



WRITERSTALK

Volume 18
Number 6
June 2010

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club

June Speaker Awaken Your Genius with Dr. Andrei Aleinikov!

by Bill Baldwin

Expect a memorable experience at our June meeting.

Have you ever written a book in under five minutes and published it less than a day later? Come and learn how it can be done!

In April, the members of the CWC Central Coast branch, guided by Dr. Andrei Aleinikov, united to try to break an “unbeatable” Guinness world record.

In a flamboyant presentation, Dr. Aleinikov encouraged members and guests to “open up.” He supplied techniques and methods to awaken our creative writing genius.

Get a taste of what happened at centralcoastwriters.org/ccw-5minbook.htm.

The resulting book includes excerpts from Dr. Aleinikov’s presentation, contributions of participants and guests, and photos of the event. See details at academyofgenius.com/academyofgenius_new_007.htm.

Who is Dr. Andrei Aleinikov?

He is the founding president of the International Academy of Genius, “the most creative man in the world,” and the “the world’s leading expert on MegaCreativity,” based on his discovery that the human mind can generate more than 1,000,000 new ideas per minute. His book, *MegaCreativity: Five Steps to Thinking Like a Genius*, became a best-seller in Asia.

Dr. Aleinikov has been nominated for the President’s National Medal of Science. His Genius Education Methodology (GEM) brought him the 2005 George Washington Honor Medal and the 2003 Outstanding Educator Award for Innovative and Creative Teaching. At Troy University he was nominated for U.S. Professor of the Year and the Robert Foster Cherry Great Teaching Award. He founded the International Academy of Genius in 1995.

Find out more about Dr. Aleinikov and the International Academy of Genius at academyofgenius.com.

Then join us on June 8. We may shoot for another record! WT



Dr. Andrei Aleinikov

**SBW Elections are held at the June meeting.
See pages 8 and 9 for candidate information.**

May Recap Wendy Nelson Tokunaga by Andrea Galvacs

Between President Dave LaRoche’s usual announcements and Cathy Bauer’s roaming with her microphone, Meredy Amyx reminded us all that elections for our board of directors will take place next month. She urged all the members to nominate, run and vote for the open positions, some of which have postulants already.

Our guest of honor and speaker was Wendy Nelson Tokunaga. After spending some time in Japan, she came back to the USA and is now a member of SBW.

The road she trod to publication was a long one because her forte had been music, but in the 1990’s Wendy started writing. She took a creative writing class, knowing that she wanted to write about Japan and Japanese culture. Fourteen weeks later, at the end of this class, she had written three short stories that eventually appeared in Japan in publications in English.

Wendy wrote her first novel, *Lost in Translation*, about Japan as well. Her critique group gave her a lot of praise, therefore a lot of hope, but the number of rejection slips she received was seventy-five! Persistent and perseverant, she wrote another novel, *No Kidding*, not about Japan, which was also rejected.

She advised that “you have to diversify when getting feedback” because different eyes will see things in different ways.

Self-publishing and print-on-demand were just beginning at that time, and Wendy set out to learn about them. She

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President's Prowling

by Dave LaRoche
President, South Bay Writers

Coming Up

As I am leaving the podium (and this column) because new ideas, fresh vision, and untapped and ready energy are required for a healthy club. We've had some fun, and I look forward to even more in my less-laden membership: skill advancement, networking discourse, programs filled with useful information, and enough time to eat a meal while it's hot. My parting wish is that you have gained as much from our association as I have, and I thank you for my experience and growth—no dirge, however, or any string instruments.



I first thought I might use this space, this time, to talk about the road we have traveled, the sights we have seen, and the successes along the way, but instead I am going to say it was a damn fine trip and encourage any of you to take it. There *are* bumps, but only enough to keep you awake. We have a great group, a large branch, a versatile and active club; we breathe deeply and are healthy.

There are opportunities coming up, a host of them, and we are ready to exploit those garnering our interest. It's the nature of good health, that readiness. The first that comes to mind is on our board of directors; with the bylaws revision, there will be room for two more in the room. Any member can run for these positions—seats without specified responsibility but with an opportunity to participate and become acquainted just the same.

Our conference in September is on track and will be demanding attention beyond what our Working Group, already significantly committed, can afford. Any member can associate and help: contact Bill Belew, our logistics coordinator. He might have an offer difficult to refuse.

For two years running now we have opened our writing awareness to a Young Writers Workshop. Marilyn Fahey/Jamie Miller ran it in 2009, and Karen Sweet/Suzette Gamero this past April. With outstanding success from both, we will do it again and it isn't too early to begin. Keep in mind that we are up on the learning curve now and, while the program is challenging, it's doable and the tool box is full. Sign up.

NorCal Group is open to ideas and vision, and people to bring them along. This new association of northern California branches (nine altogether) is our first attempt at branch collaboration and the sharing of writing and publishing know-how. We look for new members and meet every other month in Oakland on Saturday. I chair this group, and if you're interested, tap my shoulder and I'll tell you more about it.

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Join With Us

We have a membership category that fits you. Dues are \$45 per year plus a one-time \$20 initiation fee. Contact the Membership Chair, Marjorie Johnson.



WRITERSTALK

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Submissions

Members of the South Bay Writers Club are encouraged to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. Suggested word limits are not absolute; query the editor. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com; or mail double-spaced, typewritten copy to

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Guest Columns

Almost Anything Goes (400 words)

News Items (400 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

to Andrea Galvacs
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Creative Works

Short Fiction (1800 words)
Memoir (1200 words)
Poetry (300 words)
Essay (900 words)

Accolades

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Announcements and Advertisements

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

An announcement is information of interest and value to writers that does not provide direct economic benefit to its originator. Announcements are published free of charge.

Advertising is accepted on the basis of its interest and value to writers. Advertising rates for Club members, \$7 per column inch; non-members, \$10. We will assist or insist with layout.

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Editor's Perspective

by Dick Amyx
Editor

What's in a club?



The name of our club is South Bay *Writers*; it's a *writers'* club, so we'd expect its members to be *writers*, right? And because we are members of a writers' club, we can identify ourselves as writers. To that extent, the club helps us define at least one aspect of ourselves.

Well, yes, we're writers, but not all of the same kind. Lots of different genres are represented: some of us are interested in poetry, some in fiction, some in nonfiction, some in screenplays, and some in memoirs. On top of that, we bring virtually all levels of experience, from some who are working to get their second or third novels published to some who have just begun to realize an interest in writing. Some of us have a goal that includes fame and fortune while others of us are striving only for personal accomplishment. Further, some of us are trying very hard to improve our technical skill and our craft so that we might make a mark on the literary world while others of us are trying to do the best job we can with a memoir intended only for family and friends. Some of us have flamboyant personalities and can hardly wait to do the talk-show circuit, and others want only to be left the hell alone so that we can get about our solitary business. Yet we all call ourselves writers, we all belong to the same writers' club, and we all enjoy the atmosphere and the associations we find there.

The club helps us reinforce our notion of ourselves as writers, but at the same time, the mixture of interests, skill levels, goals, and personalities we bring to our association helps to define the nature of the club. The activities we create and choose, such as classes, critique groups, and workshops, represent a group energy and a commitment to learning about writing and improving our writing skills. The work that we proudly offer to others in *WritersTalk* is visible evidence of our practice of writing; that display of excellent contributions encourages others to strive and offer their works for consideration, too. South Bay Writers may provide the brackets and the bar, but it is we, singly and together, who decide where the bar is to be placed (and SBW sets its bar pretty darn high).

We further help to shape South Bay Writers by the kinds of voluntary service we offer to the group, whether in leadership or in supporting roles. There are many ways that we can give service to the club. Some of us choose to run for elected office on the board of directors; others prefer to volunteer their special interests and skills as committee chairs—maintaining the membership rolls, facilitating critique groups, staging workshops, getting publicity for the club, or offering hands-on labor of a number of kinds at the East of Eden writers conference (there will be a small army of us hustling about EoE, and more are always needed).

And all of us can participate in shaping the club by the officers we elect. The June 8 meeting will include our annual election of officers. In SBW, there are no provisions for ballots by mail or any other means: you can vote only by being present at the meeting. This will be our opportunity, regardless of our particular interest in writing, our level of skill, our personality, or our way of participating in the club otherwise, to help define the club that helps us to define ourselves.

See you there. WT

Erratum: The following paragraph in "The NorCal Retreat" on page 6 of the May issue should read "Nora reminded us that we want to effect an emotional response in the reader: 'If *you* don't scare, *they* won't care,' she said."

The first instance of "care" should have been "scare."

Young Writers Hone Their Craft

by Suzette Gamero

Twenty-five aspiring teen writers attended the all-day 2010 Young Writers Workshop sponsored by the CWC South Bay Branch on April 17, 2010, at the West Valley Presbyterian Church in Cupertino. The event was co-chaired by members Suzette Gamero and Karen Sweet.

Workshop participants began the day with a formal greeting in the main hall where they reviewed the day's schedule and met the morning workshop presenters. Participants then attended two morning sessions of their choice. The 2010 Young Writers Workshop was officially under way.



Playwright and literacy tutor Joe Cannon helps his group of young writers understand the importance of powerful dialogue. Photo: Jamie Miller

The morning sessions were as follows:

The Importance of Powerful Dialogue, presented by Joe Cannon, playwright and literacy tutor (top-rated session of the day):

"I liked how we chose an identity, quality, and desire and had to make dialogue from it."

"I liked how we got to create our own characters and we got feedback on our stories."

Telling Tales, presented by Debra Ting, master storyteller:

"I learned a lot about orally presenting stories. Playing games was fun."

Blogging, presented by Bill Belew, professional blogger and SBW member:

"I liked how he gave us a lot of ideas and how he went through the characteristics of a good blog and blogger."

Participants were reunited in the main hall for lunch. The teens relaxed with fellow participants, talked about their morning writing experiences, and continued writing exercises begun in morning sessions.

The one afternoon session, **Comedy Writing**, was presented by English instructor, comic, and SBW member Edie Matthews:

"I liked the examples of the different types of jokes."

The day ended with every attendee completing a feedback form on how they experienced the day and how the club can improve its future outreach to young writers. Over two-thirds indicated interest in more writing workshops.

Karen and I extend our thanks to the presenters and club volunteers whose assistance made the workshop possible. Thank you for caring enough to make the 2010 Young Writers Workshop a positive day, offering young writers new lessons on craft. WT

Volunteer Your Help at EoE

We're looking for volunteers to help out at the East of Eden conference in September. Tasks include lending a hand with registration, shepherding speakers, and providing transportation to and from the airport.

Email Bill Belew:
wcbelow@gmail.com

July Workshop: Practice Your Pitch!

Get ready for the 2010 East of Eden Writers Conference (or any conference). At this all-day workshop at the Lookout Inn, we'll work on:

- √ your conference strategy
- √ dealing effectively with agents
- √ crafting your pitch
- √ practicing your pitch in one-on-one practice sessions

Saturday, July 31, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lookout Inn

\$20 for CWC members, \$25 for nonmembers

Lunch included.

Go to southbaywriters.com for details and registration.

Elevator Speeches

Luanne Oleas

Shedding Cats: A technical writer knows her life is in a rut. She lives with ten cats, works with misfits, bangs the Director of Engineering on Tuesday nights, and writes short stories to escape. A workplace shooting convinces her that she needs to do more than just shed a few cats.

Old Husbands' Tales: A widowed receptionist, who stays grounded by remembering her male relatives' stories, starts a lottery pool at a failing startup to raise her coworkers' spirits. The ethnically diverse group wins the jackpot and stars in a reality TV show for charity about their first month as rich people.

Pat Bustamante

"Murder solves many problems . . ." Myrna May so enjoys a good murder mystery. **Bet-A-Bundle** is about money and murder in Silicon Valley, second novel in a series featuring a 73-year-old woman who talks to spirits, enjoys eccentricity, and solves mysteries. The stories? Death and retribution in the Electronic Age—timelessly stunning.

Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Jaguar Princess: Princess Chanlajun Pex lives at a Maya ruin. When a looter known only as Conquistador threatens her with a knife beside an underground river, she invokes the Mayan crocodile curse. Pex, armed with a jaguar talisman and aided by her pilot/geologist friend Kedar, pursues Conquistador in a quest for justice.

2010 East of Eden: Workshop Heaven

by Rosanne Davis

It might be a record. A 3-day writers' conference with 48 workshops. Starting at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, and ending at noon on Sunday, September 26, East of Eden 2010 will offer 8 workshop sessions, 6 classes at a pop.

Too many numbers for you? We're talking about an intense writing education, dude.

The 48 are grouped into 5 tracks:

General Fiction: David Corbett will teach "Openings," how to grab your reader from the first scene, as he does expertly in his new novel, *Do They Know I'm Running?* Selden Edwards will talk about "Fact and Fiction," something he combined so well in *The Little Book*.

Antoinette May, author of the historical novels *Pilate's Wife* and *The Sacred Well*, will team-teach "Point of View for Fiction" with poet and fiction writer Kevin Arnold. Thomas B. Sawyer, bestselling novelist and head writer for *Murder She Wrote*, will tell us, or rather, show us, how to "Show, Not Tell."

Mystery: And speaking of murder we write, who better to talk about "Forensics" than novelist Robin Burcell, an

FBI-trained forensic artist who worked for more than two decades in law enforcement. We don't know if Penny Warner packs heat, but she has published over 50 books including two award-winning mystery series and *The Official Nancy Drew Handbook*. "Learn How to Build Suspense" from Penny and also how to hone that "First Chapter Hook."

Nonfiction: Geri Spieler wrote *Taking Aim at the President: The Remarkable Story of the Woman Who Shot at Gerald Ford* based on extensive research as well as interviews with the perpetrator, Sara Jane Moore. Geri is the perfect presenter for the workshop "Fact and Memory." Matilda Butler and Kendra Bonnett collaborated on the award-winning collective memoir, *Rosie's Daughters*, and will team up to teach the importance of "Settings and Place" and how to use "Conversations" in nonfiction.

Poetry: This year's conference is wonderfully represented in poetry. We'll have the first Poet Laureate of Santa Clara County, Nils Peterson, who will team-teach two workshops with Sally Ashton, poet and editor of *DMQ Review*.

They will discuss "Detail" in poetry and how to break into "Literary Magazines." Award-winning poet Indigo Moor will also teach two workshops, "Discovery" and "Imagery/Metaphor."

Business of Writing: This workshop track covers editing, publishing, and marketing—all the skills writers must cultivate to be successful. Self-publishing gurus Carla King and Lisa Alpine offer two workshops: "Social Media" and "Where to Publish." The "Critique Groups" workshop is taught by Becky Levine, author of *The Writing & Critique Group Survival Guide*, who knows her stuff. Publisher Carolyn Hayes Uber is covering three topics: "Editing," "Book Design" (with designer Sue Campbell), and "Publishers."

If you were counting, you know that does not add up to 48. This was just a sampling. For the full list of workshops and presenters, go to our website (southbaywriters.com) and click over to the East of Eden Writers Conference area.

For the full education, come to the conference. 48 workshops in 3 days. Wow! WT

Accolades

by Jackie Mutz

I made the May meeting and had the distinct pleasure of listening to several people talk about their writing accomplishments. Here is what they had to say, either at the meeting or via email:



Jackie Mutz
Contributing Editor

- **Nina Amir** started a sister blog to *Write Nonfiction in November* (writenonfictioninnovember.wordpress.com) called *Write Nonfiction Now* (writenonfictionnow.com) which will have lots of information on writing and publishing. Her other blog, *How to Blog a Book* (howtoblogabook.com), is also available for your viewing pleasure.
- **Bill Belew's** network of blog sites

had 1.7 million views in April with 2.4 million page views overall. Very impressive!

- **Bill Baldwin** is now putting himself out there and entering writing contests and has printed out Novel #3 to edit.
 - **Robert Balmanno** will publish his second novel, *Runes of Iona*, a dystopian futuristic story, through Regent Press at the end of June 2010. The initial print run planned is 3000. Look for it online at Amazon.com, through the publisher, or at your local bookstore. Robert is also the author of *September Snow* (June 2006).
 - **Pat Bustamante** received honorable mention for her written work and won a \$25.00 prize.
 - **Carolyn Donnell's** poem titled "Tango" will be posted on the blog cafegirl.wordpress.com. The poem captures the essence of Tango and dance itself.
- **Marjorie Johnson** had two mathematical articles appear in the *Proceedings of the Thirteenth International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications*, held in Patras, Greece, in July, 2008. The papers, "Fibonacci Phyllotaxis by Asymmetric Cell Division: Zeckendorf and Wythoff Trees," and "Lucas Quotient Lemmas," are about the amazing discoveries about the growth of plants on the cellular level.
 - **Cathy Robbins' book** *All Indians Do Not Live in Teepees (or Casinos)*, approved for publication by the board of the University of Nebraska Press, is scheduled for release in 2011. It will be published in UNL's trade list, not its academic list, and so is meant for the general reader. Sounds like a very good read. Congratulations, Cathy.

Continued on page 11

New Members

by Jackie Mutz

The South Bay branch of the California Writers Club continues to grow steadily. We have had a flurry of interesting new members join in the last couple of months:

- **William (Bill) Baeck**, a seasoned, published author, is lead writer/editor for Adobe Press for *Adobe Illustrator 9.0 Classroom in a Book* and *Adobe Photoshop 6 Classroom in a Book*. He writes about travel and history.
- **Susan Freeman**, a paralegal with a bachelor's degree in psychology, took up writing as a hobby and enjoys all types. She also is interested in joining a critique group.
- **Quanie Mitchell**, fiction writer and reality TV show junkie, writes mainly humorous stories but has discovered she likes writing mysteries as well. She joined SBW to "be around other writers in a supportive environment" and gain insight into the intricacies of getting published.
- **Julie Crane**, an attorney specializing in labor and employment law, joined SBW "in the hopes of finding a supportive environment" that would provide motivation to continue writing. Currently working on a memoir about finding her birth mother, she is interested in joining a critique group. Email her at julie@cranefamily.org.
- **Pamela Oliver-Lyons**, enrolled in classes in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, joined SBW at the suggestion of one of her teachers. At the beginning stages of her writing, she is open to new experiences. Her focus now is short fiction. On a personal note, Pamela is a volunteer for the Papillon Club of America Rescue Trust. Her work background has included bank examining, ministry, and volunteer long-term care ombudsman for the senior population. Contact Pamela at polpap@prodigy.net.
- **Wilma Reiber**, who works at home, discovered SBW through Meetup. Joining after her second meeting, she enjoyed meeting many writers from different backgrounds with "one

common passion: writing." A fiction writer, she notes that "writing is the fun part and editing/publishing are the interesting and exciting parts." Wilma can be reached at wreiber@comcast.net.

- **Cathy Robbins**, new to the San Jose area, joined SBW after meeting Marcela Dickerson at the Central Y. Originally from the Southwest and moving to the San Jose area to be closer to family, Cathy has a particular interest in nonfiction where stories are told from an individual's point of view. Interested in meeting other published writers, Cathy can be reached at crobbs41@gmail.com. See "Accolades" for information about her new book.
- **Wendy Nelson Tokunaga** (our May speaker) recently joined SBW after hearing "great things from Martha Alderson and Jana McBurney-Lin." She has published two novels with St. Martin's Press, and two nonfiction children's books by Kidhaven Press,

and she is working on her next novel. You will find Wendy as a speaker during the East of Eden Conference and more interesting info on her website WendyNelsonTokunaga.com.

So at our next meeting, make our new members feel welcome. SBW is a special group of writers and a great group of people with, as Wilma Reiber said, one thing in common: a passion for writing. And that is a good thing. WT

When you are writing something over again to make it more impressive, do not try to think of better words. Try to see the people better—what they did and how they looked and felt.

—Brenda Ueland

It's That Time Again

by Marjorie Johnson, Membership Chair

Renewal Reminder: The 2009–2010 CWC South Bay membership year ends June 30. Renewal dues \$45 keep you a member in good standing through June 30, 2011. Save \$20 by not letting your membership lapse.

Benefits of Membership:

- Savings on dinner at regular meetings
- Savings on conferences/seminars
- Networking and fellowship with other writers
- Getting your creative work published in *WritersTalk*
- Getting a free web page on the SBW website
- Free advertising for writers on the SBW website

Three Ways to Renew Your Membership:

To pay by credit card, renew online at southbaywriters.com

To pay in person by cash or check, give \$45 to Marjorie at the next meeting.

To pay by US mail, send your basic information with your check for \$45 to **CWC South Bay, P. O. Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055, Attn: Marjorie**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Do it now so that you don't forget. Small appreciation gifts will be available for *renewed* members at the June 8 meeting.

Write on!

Writecraft: An Introduction to Revision

by Lisa Eckstein

Writing an entire book is an impressive accomplishment that most people in the world haven't achieved. Perhaps for that reason, many people don't realize that a completed first draft isn't ready for a book deal. But writers know (or ought to!) that the next words you write after "The End" should never be "Dear Agent." One of the most important steps toward publication is revision.



Lisa Eckstein
Contributing Editor

Revision is rewriting, often on a large scale. It doesn't mean going through your manuscript to tighten up a few troublesome sentences, fix misspellings, and correct that part where you forgot your protagonist's eye color. That level of editing is another crucial step, but save it for later. During revision, expect to make major changes to the content and order of your scenes and chapters, and treat everything you've written as a potential candidate for deletion.

It may horrify you to contemplate modifying a story you worked so hard to write. If you've never tackled a revision before, you may have no idea how to begin. In the process of revising three novels, I've figured out some strategies that work for me, and I hope what I've learned will help you face revision.

Get room to breathe. Don't dive into revision immediately after finishing a draft. Spend at least a month away from your manuscript and try not to even think about it so that you can return with a fresh perspective. Give yourself a vacation from writing or work on a different project. Read. Perhaps do research or get a book about revision (recommendations at end of column). You're probably not going to succeed in putting your story entirely out of your mind, but that's the goal during this break.

Hold your breath and read. Reading what you've written is the scariest part

of the revision process. Prepare yourself by remembering that all first drafts stink and your favorite books were once in the same awkward phase. Set your expectations appropriately, and you might discover your draft isn't really that bad. It surely contains some wonderful gems, which you may have forgotten all about if you began the book a long time ago.

Print your manuscript for reading so that you can see your words in a new context if you've only viewed them on screen until now. Keep a pen handy, but don't mark up the text too much on the first reading. You want to get a feel for the book as a whole, so read in as few sittings as possible and limit your notetaking.

Obsess. Now that you've read the manuscript, you know what you're really working with and how it differs from what you imagined as you wrote. Start thinking about what you'll do to make the book better. Don't worry about formal planning just yet. Take the time you need to muse over plot directions, unanswered backstory questions, and possible new challenges for your characters. Let your mind run wild. Keep track of your ideas on sticky notes or giant sheets of paper, in the manuscript or a computer file—whatever works best for you.

Plot and plan. When I get to the stage of planning how I'm going to change a novel during revision, it involves index cards. I buy them in different colors and make a card for every plot event, then spread them across the floor and spend days rearranging them. This is a great way to get a visual overview of an entire story. You can get even more complex by incorporating stickers or colored string to denote characters, settings, and subplots. Or you may prefer to plan your revision with an outline or spreadsheet. Whatever method you choose, it's easy to spend months reorganizing the representations of scenes instead of actually starting a rewrite, so set yourself a deadline to complete planning.

Use this time to come up with exciting new twists, figure out how to plug plot holes, choose characters to remove or combine, and decide on other big adjustments. You'll inevitably rethink some of these decisions as you revise, so

stay open to ideas for further changes. Your second draft will be a huge improvement over the first, but it still won't be perfect. You may want to decide in advance that you will focus on certain aspects of your book during the initial revision and ignore others to work on later.

Write it again. Eventually you have to stop preparing and write. Start small and only expect to get through a page or two during your early revising sessions. You may find rewriting more difficult and slower than producing a first draft. I do. Revision is challenging because you have to write the same book but do it better this time. Luckily, you know you've already managed to write it once, and you're going to gain wonderful satisfaction from making it stronger.

I've always revised from beginning to end so that I don't introduce inconsistencies, but some writers address scenes by type or jump around. You can make changes in a copy of your first draft document; however, consider starting a new file and typing everything fresh, referencing either your manuscript or your memory. Writing from scratch helps you avoid holding on to old material that you're better off without. As you gain practice with revision, you'll discover your own methods for turning a first draft into the book it was meant to be.

For more advice on revising, look to these great guides:

- *Revision & Self-Editing* by James Scott Bell. The section on self-editing provides an overview of fiction elements such as character, plot, scenes, and dialogue. The revision section offers specific tactics for approaching a rewrite.
- *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers* by Renni Browne and Dave King. I've recommended this book before, and I'm still enthusiastic about the critical insights and careful explanations in this tutorial by two editors. **WT**

The beautiful part of writing is that you don't have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon.

—Robert Cormier

Candidates for SBW Office

The following are statements of 200 words or less submitted before the specified deadline by candidates for SBW office.

Nominations remain open until the time of voting, which takes place at the general meeting on June 8th. Candidates will be given two minutes each to address the members at that meeting.

An unusual feature of the election process this time will be the presentation of a revised set of bylaws for adoption by vote of the members present. Existing and revised bylaws were distributed at the May general meeting and mailed to all members during May in compliance with the existing re-

quirement to publish changes in the newsletter at least two weeks prior to voting.

If the revised bylaws pass by a majority vote, two new Board positions designated “member-at-large” will be created. Nominations and self-nominations for those positions will be entertained following adoption of the new bylaws.

The term of office for the newly elected Board will commence on July 1 under the new bylaws; otherwise, on the date of the July meeting if the new bylaws do not pass.

Meredy Amyx
2010 Nominations and Election Chair

President

Bill Baldwin



I'm honored to be considered for South Bay Writers president.

I've been president before—I helped build the club from a small group of 20 or 30 people that didn't meet in the summer into one of the largest branches of the California Writers Club.

I've served on the CWC central board, including five years as state secretary. I've helped produce both the CWC Asilomar conferences and our own East of Eden conferences.

I've now spent two years as SBW VP, finding and booking our dinner speakers.

As head of our open mic program, I've spent ten years providing a public forum for our members to read from their works.

I'm reliable, dedicated, and hard-working. I pursue my own ideas but also consider those of others. I'm open to new approaches and visions. If elected I will ask for your ideas and pursue your hopes for this club. My own interests include developing an annual or biennial writing contest and awards dinner with special guest speaker, outreach to the many diverse groups in the local area, a community scholarship, and strengthening our new NorCal CWC association. Together, let's sail on!

President

Bill Belew



I have not missed a monthly meeting of CWC SBW in 5 years. I serve on the SBW executive board and also as logistics chair for East of Eden. Additionally, I work as evangelist for SBW by creating and holding regular Meetups to attract new members and am a contributing editor to Writers Talk.

My writing platform includes 50-80,000 readers daily, 24 million pages read overall and 15,000 subscribers ready to read when I hit publish. I regularly speak on writing and platform building across the US and have two published books.

After serving as Intelligence Officer in the Navy, I lived and worked as an educator in Asia (Japan, China, Russia...) for nearly 20 years. I now mentor dissertation students and new faculty for University of Phoenix as well as teach writing classes for UoP. I hold a PhD in education and MFA in creative non-fiction.

If elected, members of SBW can expect me to bring an emphasis on education and growth. Our monthly meetings and workshops will focus on improving our craft, building our platforms, and getting our work into the hands of more readers. I will also work to increase membership and networking opportunities.

**Vote in person at the June 8th general meeting.
The bylaws vote occurs during the first segment.**

Vice President

Nina Amir



Since I joined SBW, I have attended every meeting, joined the *WT* editorial board, spoken at the March meeting, and will lead a workshop, serve as a manuscript critique editor, and help with the pitch session at East of Eden. I also attended—and taught at—the CWC retreat.

I am a journalist, editor, author, and writing coach/publishing mentor with 30+ years of experience. I have edited or written for more than 45 local, national and international publications producing hundreds of articles. My essays have appeared in five anthologies. I write five blogs and one internet column.

I have a proven track record as a book editor, and my clients' proposals regularly get them agent contracts. I speak on topics related to writing, publishing, and platform. I also teach workshops, classes and teleseminars.

I have been involved with writer's conferences for many years and have hosted Write Nonfiction in November for three years. This makes me well connected to many industry experts and speakers locally and nationally.

If elected, I will emphasize education and growth. Our monthly meetings will focus on improving our craft, building platforms, and getting our work published. I also will stress increasing educational programs and membership.

Secretary

Sylvia E. Halloran



I attended my first SBW meeting in October of 2004 at the recommendation of Edie Matthews. It was, of course, the Halloween party, and provided an instant intimate look into the true makeup of the group.

In spite of this, I returned month after month. Recently thrust into a teaching role,

I depended on the knowledge and experience of the speakers at monthly meetings. Keeping up with meetings helped me keep up in class. Always stay a day ahead, that's my motto.

After some time passed, I became more confident, both as a teacher of writing and as a writer. I began to write more and more seriously, egged on by SBW members who shared their expertise on inspiration, organization, self-publishing, and where the brownies were kept.

If I ever fanned my participation with the group to the same fever pitch that my writing is taking, I would seek to become involved at the board level and help out with the real work of maintaining a superior organization. I would...

Oops. Run for office. For something like secretary. Yeah, I could do that.

Vice President

Colin Seymour



Sweating my East of Eden staffing coordinator duties since August has prepared me well to serve as vice president of South Bay Writers.

The vice president is the speaker coordinator for monthly meetings. Profiling the speakers in WritersTalk puts my three decades of daily newspaper journalism into play. I'm good to go.

My writing hasn't been all that visible to SBW during my two years as a member, although I do urge y'all to read my occasional theater reviews in the Mercury News or my boxing and grammar blogs on Examiner.com.

Exposing my unpublished memoir about living in a Negro household in the 1950s, and my political novel about sports journalism, has led me to Bill Baldwin's comforting Open Mic sessions. Bill and I will team easily as he returns to the SBW presidency.

I resisted some pressure to run for president, but my long-term goal is to lead SBW. I have many talented friends and other newspaper colleagues who should join this club and add to its diversity.

At 58, I seem young at SBW, just as I seem at the arts events I review. Like other arts groups, we need new blood. I'm well-positioned to bring it.

Treasurer

Danita Craft



I'm new to CWC SBW, but not to volunteering. My previous volunteer experience includes three years as Pack Committee Chair and fundraiser for BSA Pack 54 in Big Bear Lake. I was the Membership Chair for Venture Club in Big Bear Lake for one year. Most recently I was a finance committee member, fundraiser, and scrip coordinator for Long Beach Junior Crew in Long Beach, CA.

I have written several successful grants and am currently blogging at LiteracyView.com.

My recent work experience includes running the Big Bear Lake Library Literacy Program. I also work independently as a tutor and writer.

My goal when serving in any financial capacity is to twofold. I focus on increasing the prosperity and success of any organization I serve. I also strive to use those funds expeditiously to provide service and resources for the organization's members.

South Bay Writers Critique Groups— Part 5

by Carolyn Donnell

This month's critique group series features *Our Voices*. They meet at the Pruneyard Barnes & Noble in Campbell every other Tuesday from 7:15 to 9:30. The genres read in the group are fiction, memoir, and nontechnical nonfiction. They have two openings at the time of this writing.

Current members include Dave LaRoche, Madeline McEwen-Asker (both SBW members), Karen Hartley, and newcomer Catherine Dowling. Alexander (Alex) Leon is taking a leave of absence.



Our Voices: Madeline (Maddy) McEwen-Asker, Catherine Dowling, Karen Hartley.
Photo: Carolyn Donnell

Dave LaRoche, South Bay's president, is the leader. His current endeavor, *Laverne* (working title), is set in the San Fernando Valley in the late '50s. It deals with, as he puts it, "the challenge of young adulthood as those involved pick low-hanging fruit during an era of loose living and scant application of morality." He has published short stories in collections. He says that publishing is nice, but that the main goal is to learn how to write.

Madeline McEwen-Asker writes whodunits (a complex, plot-driven variety of the detective story in which the puzzle is the main feature of interest). In this group she is reading *Daisy Chains*—"a romp to unearth rogues." She also belongs to Writer's Salon (see the April 2010 *WritersTalk*), where she is reading another of her novels.

Karen Hartley, writing sometimes as K. C. Dobbs, is working on a romance—*Devon's Destiny*. She has also written position papers and a memoir of her

days in Brooklyn, New York, and has been published in college literary magazines. She is the leader of Le Boulanger Writers.

Catherine Dowling is a newcomer to this group. She works in nonfiction. Her current project is in the spiritual/psychology realm, tentatively titled *Wild and Precious Life*. Previous publications include *Rebirthing and Breathwork*, published by Piatkus London 2000, as well as articles and short stories in both UK and Ireland.

Catherine has been to only a couple of meetings, but she says the group is great fun and the members have given her valuable feedback. The group keeps her writing. Dave says, "Our members are dedicated, enthusiastic, clever, and one hundred percent present, which makes the experience a peak value."

This is another group that emails chapters ahead of time to allow for a more in-depth critique. Karen tries to read through once without marking, saving the pen for the second reading. Maddy marks her document in "a pleasant shade of purple." That might be less irritating than getting back something all marked in red. They also use a critique checklist, at least to start. This, they say, keeps everyone thinking in the same vein. The sheet includes the critiquer's name, the date and the title of the work. Five points are listed; compelling—do I want to keep reading; clever—am I entertained or amused; logical—why or why not; developed—ideas as well as descriptions; and last, structure and construction. Each item is rated from 1 to 5 with 5 as the best and 1 as in need of more work.

I don't know what their secrets are, but their critiques were thorough and well thought out. I was impressed.

If you are interested in finding or starting a critique group, you can begin by emailing networking@southbaywriters.com. You can join the South Bay Writers Yahoo group, SouthBay_Writers_Exchange, and ask about critique groups there.

It is still my goal to write something about every critique group with South Bay member participants. So if you're currently in a critique group and have not already been contacted by me about featuring your group in *WritersTalk*, you

can email the above networking email address with your contact information.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make critique groups and the lessons learned from them more available to all our members. WT

What It Means To Be Human

by Leslie Hoffman

human, *Homo sapiens*, *homo* human being, bipedal primate mammal: of, relating to, or characteristic of human; having human form or attributes; susceptible to or representative of the sympathies and frailties of human nature (such as inconsistency).

—Merriam-Webster

Humans are susceptible to "sympathies and frailties of human nature." These sympathies and frailties include emotional and intellectual inconsistency. As *sentient beings*, humans are capable of feeling empathy and compassion. Whether or not the aforementioned emotions are reasonable or logical in a given moment depends upon circumstances of that moment and where the reacting human being is "coming from," that is, his/her life experience to date.

To *feel* and *exhibit* anger and resentment, a human must *experience* anger and resentment. To *feel* and *exhibit* empathy and compassion, a human must *experience* empathy and compassion. Ideally, the latter attributes are taught and experienced from birth, but this is not always the case. Nature endows humans with the *potential* for empathy and compassion, but that potential must be nurtured by a child's environment in order for the seed to take root. Sometimes, the seed of compassion lies dormant until a child has the opportunity to venture out into a more worldly environment. If that same child remains in a cloistered environment into adulthood, its experience is limited to the beliefs of that specific faction of society.

Broadening one's life experience aids in eliminating fear of others outside of one's immediate environment. "To understand a man, you've got to walk a mile in his shoes, whether they fit or not." WT

Dateline: Rosewood

1923 New Year's Day

A bloody, bruised
white woman
stumbled from her home
in Sumner, Florida
claiming assault
by a negro man

1945 Auschwitz

Under an ashen sky
white men gathered
bloodhounds, guns, whiskey
and went after him

1955 Mayflower, Texas
Rosa Parks arrested
for refusing to give up
her bus seat to a white man

By the time it ended
seven people died
unknown dozens of blacks
driven from their homes
into neighboring swamps

1968 Montgomery, Alabama
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
assassinated

A once thriving
black community
called Rosewood
burned to the ground

1995 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
White supremacist Timothy McVeigh
bombs federal building

Satisfied
as if they'd simply
eaten a hearty meal
the upstanding citizens
of Sumner, Florida
staggered home
for a good night's sleep

1998 Laramie, Wyoming
Matthew Shepard beaten to death
for being homosexual

In the smoldering rubble
that used to be
Rosewood
the incessant ping of rain
echoed off tin roofs

2010 Brotherhood of Klans'
response to immigration:
"The racial war is among us.
It is time to fight."

—Leslie E. Hoffman

Letter to the Editor

I enjoyed reading your newsletter last night, Dick. I especially enjoyed the personal family stories by Julia Crane—did she meet her real mother after the phone call? I wondered—and the piece by Michael Freda that resembled a narrative poem or Ode to My Six Kids. Looks like you don't need to do too much editing and format fixing with your group. I read all the other stories too and thought well of each author. What a great group of talented writers!

Cheers, Kathy Highcove
Editor, West Valley Branch *In Focus*

June Attune

A tsk-tsk, a task set.
Deadline's here:
First draft's in waste basket.
Oh, advice is so easy to give:
"Do as I say"
But don't live as I live.

—Pat Bustamante

Accolades

Continued from page 5

- **Colin Seymour**, who recently returned to his daily newspaper roots, covered Penn State's quest to win the NCAA men's volleyball championship May 6–May 8 at Stanford, reporting for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Now that he has acquired a laptop computer, Colin says he will continue to subject himself to the intense deadline pressure such freelance assignments entail, ideally once or twice a month.

Sometimes life gets in the way of a writing schedule, which makes it more difficult to keep the writing momentum going. Take care of business, as they say, and then get back to writing. Like breathing, eating and sleeping, writing is a must for writers—stretches our minds and embraces our being. Tell us about your writing success stories at the monthly meetings or email me at accolades@southbaywriters.com. Or, if you need a little inspiration, check out my Creative Writing workshop through Santa Clara Adult Education (www.scae.org). WT

Recap: Wendy Tokunaga

Continued from page 1

heard that people who had self-published often were contacted by publishing houses or a contest offering the “Best Self-Published Book Award.” She entered the contest with *No Kidding* and won the prize. This encouraged her to send the novel to some agents, but they were “not impressed.”



Wendy Nelson Tokunaga: never quit learning about ways to improve your craft.

By that time Wendy was usefully networking, and when she finished *Midori by Moonlight* she gave it to a friend to read. This friend liked it and gave the novel to another, not an agent, but finally was told by one that “it could not be sold.” Again, because of her perseverance, Wendy sent novel number four to several agents but had no feedback. Although sometimes “painful,” writing is “what I do,” so Wendy started novel number five, taking classes and reading debut novels as a writer, asking herself “What is this writer doing that I can learn?”

Finally, Wendy went to graduate school because she was serious about her work. She applied to several MFA programs and in the fall of 2006 was accepted by the University of San Francisco. This is good for nonfiction, short stories, creative nonfiction, and poetry. “It’s expensive,” Wendy said, “but don’t take out a loan because you won’t earn it back.” Right in the middle of it she received an offer of a two-book deal but didn’t quit the program; she wanted to keep learning.

Wendy’s writing was reviewed in English publications in Japan; she considers “good experience” the

publication of her short stories in literary journals and nonfiction books for children, and is now working on a novel about family and the effect of a political sex scandal.

Wendy does not recommend self-publishing for fiction because there are too many unknowns. She does advocate conferences. A lot can be learned at them because they have different outlooks and perspectives and are good places to find out about agents and how best to use the internet.

In conclusion, Wendy said that she is still improving, loves to give speeches, and teaching the art of writing helps her in her own. We should all discover what, exactly, helps us in our writing!
WT

President’s Prowling

Continued from page 2

We have a fall workshop and a Holiday Party (new venue likely) still on our 2010 agenda. We will need a webmaster next year; Rosanne Davis is going to resign this particular interest (what a fabulous job she has done). And, speaking of outstanding accomplishment, it is rumored that our managing editor, Dick Amyx, might also be seeking a replacement.

No need to resist the knock, opportunity is always now—if you are listening and hear it, just open the door. WT

An Elegant Solution

If you find yourself
a victim of
unfortunate events,
and acts of
what Jeeves and Wooster
would have termed
“criminal
burglarity,”
and “unlawful miscreants”
have relieved you of
your priceless original
Andy Warhol
Marilyn Monroe,
do not worry!
All you have to do
is
just go manufacture
another one
yourself.

It will be an original too,
and every bit as
authentic.

—Stephen C. Wetlesen

© 2010 Stephen C. Wetlesen

Ode to an Ode

Ain't writing poetry grand?
—A flash of rhyming
—A dash of timing
A lightning bug in your hand
—Too tight and it dies
—Too loose and it flies
Quick now catch it if you can
—The synapse she pops
—The thought, it drops
Fool's gold in this miner's pan.

—Luanne Oleas

**East of Eden
writers
Conference**

September 24 -26, 2010
Salinas Community Center
Join us in Steinbeck Country

One low price includes:
▶ 48 workshops
▶ all meals & events
▶ multiple pitch sessions
with literary agents

Writing Contest
\$1000 Grand Prize!

\$375 until June 30, then \$435
Saturday Only and Student rates available

Why am I writing?

Ready to publish? Just starting out?
East of Eden is the conference for
writers of all levels.

Details at SouthBayWriters.com

Shopping

by Juliana Richmond

I love to shop—or used to, anyway, in the days when I could drive myself to the store and take my time perusing whatever I'd gone for. Since I am now sporting a new, artificial right leg, I no longer drive, and now all of my buying excursions are with Bert, mostly to the grocery store. Of necessity, he transports me everywhere and though I welcome his company, his attitude toward shopping is very different from mine. To Bert, it is a necessary evil for providing the rudiments of life: food for the table, gas for the car, fittings for a pipe, or a new pair of jeans.

Shopping is something I anticipate. One of the highlights of my week is the day the grocery ads appear in the morning's *Mercury News*. While Bert takes the front page, I glom onto the ads in the back of the issue. The world's news can wait; I want to know what we will be eating next week. As I sift through the many different ads from the stores, I sort out the ones that apply to our shopping orbit, which has narrowed considerably since Bert has been involved in the venture. No running to Lucky for that special on strawberries, to Cosentino's where they have the best lettuce, or Safeway for toilet paper. Now our excursion can extend to only two stores, or at the most, three. If one of them is Trader Joe's, Bert is fine with that. He likes the sample goodies that are invariably served there—and the peanut butter.

As I scan the ads, my mind is busy—*oh, good, pot roasts on sale at Nob Hill. Great for this rainy weather we've been having. And steaks too—we'll get some to have on hand. And the spring mix lettuce mélange is on sale at Lunardi's, along with several of my favorite veggies.* My mind is a veritable cache of dinner recipes as I continue to look over the ads and to write out my list.

Sometimes I think back to my early married days, and remember watching my mother and father going through this same routine together.

"Look, Paul," Mother might say, "There's a special on spareribs at Lucky's—wouldn't that taste good with the sauerkraut you got last week?" And

Dad would just puff on his pipe a little harder and grunt in agreement. I swore I would never use precious time in this way as I got older. There were certainly a lot more important things on which to spend one's time!

Now, Bert is not averse to food, and not totally averse to shopping for it. It's just that he doesn't want to spend much time in getting it. His method is certainly efficient. Do we need cookies—these look good (the most expensive ones on the shelf); the list says spareribs but the short ribs look better so that's what he orders from the butcher standing behind the counter. I like to look at the product, compare prices, ingredients, and calories. I've never bought organic milk; now it sits sneakily in our fridge (unless I've intercepted the purchase at the store) with "Not that kind—the 1% over there, honey." I add the endearment because I don't want to seem bossy, even though I know I am. I want to shop my way!

Buying vegetables is the worst. Picture this: we're a twosome in file, I with the walker, Bert following with the grocery cart. I bag a head of broccoli, toss it backwards into what I hope is our cart, avoiding Bert's pained expression. His indifference to broccoli is only exceeded by the shudder that Brussels sprouts bring forth. I proceed to the mixed salad greens, hoping Bert will be too busy buying the apples, as I've suggested, to notice how much lettuce I'm piling into the plastic bag. I love salad; Bert tolerates it, especially "that stemmy stuff."

"My gosh, haven't you got enough?" he remarks as I stuff another tong-full into the bag.

Now for some zucchini, and the asparagus looks good. I know I'm stretching my limits when I hear a muttered "Enough of that green stuff!" It's time to head for the pasta sauce and the meat counter.

Groceries aren't the only thing we shop for. Sometimes we go to Home Depot's garden section and that is where we tend to lose each other. While Bert shops for the basics—fertilizers, potting soil, washers for a leaky faucet—I wander up and down the aisles of the brightly blooming spring plants, wondering if I can get another six-pack of petunias into the basket on my walker. We've gotten separated, even

though we agreed to meet at the tomato plants, which I can't find. Neither, it seems, can Bert, and he has disappeared. I look in vain for his snowy hair while I ponder the pansies. Finally, tiring, I sit on a stack of bagged cement bundles and trust that we will connect soon.

Have you ever shopped for a bathing suit with a man? If Bert had his way, I'd be in a skimpy bikini. I know he is visualizing the models on the signs at the end of the aisle, but those models are not me. Not at this stage of life when my waist has disappeared and the only fat I carry is in my middle. No, what I need is a black or navy blue one-piece suit with no eye-catching features, a style that is at a minimum on these racks except in very large sizes. Besides, who cares when the wearer is sitting in a wheelchair?

The other day we went to Marshall's, my favorite browsing place, to shop for men's handkerchiefs, a difficult item in today's world of Kleenex. We didn't find the handkerchiefs or the women's underpants I tried to locate or a bathing suit (too early in the season), but we did come out of the store with some treasures: jockey shorts and new white socks for Bert, a summer white sweater for me, which I slipped on over my winter T-shirt (and of which Bert said, "looks good. Take it"—I didn't see what it looked like until I got home), and two pounds of gourmet coffee beans, which saved us a stop at the grocery store. When we're on a roll, we're profligate!

It's a relief to both of us when the shopping to be done on any given day involves a trip to Fry's, or to the hardware store. I am delighted to be left alone in the car, preferably in a shady spot, with the windows down (in hot weather), and something to read in my hands. "Take your time," I say cheerily, knowing this is the kind of shopping trip where "the green stuff" won't be an issue. WT

Submitting a novel without rewriting is like playing ice hockey naked.

—James Scott Bell

Directory of Experts

Do you have specialized knowledge that might help a writer bring authentic detail to a scene? Send a message to networking@southbaywriters.com or to the club post office box and we will add your listing to our directory of experts.

Asia, Japan, China, Russia, Blogging

Bill Belew
wcbelow@gmail.com

Astrology, Singing

Sara Aurich
saraaurich@comcast.net

Astronomy, History of Astronomy

Bob Garfinkle
ragarf@earthlink.net

Character Development

ArLyne Diamond, Ph.D.
ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net

Counseling

Dr. Audry L. Lynch
GLYNCH7003@sbcglobal.net

Engineering: Mechanical, Aero, Aerospace

Jerry Mulenburg
geraldmulenburg@sbcglobal.net

Growing Great Characters from the Ground Up

Martha Engber
marthaengber.com
marthaengber.blogspot.com

Hiking, Backpacking, Scuba, Bicycling, Classic Cars, Running

Rick Deutsch
MrHalfDome@gmail.com; 408-888-4752

Hospital and Nursing Environment

Maureen Griswold
maureengriswold@sbcglobal.net

Internal Medicine/Addiction Disorder/ Psychology

Dave Breithaupt
dlbmlb@comcast.net

Library Science

Molly Westmoreland
mulcarend@hotmail.com

Marketing and Management

Suzy Paluzzi, MBA
jomarch06@yahoo.com

Mathematics: Teaching and History; Fibonacci Sequence

Marjorie Johnson
MarJohnson89@earthlink.net

Philosophy, Religion, Evolution, Construction, Crafts, Norse

Darwin Mathison
olddinosaur@comcast.net
510-471-8944

Profile Writing

Susan Mueller
susan_mueller@yahoo.com

Real Estate, Horses, Remodeling, Southwest History

Reed Stevens
reedstevens@earthlink.net; 408-374-1591

Teaching and the Arts

Betty Auchard
Btauchard@aol.com

Television Production

Woody Horn
408-266-7040

USMC and NASA/Ames

Terry DeHart
tdehart@earthlink.net

Ongoing Critique Groups

The Arm Wavers

Meets downtown San Jose on Wednesdays
Contact: Georgia Platts—
gplatts@comcast.net
Closed to new members at this time

Writers' Salon

Meets in Santa Clara
Contact: Edie Matthews—
edie333@sbcglobal.net
Closed to new members at this time

Le Boulanger Writers

Meets at Le Boulanger
Pruneyard Shopping Center, Campbell
Contact: Karen Hartley—
Sew1Machin@aol.com
All genres; open to all

Northpoint Critique Group

Meets in Cupertino
Contact: Valerie Whong—
valeriewhong@att.net
Closed to new members at this time

Our Voices

Meets in Santa Clara
Meets every other Tuesday
7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Genres: Fiction, nontechnical nonfiction, memoir
Contact: Dave LaRoche—
dalaroche@comcast.net
Two openings at this time

Valley Writers

Meets: Valley Village Retirement Center, Santa Clara
Mondays 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Marjorie Johnson—
marjohnson89@earthlink.net
All genres; open to all

CWC Around the Bay

These are the published meeting times and locations for the other CWC branches in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. If you're thinking about attending one of their meetings, be sure to check the website first for details.

Berkeley: Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month, except for July and August, at 1:30 at the Oakland Public Library Main Branch. cwc-berkeley.com

Central Coast: Meets on the third Tuesday of each month except December at the Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Avenue, Monterey. The dinner hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont: Meets (except in July, December, and on holiday weekends) from 2-4 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of the month at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 204, Fremont. Contact: Bob Garfinkle ragarf@earthlink.net or (510) 489-4779

Marin: Meets on the fourth Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. at Book Passage in Corte Madera. cwcmarinwriters.com

Mount Diablo: Meets the second Saturday of each month, except July and August, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3201 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette (corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Highway 24). mtdiablowriters.org

Redwood: Meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month (except for holiday weekends), from 3-5 p.m. at Copperfield's Books, 2316 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. redwoodwriters.org

Tri-Valley: Meets the third Saturday of each month, except July and August, at 11:30 a.m. at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main Street, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.com

Sacramento: Meets at 11:00 a.m. the third Saturday of every month, except July and August, at Luau Garden Chinese Buffet, 1890 Arden Way, Sacramento 95815. sacramento-writers.org

San Francisco/Peninsula: Meets on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. sfpeninsulawriters.com

Work in Progress Group

Meets: Orchard Valley Coffee House
Meets on Tuesdays
Genre: Full length fiction, screenplays
Contact: Danita Craft—blueize@me.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2 7P Board Meeting LaRoche residence		3	4 7:30P Open Mic Barnes & Noble Almaden Plaza, San Jose	5
6	7	8 6P Regular Dinner Meeting Lookout Inn Elections Andrei Aleinikov	9	10	11 7:30P Open Mic Borders Books Santana Row, San Jose	12 11A Editors' Powwow	
13	14	15	16 <i>WritersTalk</i> deadline	17	18 7:30P Open Mic Barnes & Noble Pruneyard, Campbell	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25 7:30P Open Mic Borders Books Sunnyvale	26	
27	28	29	30	<h1>June 2010</h1>			
3P July 18 Annual BBQ			Future Flashes				

Stay Informed!

Sign up for the SBW Email List to receive meeting and event announcements.

southbaywriters.com

South Bay Writers Open Mic

Read from your own work, from your favorite authors, or just come to listen. See calendar for schedule.

Contact Bill Baldwin
(408) 730-9622 or email
wabaldwin@aol.com

Check out the new
South Bay Writers
Blog
southbaywriters.com
Click SBW Journal—Blog

East of Eden September 24-26

Secure your place now!

Details at
southbaywriters.com

South Bay Writers Anthology



\$10
At the meeting.
On the website.
southbaywriters.com

Other Open Mics

Thursday Gig

Third Thursday, 6:30–9:30 p.m.
411 E. Campbell Ave., Campbell
Stone Griffin Gallery

10Ten Gallery

Last Friday, 6:30–10:00 p.m.
1010 E. Taylor St., San Jose
Al Preciado's home

Poets@Play

Second Sunday 1 p.m.–4 p.m.
1650 Senter Rd., San Jose
Markham House History Park

Poetry Center San Jose Readings

Art Object Gallery
1st Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
(September–May)

592 North Fifth St., San Jose

Willow Glen Library

2nd Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose

Free admission.

See pcsj.org for details.



California Writers Club
South Bay Branch
P.O. Box 3254
Santa Clara, CA 95055
www.southbaywriters.com

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

Next Monthly Meeting Tuesday, June 8, 6:00 p.m.

Lookout Inn
605 Macara Avenue, Sunnyvale
At the Sunnyvale Golf Course

Dr. Andrei Aleinikov

“The most creative
man in the world.”

And SBW elections.

There will be no regular monthly
meeting in July. Instead, come
to the

Annual SBW BBQ and Picnic

Sunday, July 18, 3 p.m.

