \$12 per year

Page 1

At our May Meeting, Paul Douglas PhD Author of *Lady Caroline Lamb* An Historical Biography By Edie Matthews

"Writing a biography is not all that different from writing a novel," said author Paul Douglass. "It's an exploration of character, setting, and the possibility of a plot. You need to hook them by stealth—you don't want the reader to be aware completely because there's a certain magic going on." He went on to explain whether you're writing fiction, memoir, or a historical biography, the writer must sift through material, trying to arrange it into a gripping story.



Paul Douglass, a professor in the MFA (Master of Fine Art) Creative Writing Program at San Jose State University, faced this challenge while writing *Lady Caroline Lamb*. Lady Caroline is best remembered as Lord Byron's most notorious mistress. At the beginning of the affair, Byron described her as "the cleverest most agreeable, absurd, amiable, perplexing, dangerous fascinating little being that lives." Afterwards he called her a "monster." The 1919 National Dictionary described her as "a clever, generous, impulsive, inordinately vane, excitable to verge of insanity."

So why write about her?

While working on his previous book, *Hebrew Melodies*, Paul learned that Isaac Nathan, a musician and composer that set some of Byron's poetry to music, asked Lady Caroline to be his children's godmother. *Godmother*? That didn't fit Paul's image of Lady Caroline. Was it possible that she wasn't the spiteful nymphomaniac that

(Continued on page 4)



NOTICE! NOTICE!

Our next GENERAL MEETING

Lookout Restaurant

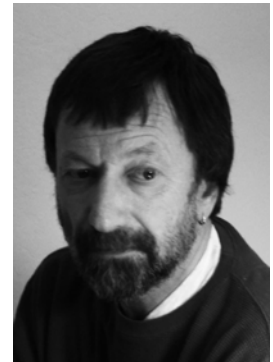
605 Macara Ave., Sunnyvale
(Sunnyvale Golf Course)
6 PM, Wed. May 11th

Mini Profile

By Una Daly

Duncan King

"A writer friend mentioned the club months ago, but I finally took action when I ran into an old HP colleague and CWC South Bay member, Danielle Fafchamps," reports new member, Duncan King. He hopes to improve his writing craft and network with similarly afflicted personalities.



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President's Prowling—



Get Obsessed?

Perhaps, in order to write, you have to be obsessed with your topic. Perhaps, in order to write, you have to want to say something so badly, you're willing to risk the possibility that it won't make sense to anyone else, that no one will like it or read it.

Reading can be the same. After awhile, an author whose style grates on me begins to annoy simply because I've heard so much about him or her, or I'm curious

what she or he will do with their (to me) pathetic characters. Part of me wants to drag myself through the book simply to find out what finally happens to the wretch.

Are reading and writing sometimes born of desperation? I think it was Jean Genet, the French writer (and criminal) who said he wrote because he had to. It kept him sane in prison. He wrote novels on cut up paper bags or something.

And what was Henry Miller attempting in *Tropic of Cancer* anyway? He said there were no more books to be written, but he wrote them (denying they were "books").

I've made a kind of literary peregrination over the last month, wildly pulling novels and biographies from the library, reading *about* poetry (but hardly any poetry itself). What did I find out from my mental travels?

Mostly, I found out that something about W. H. Auden disturbs me. Perhaps the sense of Original Sin that he shares with T. S. Eliot (but Eliot is one of my *favorite* writers!). But the biography of Auden that I grazed through dealt with a whole constellation of issues. Auden was the long time friend of Christopher Isherwood, one of my fave people. Auden and his lover wrote a libretto for Igor Stravinsky. Auden and Isherwood, along with Stephen Spender, all lived in Germany, witnessed the rise of Fascism, and flirted with Communism. Auden and Isherwood both came to live in the U. S. (Spender stayed behind in England and got knighted).

I should read more of Auden's poetry. Isn't *that* what matters? But I've already learned something *about that* too: That someone's poetry, like any writing, is a very personal matter; and that your own reaction to it is a very personal response as well. I may love or loathe it, despite general opinion. And my own writing has to somehow approach an ideal of my own, apart from anyone else's expectation. *WB*

California Writers Club South Bay Branch

— o —

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Join Up

We have a membership category that fits you, dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee.

For the details contact our membership chair, Diane Richomme at.

Membership@southbaywriters.com

Larry Wilde is an Entertainer

By Dave LaRoche

How many UCLA students does it take to write a joke book? At twenty-five cents a punch-line to those who could bring him laughter, Larry Wilde compiled his first published, long heralded, Polish-Italian joke book. Fifty-odd books later, sandwiched between stand-up comedy, journalistic interviews and motivational speaking, Larry graced our April meeting with his well-seasoned humor. He said to us, "I'm an entertainer," and very early we understood, as fresh from his successful career, Wilde warmly delivered us laughter in the spirit of George Jessel, Jack Benny, Fred Allen and the many others of his long association with comedy.



"I met my wife at Ralph's Super Market in Hollywood," he said. "We shared a few minutes with a cigarette in the

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Editor's Itch

What I found at the Jack London Conference both surprised and pleased me. Surprised because, as a new writer, I expected to be overwhelmed and intimidated; pleased because I wasn't – not that the makeup was elementary (my level) but rather because it was enlightening and supportive. It was, I thought, what every writer is seeking: the comingling and solidifying of ideas and the general enhancing of the craft – sand and gravel into concrete.

Well organized and presented, from the welcoming table to the final keynote, the buzz was positive and universally articulated. Out of 144 evaluations returned, I've heard, the overall ranking for principal categories was in the high 80's. My point? While half dozen SouthBay members did attend, and would likely echo these accolades, there were well over a hundred who let it pass by and here's some of what they missed.

Technique. I know some grammar and sentence structure but am major-league shy of what prevents a reader from snuffing his lamp until after two in the morning. Is it conflict, color, mystery, suspense... betrayal and retribution... perhaps redemption mixed into the brew? And, do we detail each scene before starting to write or let characters carry the plot? How much research is required for truth and is high morality needed in a protagonist? It was here.

Motivation. Over again I've heard it said, "I don't have the time", "My muse is elusive", "I'm running on empty." Here I learned how to prioritize my time, to capture my muse... to fill up. Here was an opportunity to share problems, find solutions, join in the growing dialog of writers – become one... or a better one.

I found energy, ideas and answers in rewarding detail at the Jack London Conference this April which of course I will plumb to greater depth – when I feel like it, find time and prioritize. DLR

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to David LaRoche

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All Submittals must be to an editor no later than the 16th of the month preceding publication. *WritersTalk* is published on the 1st of the month.

(Douglas from page 1)
history has portrayed?

This information was the catalyst for an eight-year journey. “I tend to get involved in the stories of people who have been short-changed,” Paul said. During his research he found Lady Caroline’s life and everybody in her life fascinating. “She was a very talented writer and poet,” said Paul, “but like many talented writers, she never quite got her career together.”

Paul grew up in Claremont, California and comes from a tradition of academics. “My father was a professor of education and so was his father—they were both interested in teaching teachers.” During the 1930s, his grandfather, Aubrey Augustus Douglass, worked for the state and helped found the California University system. In fact, Douglass Hall at California State University Sacramento was named in his honor.

Except Paul didn’t take quite the same route. He fell in love with literature. “I remember reading James Joyce Ulysses at 16 and thinking, ‘Now I want to write a book like that.’”

He attended Amherst in Massachusetts, then returned to California and taught elementary school for five years before entering the Ph.D. Program at UCLA.

“I’m pretty typical of most English majors,” said Paul. “I dreamed of being an actor, and I dreamed of writing novels and plays.” He laughed recalling when he did some scriptwriting and acted in several educational films like: “How to Ride Your Bicycle” and “How to Avoid Getting Bit by a Dog.”

He even had an opportunity to pursue his other passion, music and composed music for short films. Growing up he had studied piano, guitar, music theory. While in college, he took a year to go abroad and study folk music.

Finally after earning his Ph.D, he taught at Mercer in Atlanta, Georgia for six years. When the University closed in 1990, he was hired at SJSU.

Join us at the next CWC meeting when Professor Paul Douglass discusses how to begin the first chapter, living with the work, how to connect the loose ends, juggling your job and writing, the role of patience, and much more. *EM*

Lookout Restaurant
605 Macara Ave., Sunnyvale
(Sunnyvale Golf Course)
6 PM, Wed. April 13th
Members \$15, Guests \$18 (includes Dinner)

Help Wanted

News Editor

Will cover events of interest: Meetings, Open Mic, Book signings, etc.
Call or email Dave LaRoche

Mini Profile

By Una Daly

Julie Rose

“I’m looking forward to meeting fellow writers and learning about both their creative journeys and their adventures in publishing” reports new member Julie Rose, who joined after finding the CWC South Bay website. She is also looking forward to information about upcoming conferences and other learning opportunities.



Julie has written a novel, *The Pilgrim Glass*, that is being read by a number of agents. A sample chapter is available at her website, <http://www.julieekrose.com>. “Growing up, I thought I wanted to be a teacher, perhaps a concert violinist, or maybe a quarterback,” said Julie. An avid reader with a passion for music, she is an amateur mandolin player and has traveled extensively in the United States and Europe. She was born in Wyoming but grew up in Colorado and the San Francisco Bay Area. She lives with her husband, a professional photographer and middle school teacher, and their domi-

(Continued on page 6)

(King from page 1)

An interest in desert travel and repeated visits to Death Valley inspired Duncan to write *A Family Guide to Death Valley*. After many rejections for his proposal, he found a small non-fiction publisher in Santa Barbara that has accepted the book. He has a series of articles appearing in *California Explorer* on his enthusiasms for geocaching and letterboxing. "These themes liven up what otherwise could be dull hiking and travel descriptions" said Duncan.

Born in Cheddar "we created the cheese over 1,000 years ago!" in Somerset county in south-west England, Duncan traveled all over England before joining HP. He wrote three novels during that time and gathered many rejection slips. A highlight of those early days was meeting author, Jack Higgins, who was just becoming famous. "He gave me his agent's name – I wish I could still find it - and words of encouragement" said Duncan.

Favorite Quote: Harry Patterson (Jack Higgins) told me, "Never give up." UD

Notice

CWC Membership Renewal

Renew your Southbay CWC membership by June 30 and... Save a \$20 late penalty (ouch!)

Expect a notice in your mail

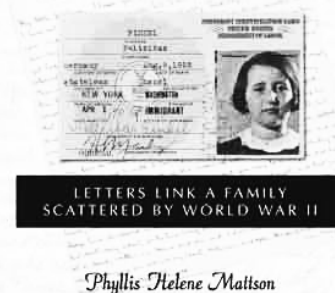
War Orphan in San Francisco Published

By Una Daly

"I started writing my book by writing to my parents" explains Phyllis Mattson, South Bay CWC member, who recently published her memoir *War Orphan in San Francisco*. Escaping from Nazi Germany on a *Kindertransport*, she entered the United States at the age of ten without parents or close relatives. Her father falsely imprisoned in Australia and her mother left behind in Austria, the family expressed their love, hopes, and worries through letters. After England declared war on Germany, young Phyllis, became the conduit for her parents' communications as they could not write to each other directly.

After living less than a year with a distant relative, Phyllis would spend her tumultuous, adolescent years moving between foster homes and an orphanage. Seven years after the disruption of their lives in Vienna, Phyllis and her father were reunited in San Francisco. Although, they were overjoyed to be together again, they never spoke about the past as is typical of many survivors of catastrophic events. Phyllis went on to college, married, and had two children, all the while carrying her box of letters with her.

War Orphan in San Francisco



Writing became a natural habit for Phyllis, as she wrote two to three letters a week growing up, and believes this is why she excelled at written communications. **She studied** Anthropology and Health Sciences earning graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Harvard, then writing *Holistic Health in Perspective* published in 1981. She became a community college professor teaching for over **30** years at Foothill and De Anza Colleges. During this time, she also joined the Peace Corps, spending time in Nepal and teaching English at Shandong University in China.

When Phyllis began writing her memoir, she reread the nearly 250 letters for the first time in many years. A writing teacher suggested that she only use excerpts from the letters and add more narrative to the work. Thinking this over, Phyllis realized that "...the letters tell the story, mistakes included. It became important to me that they would be a record of a war-torn family—the worries of each, the misunderstandings, and the arguments." Some letters were omitted when no new information was to be gained. An editor recommended that she correct the spelling and grammar, but again she rejected this advice, because young children do not write perfect letters.

(Continued on page 6)

(Rose from page 4)

neering calico, Mocha, in Santa Clara.

Julie received her B.A. in Humanities with a double minor in British literature and art history, and an M.A. in English. She is the Sr. Manager of Corporate Communications for a local high tech firm.

Favorite quote: "Be bold, and mighty forces will come to your aid." Basil King. *UD*

(War Orphan from page 5)

"I speak to schools when they study the Holocaust--and so I have listened to other **survivor's** stories, and everybody's is different," said Phyllis. Two chapters of her book are included in *Don't Wave Goodbye: The Children's Flight to Safety from Nazi Persecution*, a collection of stories from the 1000 children who came to America on the transports. Many stories are horrible and she has always felt very fortunate that her life, with the exception of losing her mother to the brutal Nazi regime, **has** turned out so well.

Unable to find an agent for her book, Phyllis decided to self-publish. "It is a lot of work, and if anyone wants to go that route, I recommend a lot of research, classes, workshops and talking to others who have done it themselves, like members of The Bay Area Independent Publishers."

To find out about book readings or to purchase *War Orphan in San Francisco*, go to <http://www.stevenscreekpress.com> *UD*

This column brings a series of brief grammar lessons by Pat Decker Nipper, a writer, a former English teacher, and a member of CWC...

Nipper's Nits

By Pat Decker Nipper

Lesson 3. Improper use of the Word "Myself"

When we were children, we might have been challenged by something like this: "Oh, yeah? Who's gonna make me?" We might have answered, "Me, myself, and I."

Unfortunately, as adults, many of us are unsure about when to use "me" and "I" so we have settled on using "myself." For example, "They invited my husband and *myself* to attend." Correctly it should be, "They invited my husband and *me* to attend."

Prepositions can be particularly troublesome. Words like "to," "for," and "of" often result in the use of "myself" because people aren't sure whether it should be "me" or "I." For example, in the sentence, "She gave the book to Bill and *myself*," the correct word should be *me*: "She gave the book to Bill and *me*."

Of course you can use *myself* correctly, as in: "We won't need a chaperone because I plan to go

Contact Pat at pat@patdeckernipper.com for comments or questions.

On the Web – Blog or Blab?

By Ro Davis



Did you see the news item a few weeks back about people who were fired from their jobs because of what they wrote in their "personal" blogs. I saw that and thought, what! What country is this? What happened to free speech?

The answer to that came a few paragraphs into the news story. It reminded me that the First Amendment only covers government control of speech. Private industry may can you for anything you say or write they don't like, as long as canning you is not discriminatory or a payback for whistle-blowing or union organizing.

And, as it turns out, the people who got fired were being pretty stupid. One used his blogs to complain about how inept his managers were. Okay, many of us have done that, but this particular dufus didn't just diss, he disclosed. Another person wrote a tell-all about the corporate Christmas party, including details of who acted the fool with whom, with names and positions -- positions in the company hierarchy, I must assume.

The problem, of course, is the public nature of the web. A blog (web log) is a journal of sorts, but it is definitely not the same thing as that highly touted writer's essential of the same name. What we put in a writer's journal stays in our journal, unless we turn it into

(Continued on page 9)

Literature of California Featured at West Valley College — by Una Daly

West Valley College's Writer on Writing Series (WOW) celebrated *The Literature of California* with a panel discussion among the editors of the acclaimed two volume anthology in April. Maxine Hong Kingston, James D. Houston, Al Young, and James Hicks alternately presented and read excerpts from this chronicle of California stories that start with Native American creation tales and continue until the present.

James Hicks, UC Davis Creative Writing professor, introduced the panel and their work. "We wanted to find diversity but a common thread," related Hicks about the process that began ten years ago among four long-standing friends. The choice to produce two volumes was necessary because of the amount of material and the desire for the collection to be an accurate map of the cultural diversity of California.

James Houston, local writer, who grew up in the orchards of Saratoga related his discovery of the work of John Steinbeck in college. The parallels between Salinas Valley and Santa Clara Valley both geographically and culturally drew him to the stories before he even realized the similarities. The immigrant experience captured in Steinbeck's Depression Era *Grapes of Wrath*, as the Joad family sees for the first time the fruit-laden orchards of the San Joaquin Valley, is as true today as then. California continues to be the Promised Land for immigrants from other states and other countries throughout the world.

Al Young, author of over twenty books, university lecturer, and musician has resided in the Bay Area since 1961. Reading from William Saroyan's *Quarter, Half, Three-Quarter and Whole Notes*, he related how Saroyan's sense of adventure and improvisational nature had a tremendous influence on him. California has been full of self-made individuals from the Gold Rush era to the present day

Silicon Valley.

Maxine Hong Kingston, award winning author and California native, described her life as a "series of transformations" from a young Chinese American working in her family's laundry in Stockton to being declared a "living treasure" during her residence in Hawaii. She related the difficulty of translating Native American stories that were an oral tradition into modern written words. The talking stories, referred to as mouth to ear transmissions by Native Americans, "vibrate our ears" and "touch memory centers in our body" which is not possible when reading texts. She read a Maidu creation tale that began with "And ..." representing the time continuum of the oral tradition.

Published in 2000, the first volume covers from the Native American Era to 1945. The second volume due out soon will continue from 1945 to the current time. *UD*

Maxine Hong Kingston

James D. Houston,

Al Young, and

James Hicks

alternately presented and read excerpts from a chronicle of California stories that started with Native American creation tales

\$2,000 Awaits Winners of Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

Stories in all genres of fiction are welcome. Maximum length is 3,000 words, writers retain all rights. The final deadline is May 15, 2005; winners will be announced at the end of July.

For guidelines, please visit www.shortstorycompetition.com, e-mail Calico2419@aol.com, or send an SASE to the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition, P.O. Box 993, Key West, FL 33041.

Our Speaker for June

—0—

Anny Cleven, District Marketing Manager Borders Bookstore will present:

"Selling Yourself to the Bookstore"

Learn the elements of creative marketing, thematic thinking, and targeting outreach to sell yourself and your book to bookstores-and how to fill the seats at a book signing.

Reminder

(Wilde from page 3)

parking lot and that evening, diner at my walk-up on Hawthorn Ave... A year later we were married in that very same Ralph's. It was hard to find clergy that would perform amongst the Wonder Bread and Tuna, even the chapel at Forest Lawn declined. We finally got a minister from the Universal Life Church to come over – you know, the one that provided ordination and tax exemption for \$12.

During the ceremony, a woman that came to do her shopping was stopped at the door with, 'We're having a wedding in here lady... man met his sweetheart in this store last year and now they're getting married in the bread department.'"

"She replied," Larry said, 'I been shopping in this market over ten years and have yet to meet anyone!'" And so went the night.

"You have a great group here," he said, "very conversational and social. While the raffle was going on, I was just sitting back enjoying it all... though I thought I might have to shave again before going on."

He shared his spot at the podium by asking us all to stand and give Edie a hand for the wonderful work she was doing—putting the speaker program together. The robust applause that followed reflected not only sincere appreciation for Edie's work but the opportunity to express a gratitude we have all silently harbored... and we were immediately endeared to Mr. Wilde.

"I know you are thinking, after that great introduction by Edie... reading off my list of achievements, 'if this guy has really done all of these things, how come I have never heard of him before'? Well, I have published 53 books and the New York Times once called me the world's best selling humorist—that was a big honor. Of course at the time, they were trying to sell me a subscription. Now... now wait... how many have seen me on the many *Mary Tyler Moore Shows* I've done? ... How many of you were even born when they did those shows?"

"That was a long time ago... and I've aged some... sometimes when I'm stooping down to tie my shoes I think, 'what else can I do while I'm down here.'"

Larry Wilde started his career (performer, writer, and motivational humorist), he said, as the only Jewish shoeshine boy in Jersey City who, then ten, discovered the best way to "prevent getting beat up" [by neighboring gangs] was to make his assailants laugh. Later in Miami, as a clerk-typist in the Marine Corps' Special Services, he persuaded his Warrant Officer that humor did not compromise the "fighting esprit" and was allowed to produce shows on the base. After his fun with the Marine Corps, he enrolled at the University of Miami—then encouraging Vets to their ranks. This led him into a gig of lip-synching at local beach clubs to supplement his GI Bill and, on a night when his record player failed, into stand-up comedy. With graduation behind him, he went on the road performing stand-up at any club that would take him. Twelve exhausting years later but with fresh inspiration drawn from a fortuitous visit with his idol, Ed Wynn, he began his famous interviews. Sixteen of the greatest comedians of the time became the subjects of a first book, *Great Comedians Talk About Comedy*. Success with it sent him on further and *How the Great Comedy Writers Create Laughter* was published.

Serendipity, like a shadow, followed the resolute Wilde, turning him with surprised amusement toward success after success. His joke books sold millions over the next twenty years. Las Vegas and New York bookings, "at the best clubs", television commercials and hundreds of speaking engagements brought him to the present where he spends his time teaching the motivational value of humor.



(Continued on page 9)

(Wilde from page 8)

"Most comedians today need writers," he said, though some of his favorites; Robin Williams, Jerry Seinfeld and Billy Crystal are genuinely spontaneous... do much of their own scripting. Precision is required in good comedy, it needs to be tight he told us—Paddy Chayevsky, Herman Wolk and Ernest Hemmingway, all in a special way, contributed to this fond idea.

When Larry was asked about his critics, he responded, "There is nothing you can do about people who can't see the funny side of life" DLR

**Wednesday May 4,
A Conversation with
California Mystery
Writers**

Rhys Bowen, Laurie King
and John Lescroart

**7pm – 8:30pm
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Library
150 E. San Fernando Street,
Room 225-229
For information:
(408) 808-2397**

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Library
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California
Center for the Book**

(Blog or Blab from page 6)

fiction, where, as we all know, any resemblance to real life is purely coincidental.

Because the web is a public medium, any opinion piece you post in your blog or on your website is essentially the same thing as a newspaper column where you are the writer, the editor, and the publisher. No one is going to screen your work for libelous content. No one

is going to remind you of the form you signed not to disclose company-private or financial information. No one is going to tell you to keep a civil tongue in your head.

In the primal, junior-high part of our brains, we long to see the mighty fall or the snooty society dame get a cream pie square in the kisser. We hone the sarcastic edge of our wit. We daydream of the snappy comeback and long to talk trash with the big boys and girls. And boy, how we love to vent

But for those of who need to seethe about our day jobs, our bosses, and corporate policies we now need to think twice before we vent our workday frustrations online. The courts are siding with employers in these cases. Hosting services are scrambling to post restrictive policies on blogs.

Blogs are a wonderful medium to share your writing, your wit, and your insight. If you can develop a specialty niche in the blogging world, you could get famous. (All together now, writers, repeat after me: National Platform.)

Blogs are also the place to remember what your Mama taught you: if you can't say anything nice....

See you on the web, Ro

Kids 8 to 18, Choose Either

Jack London Writers Camp

Saturday, June 25th, 2005 - 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Cost - \$85 for full day (includes lunch)

Workshops include "Poetic Perceptions", "How to Lie Effectively", "Personification Play", and "What Do You Think—Opinion Writing"

—Or—

Writing Intensive

Saturday, June 25, 2005, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost \$100.00

Brainstorm, organize, draft, edit, and finalize.

For Information on both E-mail [peninsulayoungwriters @yahoo.com](mailto:peninsulayoungwriters@yahoo.com) or call (650) 325-7951

Contact now as registration is limited

Mini Profile

By Una Daly

Terry Simmons

"My son-in-law had a friend who told him that CWC met once a month at Barnes and Nobles and I went to one of the readings," is how new member, Terry Simmons, describes joining the club. She is looking forward to sharing ideas with others who find the same sense of accomplishment and excitement in creating and telling stories.



Terry has completed two mystery novels but would appreciate feedback from more experienced authors. She wants to learn more about writing, agents, and getting published.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Terry grew up in Sunnyvale. She was a licensed Vocational Nurse for approximately 18 years before transitioning into human resources specializing in Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmation Action. She loves to sing and paint having earned a BA in Art as well as her Nursing degree. She is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

Favorite Philosophy: "You can never find your way unless you set a goal but you should also never close your eyes to the other opportunities (or directions) that present themselves as you try to reach your goal. Sometimes the most exciting goal or achievement is the one that you weren't pursuing." UD

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

Grocho Marx

Do you want to sell books?

CWC Marin member Elisa Southard, accredited in public relations, has teamed up with the Learning Annex to present "9 Tools to Propel Your Marketing Message." Based *Break Through the Noise*, you'll learn how to transform your technical skills into marketing talent and be your own best advocate. Just for attending, you'll receive a copy of the Special Report *9 Marketing Traps to Avoid*.

May 11, 2005 in San Francisco. \$15 coupon available.
More info:

www.learningannex.com/search.taf?ccode=SF755

PUBLISHING The Inside Story

Join us for a panel discussion on the world of publishing, featuring participants from cutting-edge literary publications that feature fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

Adam Johnson, CSP's Marsh McCall Lecturer and Writer's Studio Coordinator, will lead the discussion, which will include Jodee Rubins, editor of *Ninth Letter*, the hippest new literary review as well as speakers from *Zoetrope: All Story*, *McSweeney's*, and other publications.

There will be time for questions and an opportunity to meet panel members.

Saturday May 14th 2 p.m.

Location: Jordon Hall, Building 420, Rm. 040

This event is free and part of the Stanford Continuing Education program located at Stanford.

The Saturday Poets present their reading series featuring: Geri Doran followed by an open mike on Wednesday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Il Piccolo Caffè, 1219 Broadway, Burlingame.

Contact Amy MacLennan at

amy.maclennan@saturdaypoets.org

650-631-5732 or www.saturdaypoets.org.

Announcements

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Reminder

**Our May Meeting
will be held on
Wed, May 11
at the
Lookout
Restaurant
in
Sunnyvale**

**(Part of the mu-
nicipal golf course
complex)**



Write a column—
Anything Goes (Almost).
That's the name of the column space and we mean it. Your ski down Mount Everest, your first PGA tournament, your thoughts on the "book table" or the Arts Community in Nepal. Make it opinionated, informational, persuasive, and. Email it to Una Daly, our columns editor, before the 16th of the month.

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

**The BOOK TABLE
at Club Meetings
hosting old reads and
new adventures**

Clean off your shelves and bring in your old books—those you've read a dozen times or won't read at all. Bring them to our club book table and give others an opportunity ... And you TV couch potatoes, come pick up new readings por nada. It's a great deal— and the return policy is quite lenient.

Every monthly meeting, the Book Table is set.

GOT NEWS?

Know of an event that needs reporting—one coming up or happening now. Email our news editor—he/she'll hop on it or appoint one of our many staff members.

**Book Reviews
Committee Meetings
Critique Groups
Reading Fours
Book-store openings
Conferences**

If it's of interest to writers we want to publish it.

writerstalk@comcast.net

**Santa Clara Adult Education
CREATIVE WRITING
WORKSHOP**

Fictions, fables, facts, memoirs, mysteries and more!
Learn the elements of creative writing.

Instructor: Edie Matthews
Weekly on-going classes in Santa Clara.

Tues. 1:00-3:PM
Valley Village
390 N. Winchester Bl.

Free, except for \$3 Lab fee.
Register at class or on-line at
www.scae.org or call 423-3500



**South
Bay
Writers'**

Open Mic

First Friday each Month
7:30 — 9:30 pm
Borders Books
50 University Ave, Los Gatos

Third Friday each Month
7:30 — 9:30 pm
Barns and Noble
Pruneyard in Campbell

Read from your own prose or poetry, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. It's good experience and great fun—and if your knees wobble a little, we won't notice.

For a spot at the podium, contact Bill Baldwin beforehand.

408 730 9622 or email
wabaldwin@aol.com
or reserve at

www.southbaywriters.com

**The San Fernando Branch of CWC presents their
Writers Journey Conference**

June 3rd and 4th.

The focus this year is on the Mystery of Writing. Writer Contest - Prizes \$100, \$50, \$25 Fee: \$5, Deadline May 3rd. Check out the details on our website - www.CalWritersSFV.com For more, Contact Carol Wood at pres@hazelst.com



California Writers Club

South Bay Branch
1125 Miguel Ave
Los Altos, CA 94024

www.southbaywriters.com

Stamp(s)

MEMBER

Address Correction Requested

SAVE THESE DATES

Board of Directors
May 4, 6:30p, Vickies

General Meeting
May 11, 6p
Lookout Restaurant

Open Mic
May 6, 7p
Borders, Los Gatos
May 20, 7p
B&N in the Pruneyard

WritersTalk Deadline
May 16 to editor

Editors Pow Wow
May 23, 10am
Orchard Valley Coffe

General Membership meeting—2nd Wenesday

— 0 —

Lookout Restaurant
605 Macara Ave., Sunnyvale
(Sunnyvale Golf Course)

See Map

