



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 19  
Number 12  
December 2011

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™



**California Writers Club  
South Bay Branch  
HOLIDAY BASH  
TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 2011 6-9 PM  
(No December General Meeting)**

## **POTLUCK**

Please bring dish according to the last name:

A - H Salad or Side dish

I - R Dessert or Appetizer

S - Z Main dish

Club will provide beverages.

## **GIFT EXCHANGE**

Please bring a gift to exchange in the \$10 range.

## **PARTY PLACE**

Gisela Zebroski's House

1546 Plateau Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024

RSVP [programs@southbaywriters.com](mailto:programs@southbaywriters.com)

## **DIRECTIONS**

Take Highway 280 to Los Altos

EXIT Magdalena Ave.

Turn EAST at Magdalena Rd.(away from hills)

Take first RIGHT onto Hillview Dr.

Turn RIGHT at Fairway Dr.

Take first RIGHT onto Plateau Avenue

## **Coming Attractions**

**Our January speaker  
Alice La Plante:  
Unreliable Narrator**

Details on page 4.

NOVEMBER RECAP

## **Where Cinema and Novels Meet**

*by Brian Penkoff*

Author Susanne Lakin's informational lecture at the South Bay Writers' dinner on November 8<sup>th</sup> was a bridge that connected two separate art forms. She discussed ideas from movie making that help paint a story in written form. While it may seem unconventional in traditional approaches to writing, the cinematic approach has been very successful, including the use of what Lakin calls a "cinematic lens."

Lakin gave core ideas that could be applied to novel writing, including the near "robbery" of creative practices from the motion picture industry to heighten the experience a reader finds in a book.

Lakin pointed out several technical tricks of the trade a movie director uses in making a scene, and making it more effective, whether it is a wide angle shot, like one from the slow-moving blimp over a stadium, or a micro detail such as the last few hairs on an eyebrow. Lakin says these devices could smooth over tough sections of a literary work that need something key

*Continued on page 4*



**Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas,  
Happy Hanukkah & the Spirit of Kwanzaa  
South Bay Writers Board Members**



# President's Challenge

by Bill Baldwin  
President, South Bay Writers

## For Heaven's sake, just write something down

By the time you read this, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo, begun in 1999) will be over. Perhaps we can share stories about it at the December Holiday party. Best Wishes to all those who participated!

I myself took the easy way out and celebrated National For-Heaven's-Sake-Just-Write-Something-Down-Dammit Month. I invented that myself. In 2007, our own Nina Amir created Write Nonfiction in November to assist non-fiction writers, and now she's also promoted November as National Writing Month to include *all* writing. She beat me to this by a week or two.

Anything that gets you writing!

I'm sitting on a pile of manuscripts. I used the NaNoWriMo idea simply to motivate myself to do *something*. Make one manuscript coherent; type up a second, older manuscript; polish up a third one. Whether I finish anything, I've *made progress*.

What about *you*? What can we, as a club, do to *encourage your writing*? Possibly help *remove your inhibitions*? Help you broadcast yourself and become successful?

We *do* need to get over our inhibitions. We're given all these rules about how to *write*. Maybe our obsession with rules misses the point. Rembrandt, Van Gogh, and Picasso all were great painters; but they each painted differently. Bach, Mahler, Stravinsky all made great music, but in different ways. It isn't that they knew the rules or followed them or broke them; it's something about getting in touch with...*what*? Structured beauty? Coherency?

How do we *provoke* (Invoke? Evoke? Release?) ourselves to write?

Let's *figure it out together*!

I hope the Holiday Season brings you inspiration and motivation!

Sail on!

WT



## California Writers Club South Bay Branch

### Executive Committee

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Graham Flower

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webmaster@southbaywriters.com

Workshops—Nina Amir  
workshops@southbaywriters.com

### Join 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.

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### Thought for the day:

Easy reading comes from hard writing.



## WritersTalk

is the monthly newsletter of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club.

### Managing Editor

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Karen Llewellyn  
Rik Scott  
Colin Seymour

### 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

Marjorie Johnson  
665 Fairlane Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

### Guest Columns

*Almost Anything Goes* (300 words)

### News Items

(400 words)

### Letters to the Editor

(300 words)  
to Andrea Galvacs  
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

### Creative Works

Short Fiction (1500 words)  
Memoir (1200 words)  
Poetry (300 words)  
Essay (900 words)

### Accolades

accolades@southbaywriters.com

### 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 per column inch. We will assist with layout.

Authors retain all rights to their works; *WritersTalk* gratefully acknowledges the authors' permission to publish their works here. Contact individual authors for permission to reprint.

**Change of Address:** Send changes of address to the Membership Chair at membership@southbaywriters.com

**Subscriptions:** Nonmember subscriptions are \$20/year. Send a check payable to South Bay Writers Club to the Membership Chair.

**Circulation:** 200

## Words from the Editor

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Editor



### When Christmas blues turn into blahs

Does Christmas bring writer's block? Opinions expressed in this issue of *WritersTalk* range from Bill Baldwin's hope that the holiday season brings inspiration and motivation to Pat Bustamante's observation that writer's block is a form of freezing. I think that Christmas definitely is a contributing factor to the blues.

Perhaps your family gatherings don't resemble the holidays portrayed by Norman Rockwell on the covers of the *Saturday Evening Post*. Then there is the holiday frenzy of Christmas letters and cards, gift giving, and house-guests. Add the dark days of December to the holiday season and you have the perfect formula for developing writer's block. All these factors can put your brain into stress mode, a state that can be reversed only by giving your frontal lobe some downtime. Stress smothers creative thinking in a way that no list of New Year's resolutions can cure.

Downtime, you ask? To foster a sense of calm engagement, schedule some mindless work into your day – thirty minutes of cleaning, gardening, or any chore that requires some concentration but isn't mentally challenging. Take a walk. Treat yourself to anything that relaxes you, from yoga, to a hot shower, to listening to Mozart.

For many people, fewer hours of sunlight causes near hibernation – excessive sleepiness, compulsive overeating, and carbohydrate craving. Recurrent winter depressions, or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), can be treated with bright light therapy, often with results in 2 – 4 days. However, check with your doctor first because light therapy triggers mania in a bipolar person; you may want to rethink the whole thing if your doctor prescribes an antidepressant. I felt better just knowing the winter blues had a name – SAD, wow, what a suggestive mnemonic.

Don't let the Christmas blues turn into blahs. Reach out to your writing friends. Writing regularly is like staying fit; it helps to exercise with someone. Think, "Writers helping writers." Blocks do happen, but if you take a few conscious steps to keep your creative muscles in motion, you can ensure that writing happens, too.

You can't force creativity with a summons, but you can turbo-charge your powers of spontaneous innovation with healthy doses of downtime. Nudge your Muse by playing with your imagination and "what-iffing" all the crazy directions your story can go.

One way to overcome writer's block is to write about it. Send an essay on how to cope with writer's block to *WritersTalk*, sharing your method for dealing with this peculiar affliction we all endure from time to time.

Another prescription for banning "writing blues" is to network with other writers. Get involved! Help make South Bay Writers a vibrant group in which writers help writers.

WT

### Help Wanted

Become a Publishing Pathways mentor: DVD training is available. You

learn first hand, and then you help others.

### Help Wanted

Greet new members: Say hello to new

Keep sending your comments and suggestions about *WritersTalk*. We need to hear from you to learn what goes well and what needs improvement.



## Cinema and Novels Meet

*Continued from page 1*

to blend them into the story or to attain better “high points” in a chapter.

Using the skills of a director to create stress when conflict is needed in the scene can give a stronger grasp of a person or place through visual description. Also during her lecture, Lakin gave the audience handouts on camera angles and noted how the writer uses them in different places in the scene, such as during a dialogue between two people.

Lakin mentioned tricks such as using the focal point of a scene to establish literary effects—tension could be one of them—and explained about “movie stories,” also known as “cinematic/visual books.”

Lakin talked about writers using the concept of a specific camera angle on a shot to establish an environment, such as the bird that “pans” in the waterway from the sky, or the close-up zoom in a high-to-low angled shot down an empty well.

Lakin drew examples from books by Stephen King, as well as *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* by John Le Carre, *The Gift* by Brian Littfin, and *When Sparrows Fall* by Meg Moseley; and from movies such as *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Wedding Crashers*. She referred us to [dailyscript.com](http://dailyscript.com) for complete screenplays available for download.

Fundamentals of movie making may have come to Lakin through her mother, Rita Lakin, a Hollywood movie producer, and have crept into her works of fiction, including *Someone to Blame*, written in 2010. The book, about a mother losing her child, used cinematic devices to tell the story.

For me, the first thing that came to mind when she started her talk was the word “dissection.” She broke down the making of a movie, showing how television and movies drop you into the story.

Lakin’s cinematic writing style obviously works. She has written and published eleven novels and has four other works being released this year alone. Also, she won Zondervan’s All About The Story Contest, earning her a ten thousand dollar advance. Lakin’s website is <http://www.cslakin.com>. **WT**



## Coming Attractions Alice La Plante: Unreliable Narrator

*by Colin Seymour*

Alice LaPlante describes her recently published novel *Turn of Mind* as “a murder mystery told from the point of view of the murderer, who has Alzheimer’s disease.” At South Bay Writers’ January 10 dinner meeting, LaPlante will discuss the point-of-view issues her “unreliable narrator” raises.

“According to the conventions of fiction,” LaPlante says, “a third-person narrator always tells the truth.” Thus, her protagonist makes a great angle for discussing point of view, an issue that already confuses many writers.

LaPlante teaches creative writing in the Bay Area, including at Stanford. SBW had scheduled her to speak last May, but she became ill hours before the meeting and spent four days in the hospital. **WT**

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## Labor of Love? SBW Panelists Needed

*by Colin Seymour*

It’s a coincidence that our February meeting of South Bay Writers falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> in 2012. We thought about changing the meeting date but instead proclaim: *We who love writing will gather on Valentine’s Day.*

We will discuss whether our literary labors might be destined to become lucrative, or whether our writing is pretty much a labor of love.

South Bay Writers needs panelists for our February 14 meeting who can discuss the rewards of being published

Four or five among us will serve as panelists that evening. Each will be a published author who is willing to divulge a few secrets about the money end of literary success.

If you’d like to be one of those four or five, let’s talk about it. Please email me at [vicepresident@southbaywriters.com](mailto:vicepresident@southbaywriters.com).

**WT**



**Susanne Lakin pointing out a screen shot**

*Photo by Carolyn Donnell*

“Heaven is not impressed with power and strength, but favors those with a true heart. Let your heart lead you, Adin, for love is what will drive you and protect you. The solution to all your troubles lies in your past.” Susan Lakin, *The Map Across Time: A Fairy Tale*.

## Fremont Area Writers

### Holiday Book Fair

December 10-11

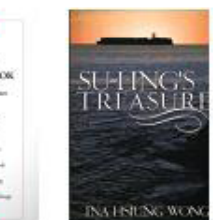
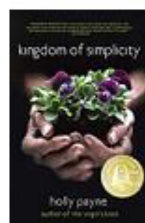
1-4 pm

Meeting Room, Union City Public Library  
34007 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA

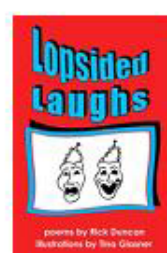
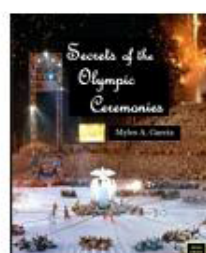
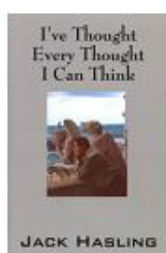
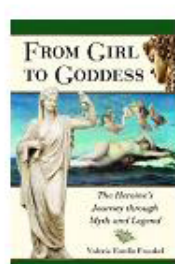
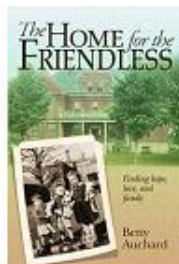


Our special speaker will be *New York Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle* bestselling novelist Ellen Sussman. She is the author of *French Lessons* which has been recently optioned for film by New Line Cinema.

## Saturday Authors



## Sunday Authors





# View from the Board

by S. Halloran

Seven of us—president Bill Baldwin, vice president Colin Seymour, treasurer Richard Burns, secretary Sylvia Halloran, membership secretary and newsletter editor Marjorie Johnson, member-at-large Dick Amyx, and Central Board-Norcal representative Dave Laroche—met in Sunnyvale Wednesday, November 2, 2011.

Main topics for the evening were:

- Success of Coker Workshop
- Consideration of club publicity needs
- Encouragement of membership to become involved in leadership
- Consideration of outreach events—scholarships, contests, interactive networks

Passed motions: Approval of amended 10/7/2011 minutes. (LaRoche/Seymour)

The Board is grateful for Gisela Zebroski's generous offer to once again hold the holiday party at her home.

Next Board meeting: Jan. 4, 2012. We look forward to a great new year. **WT**

## Are you buying from Barnes & Noble?

by Bob Isbill, President  
CWC High Desert Branch

The High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club has scheduled a Barnes & Noble Book Fair fundraiser during the week of December 11, 2011.

We are NOT asking for money!

We are asking that **IF** you plan to purchase Barnes & Noble products soon, to purchase them at any B&N store in the U.S.A. or **online** at the Barnes & Noble website ([www.BN.com/Bookfairs](http://www.BN.com/Bookfairs)) and use **voucher code #10620284** when placing your orders between **12/11/11 and 12/16/11**.

If you follow those instructions, our HD CWC Branch will get a percentage of the sales generated during that time.

Why should other CWC Branches participate in a fundraiser for the High Desert Branch? Because your branch can hold a similar B&N Book Fair at other times throughout the coming

# Calling all bloggers

by Donna McCrohan Rosenthal  
PR chair, California Writers Club

The world of communication has seen its share of changes over the past century, and CWC membership has reflected them. Early on we had novelists, essayists, journalists, short story writers, and poets. The arrival of cinema added screenwriters. The Golden Age of Radio accounted for an influx of radio writers, and not long after, TV writers.

What about now? Surely we have bloggers, some with sizable audiences. They could have global outreach, yet pass under our radar. So here are a few questions to update the radar.

Do you maintain a regular, topical blog for mass-market consumption such as the blog made famous by "Julie and Julia"? Do you blog issues related to writing or creative pursuits? Do you plug CWC from time to time?

Recently, Redwood's Robin Moore wrote a blog about the closing of Jack London State Park. Good work!

Everyone else, if you have CWC success stories that could help branches and members to get the word out, please send a note to [pr@calwriters.org](mailto:pr@calwriters.org).

## How Autistics Perceive the Cosmos

I come from a strange alien planet.  
Called Earth.  
And you?  
— Steve Wetlesen

## Shoreline Estuary Trails

Bright sun glitter stars -  
fluid sparkles evoke her.  
I argue with God.  
— Steve Wetlesen

year; ALL our branches can have successful Book Fair fundraisers by sticking together.

Again, we are NOT asking you to spend money. For those of you who do plan to buy Barnes & Noble products, just please do it December 11 – 16 with voucher code #10620284.

Please support our fundraiser, and we pledge to support yours. Thank you!



Mark Coker and Susanne Lakin



Apala Egan and Alex Leon



Mark Coker and Nina Amir



Dave La Roche, Mark Coker, Rik Scott



Deanna McCusker at lunch in patio during Mark Coker Workshop

Photos by Carolyn Donnell

# Bookstore in every pocket: Mark Coker's e-book workshop

by Carolyn Donnell

"Imagine billions of people with smart phones. There will be a bookstore in every pocket. Even in places in Tanzania where there isn't any running water, people have cell phones." These were some of the opening remarks at the Mark Coker Workshop on Saturday Oct. 29, 2011. The house was full—52 signed up according to official records, but 78 showed up! What a crowd. If you missed the event or just couldn't take notes fast enough to record the massive amount of information, you can see a complete set of slides of the presentation on [slideshare.net/smashwords](http://slideshare.net/smashwords). Select *Ebook Publishing Workshop - Mark Coker at South Bay Writers October 29, 2011*. The following are just a few of the highlights.

Mark Coker is the founder of *Smashwords*, the leading e-book publishing and distributing platform. When his novel was rejected by publishers, he discovered first hand what's wrong with big publishing. Unable to take on every deserving author, traditional publishers judge books based on perceived commercial potential, shutting out readers. In the past, they controlled printing and distribution and thus what was available for readers. Coker calls them "bouncers at the pearly gates."

But then came the Internet. And Amazon. Coker decided to take matters into his own hands. The result was *Smashwords*, which allows authors to decide what's published. Free publishing tools are available as well: *Smashwords Style Guide* and *Smashwords Book Marketing Guide* are free at [smashwords.com](http://smashwords.com).

E-books provide opportunities to out-publish traditional publishers and democratize distribution. Authors can sell to the world and have direct contact with readers. Your book will never go out of print and best of all, 60 – 100% of the list price is yours; you set the price.

*Smashwords* is FREE! (They take a small commission for each book sold.) Advantages include:

- Free publishing tools.



Lunch line: Cal Stevens, Susanne Lakin, Dave La Roche in front  
Photos by Carolyn Donnell

- Free printing "in the cloud."
- Free distribution online.
- Ready for immediate sale online.
- Non-exclusive worldwide rights; authors can remove their books at any time.

Coker listed steps to publishing and tips for preparation, distribution, and marketing:

- Finish the book. Invest in editing more than marketing. E-book publishing is fast, free, and easy, but that doesn't make it easy to write a great book. Edit, edit, edit; revise, revise, revise.
- Format for e-book publishing. Text must be able to shape-shift.
- Prepare cover image. A good cover image is vital.
- E-book conversion: *Smashwords* converts text to nine e-book formats.
- Set your price.
- Arrange for ISBNs and copyright registration. and prepare metadata.
- Choose distribution methods.
- Upload a Microsoft Word file. Picture books are not recommended.
- Marketing. Use social media.

Coker gave ten secrets to e-book publishing and marketing success:

1. Publish a great book. (Thorough edit; cover image; searchable name)
2. Publish another great book.
3. Maximize distribution.
4. Give some away for free.
5. Be patient: e-books are immortal.
6. Don't worry about piracy. DRM copy protection is counterproductive.
7. Marketing starts before you publish your book. Cultivate your social network, but don't spam them.
8. Architect for virality. Books are a word of mouth business.
9. Pinch your pennies. Never borrow money to publish a book.
10. Architect for discovery. Build discovery pathways: search engine links; social media links; title, cover image. Sales create discovery.

Coker also discussed categories or lengths that sell best, pricing data, and sales rank and fielded many questions from workshop attendees. **WT**

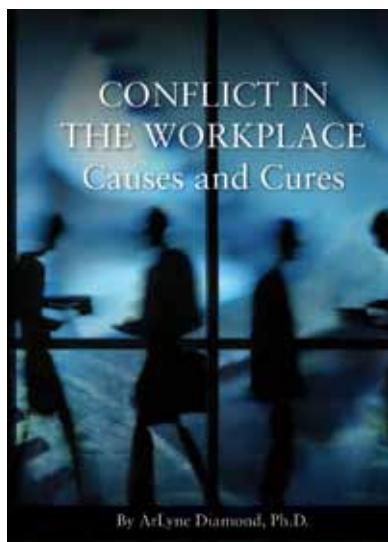
"If creative people are not allowed to express their creativity, their heads explode."  
— Mark Coker



## Announcing *Conflict in the Workplace: Causes and Cures*

by ArLyne Diamond, Ph.D.

This is the third of my four published books. The fourth, *Leading and Managing a Global Workforce*, will be available before the end of this year. So far my writing has mostly been about professional topics, those areas that make it easier for people to get the best out of themselves and others.



In *Conflict in the Workplace*, used as a textbook in the course I taught on Conflict Resolution for Stanford University's Continuing Education, I share information about the many changes and challenges in today's workplace, which lead to miscommunication, misunderstanding, and mis-expectations. Often we are managing people we've never met or working in teams with people located everywhere in the world. The normal clues that make it easier for people to understand each other are not the same from group to group. Thus, we've lost the honey that makes it easier to get along.

In *Leading and Managing*, I offer my readers more specific information about the variables and challenges involved in today's—and tomorrow's—workplace. The book is valuable for anyone in today's workplace, whether global or local.

My earlier two books: *Training Your Board of Directors: A Manual for the CEOs, Board Members, Administrators and Executives of Corporations, Associations, Non-Profit and Religious Organizations* and *The "Please" and "Thank You" of Fundraising for Non-Profits* have been sold and used internationally. Unfortunately, these are not on Amazon. They must be purchased either directly from me or from my publisher: [www.Productivepublications.com](http://www.Productivepublications.com).

If you want to learn more about me and read other things I've written (including a monthly newsletter and a blog) please contact me at: [www.DiamondAssociates.net](http://www.DiamondAssociates.net) or [ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net](mailto:ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net).

## How to Enter Previously Published Entries in Contests

by Wanda Sue Parrott  
*Central Coast Writers*

Imitating Walt Whitman can help you win writing contests. If you use his technique, you can enter your work-in-progress in many places, multiple times.

How? Consider these facts. Many, if not most, writing contests call for "unpublished" works. If your piece has been previously published in a book, magazine or just a newsletter, online website, blog, or club anthology, it has technically been published even if only a handful of people have seen it.

If you revise it, you create a new edition that has not yet been published. Thus, submit your latest version of your work in progress, provided you own the copyright.

To achieve this Whitmanesque feat, tweak a title by adding or removing a word or two, or changing it completely. Rewrite the opening line, stanza, or paragraph, or change a few key words in the beginning, middle, or end.

Is this cheating? Plagiarism? I have yet to hear of any writer who sues himself for stealing his own wording. So, if you want to enter a poem or piece of prose in a contest that calls for previously unpublished works, you must be the judge about whether to tweak the piece to upgrade your earlier version.

Does conscience play a role? You be the judge!

Therefore, in order to qualify for contests, write your manuscript like Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," a life-long unfinished work-in-progress that reaches its final edition only when your pen is laid to rest. **WT**

## New Members

by Rita Beach

Valerie Frankel is a relatively new member to South Bay Writers, but no stranger to us. As the guest speaker at our September 13 meeting, she gave insights into the guideposts that appear in most good tales. Though she writes both fiction and non-fiction, she is drawn to fantasy writing and has been a guest speaker at several fantasy conventions. She teaches English at San Jose State and enjoys such activities as swing dancing and folk dance. She is the author of *From Girl to Goddess: The Heroine's Journey Through Myth and Legend*, *Harry Potty and the Pet Rock*, *Harry Potty and the Deathly Paper Shortage*, and *Buffy and the Heroine's Journey*. Obviously, she has a love of parody. Magazines and anthologies have included about eighty of her short stories and articles. She welcomes contact from other members at [valerie@calithwain.com](mailto:valerie@calithwain.com) and [www.vefrankel.com](http://www.vefrankel.com)

Angie Young became a member in September after hearing about South Bay Writers from other members. Reason enough to spread the word about our organization! She has published both fiction and nonfiction; view her clips at [www.Write2TheTop.net](http://www.Write2TheTop.net). Until I read the answers to her questionnaire, I wasn't aware that she likes to run races and is also a fine artist. To view her artwork, go to [www.Angelayoungstudios.com](http://www.Angelayoungstudios.com). Like many other new members, she wants to network and find a critique group. With her talents and credentials, that should be no problem. You can contact Angie at her website addresses.

South Bay Writers Club wishes to welcome new members because they are at the heart of the growth and future of the organization. All of us have individual insights and experiences that can enrich everybody. Established members—note I did not say old members—please say hello and introduce yourself when you see a new face at a meeting. New members, everybody wants to know more about you, so please send a paragraph telling us who you are and what writing interests you have to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) **WT**

**Typewriter** is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.



# Accolades

by Jackie Mutz

A few years ago, during a *WritersTalk* editorial meeting, the concept of the Accolades column was born, so to speak. The column would be a voice for all writers who had something of importance to share about their own writing accomplishments. Over time, I received emails and notes at the South Bay meetings about these writing success stories: a book published, a short story or poem, a win in a writer's contest, a payment for editorial work, and the list goes on, similar to what you read this month. Several writers had news.

Cathy Robbins discussed her recently published book *All Indians Do Not Live in Tepees (or Casinos)* on November 10 on the radio show "Native America Calling." She writes that the publisher reports good news from the sales front: It looks as if the book will meet marketing projections.

Anna Thumann's book, *Alcatraz Schoolgirl*, is for sale in the museum gift shop at Alcatraz, and they have made a standing order for her to send more.

Luanne Oleas will have a non-fiction article published in the online newsletter, *TechComm Manager*. Her article about technical writing techniques is titled, "Confessions of a Quality Queen: Getting Good Reviews in Bad Times by Remote Teams."

Pat Bustamante won first place in the July poetry contest from Chaparral Poets of California for her poem, "Wild Mesa."

Rita Beach has made the semi-finals in a contest for her story, "The Killin' on Hollow Creek."

Marjorie Johnson celebrated California Writers Week with an October 21 book launch for her novel, *Jaguar Princess: The Last Maya Shaman*. Photos from the event are posted at southbaywriters.com in the photo gallery.

Audry Lynch received a favorable review of her Roy Simmonds book by noted Steinbeck Scholar, Professor Kiyoki Nakayama, in a recent newsletter of the John Steinbeck Society of Japan. She also won third place in the annual Norcal Letters Contest for her article, "The Fairy Forts of Ireland." Lastly,

she spoke at a number of engagements in the Bay Area, delivering lectures on John Steinbeck, a subject of which she is well acquainted.

Suzy Paluzzi was honored with an invitation to read her poetry at an upcoming event of the new Cupertino Poet Laureate, David Denny.

As with all things, as one journey ends, another begins. It is time for me to hand over the Accolades column to another writer, Andrea Galvacs, and time for me to work on my own writing, including a collection of poems and a short book about volunteering in the animal rescue world. I have enjoyed my time as a WT writer/editor. Thank you for sharing your writing news. You are an inspiration to all writers everywhere.

Keep writing, keep striving to write and do it well. And tell Andrea what you have been up to by emailing her at [accolades@southbaywriters.com](mailto:accolades@southbaywriters.com) WT



Happy Holidays to all and see you at the December Holiday Bash. ~ Jackie

## Aquatic Bird Haiku

Heron flock lifts off -  
sudden rising pure white cloud.  
Unexpected art.

— Steve Wetlesen

## McManus

by Michael Slane



Mike Slane, writing as Frank Slane, reports that his spy thriller novel, *McManus*, is now available as an ebook on Nook by Barnes & Noble.

Reviewed by Carolyn Donnell: Sam McManus is the ultimate CIA version of "licensed to kill." His occasional soft spot for his family, fellow spies, and children doesn't deter him from ruthlessly completing his assignments, both for the CIA and as assigned by British covert operations. Realistic in its portrayal of the dark side of undercover operations, this is not a book for the squeamish. If you're looking for adventure and breath-holding tension, from assassinations to a biological warfare threat, coupled with an all too human McManus, then you need to read this book.



Top: Marjorie Johnson signs book for Helen Vanderberg

Middle: Marjorie Johnson at book launch for *Jaguar Princess*

Bottom: Marjorie Johnson and Anna Thumann at book luncheon for *Jaguar Princess* and *Alcatraz Schoolgirl*

Photos by Carolyn Donnell

## Book review published

by Reed Stevens

Roger Ebert's memoir, "Life Itself," made me jealous. Here's what I wrote: [http://www.broadstreetreview.com/index.php/main/article/roger\\_eberts\\_life\\_itself/](http://www.broadstreetreview.com/index.php/main/article/roger_eberts_life_itself/)

# In Mark Twain's Footsteps

by Audry L. Lynch

This year my husband and I made our seventh trip back to Hamilton, Bermuda, for our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The first time was in 1956 for our honeymoon. For us, Bermuda was our special place. Until this last trip, I had no idea that we shared this passion for Bermuda with Mark Twain, who called it "my happy island."

It's no exaggeration to say that Twain popularized Bermuda to Americans. Between 1867 and 1910 he spent a total of 187 days in Bermuda. He discovered it, loved it, and never stopped praising it to his friends and readers.

At the time Twain discovered Bermuda, travel usually entailed a rough ship voyage by sea. It's amazing that he ever made the first trip because he suffered from terrible bouts of seasickness. Tropical storms often churned up the sea. Supposedly Bermuda had served as Shakespeare's inspiration for *The Tempest*. After his first voyage, Twain reported that "Bermuda is a paradise but I had to go through hell to get there."

In Bermuda Twain stayed at Bay House, a beautiful home overlooking the water. It was a short walk from there to the Princess Hotel, where Mr. Allan G. Trew, the current manager of the hotel (now called the Fairmount Hamilton Princess Hotel) explained the Twain relationship to us. "The Princess Hotel is where he hung out every day. He drank in our bar, watched the ships come in from our verandah, signed autographs, and read from Kipling."

Obviously, we had to stay at the Princess. It's a huge pink hotel — Twain called it his "Pink Princess." It opened in January 1885 to cater to visitors fleeing cold winters in Europe and North-eastern USA. Now the biggest influx of tourists is during the summer season with people like us, who checked in for two weeks in mid-August.

The sight of this huge pink hotel might be daunting in any other setting but pink is the number one color choice for the local citizenry to paint their houses. In Twain's time, the staff at the Princess went down to the great ships' passengers while waving pink handkerchiefs



in greeting. That doesn't happen anymore but the welcome is still as friendly. As the bellman helped us out of our taxi, he said, "Welcome home." There are no more chocolates on the pillows but chambermaids appear every night with complimentary bottles of water. The hotel has been renovated many times over the years but the spirit of Mark Twain is still here. As we entered the hotel I was tickled to see a life-size statue of him seated on a bench in the lobby to greet us. A local sculptor, Desmond Fountain, has captured the essence of Mark Twain — the bushy hair, the penetrating expression in his eyes, and even his pipe resting in his hand on his lap. His right arm is extended on the back of the bench so when you sit down you feel he is ready to have a conversation with you.

According to Mr. Trew, this statue is so popular that a bellman has been appointed to help tourists get their picture taken with Twain. Most Americans are unfamiliar with the Twain/Bermuda connection so all that they can say is, "Wow." Of course, some things have changed in various renovations; the verandah where Twain held forth from a wicker rocking chair is gone, and the Gazebo Lounge where he drank is no longer a bar but a meeting room.

Still, some things never change. The Princess continues the traditional high tea. We could swim in the same green/blue warm water that Twain loved and walk along the white sand beaches where he collected shells. We mentioned our awe at the beauty of the color of the sea in Bermuda to a taxi driver who laughingly told us, "Can you believe that I've had tourists ask me if we put dye in our waters?"

The Princess still honors Twain in many ways. On the second floor mezzanine a wall of pictures chronicles the hotel's long and varied history: pictures of Princess Louise (the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria from whom the hotel is named) and important visitors like Upton Sinclair, Woodrow Wilson, and Winston Churchill, and lots of pictures of Mark Twain describing his activities on the island. There are pictures of "Bletchley in the Tropics," the code name for the 1200 British spies who occupied the hotel during WWII intercepting German messages. They were successful in cracking the infamous "enigma code." One of them was Ian Fleming who used this experience as the background for his novel, *Dr. No*.

Despite the variety of pictures on the wall, Mark Twain and his exploits dominate the wall. The Princess further honored him by establishing the Mark Twain Suite, renting for \$600 or \$700 a night depending on the season. I was never allowed to see it during our two-week stay; whenever I inquired, I was told, "It's occupied." If this price seems wildly extravagant, consider what has happened to the "Honeymoon Cottage" at the Elbow Beach Hotel that we rented for a song in 1956. Then it was a one-room cottage; now it has two rooms — a bedroom and a living room with all the latest amenities. It boasts its own access to the beach and rents for \$3200 a night! Both hotels were totally mum about the identities of the rich and famous people who rent these special digs.

The Princess has the statue, the pictures, and the suite, but it can't replace Mark Twain as its star performer.

*Continued on page 12*



# Terse On Verse

by Pat Bustamante.

## December Embers

A spark, a spark,  
It jumps from the fire!  
Metaphorically that's how your work  
might inspire.  
Handle your writing with research,  
with care:  
Your gift is of YOU, it's unique. It's rare.

—by Pat Bustamante

Hoping December's a warm and happy  
time, here's a present from me to you:  
"Your Stuff is GREAT!" To anyone who  
has shown me his writing or gotten  
published somewhere: I am deeply  
impressed that you keep trying. It is not  
that easy to pour out one's guts over a  
keyboard or into a journal.

You and I are part of a long chain of  
storytellers, be it fiction, fact, fable or  
poem, going back to the first spoken  
word. Or even the first sign language:  
gorillas have had an interesting sign  
language for a long time. Actually, you  
gave a present to me when you shared  
your writing efforts. I plan to keep up  
mine as long as my brain cooperates.

In winter the theme often settles on,  
"Do not freeze to death--take care!"  
In California our climate is agreeable,  
but writer's block is a form of freezing.  
Deadlines still instill fear in me. Will I  
be able to come through in time? My  
easily distractible "other personality"  
wins out--for a little while. But I believe  
in myself and I believe in my message.  
I believe you can give yourself that  
gift. Here comes a new year, yours and  
mine. We WILL triumph. This will be a  
very good year.

"Yule" is an ancient tradition connected  
to fire, which connects us to light. Mak-  
ing a light is what we are about. Let's  
celebrate! There is magic in every form  
of telling the story. There can never be  
too many stories, never so much light  
that darkness goes away forever. Keep  
your inner fire burning. And keep on  
sharing your successes.

WT

## The Proper Way to Spell

CONGRE\$\$.

— Steve Wetlesen

## Artistic Statements as Elegant Rhythmic Phrases

Mental sketches.  
Articulation alone as canvas.  
The Music of Intellect.  
Chant Symphony.  
Euphonious Phrases.  
The Cello of Contemplation.  
— Steve Wetlesen

## A Writer's Apology

Don't sneeze  
Please  
I must  
Dust  
Don't slip  
Trip  
Cluttered, but clean  
I'm always  
In between.

— Suzy Paluzzi

## For Fellow Poets

by Suzy Paluzzi

Sally Ashton, Santa Clara County Poet  
Laureate, informs me that she will an-  
nounce an exciting countywide poetry  
contest soon. Subscribe to her blog,  
<http://poetlaureateblog.org/>, for de-  
tails of the contest's theme and guide-  
lines and to receive notification of new  
posts by Ashton in your e-mail inbox.  
This is where she has been posting the  
County's Favorite Poems.

The favorite poems of Santa Clara  
County are already collected and are  
now being read by the contributors.  
The next reading will be on Thursday  
December 1 at 7 pm at Booksmart, 380  
E. Second Street, Morgan Hill.

I believe there will be one more of  
these "Favorite Poem" events. If you  
choose not to subscribe but wish to be  
informed, check out the web page given  
above periodically. WT

## Harley

Chrome that brings the sun down to earth, but brighter.  
Thunder more felt than heard, noise beyond all description.  
There is only one bike.  
There are no others.  
Period.

— Steve Wetlesen

## A Day on the Green

A day on the green  
at the airplane park duly christened  
*Oka Meadow* by my four year old daughter  
whose legs pump so fierce  
on the swings that won't go high  
enough —  
A vision of myself at ten rolling down  
the hill on the University side  
of Vasona the trees below,  
a drop to the thrill of the lake and geese and squirrels,  
skittish minnows dart to miss mud squishies made by bare feet,  
impressions of memories and now  
my daughter does the same--  
the water oh so cold, she complains of  
popsicle toes.  
A chaos of train whistles and merry music,  
we go round, where Hannah's favorite steed Skarker  
gallops on an endless trail of her imagination...  
Dusky gray, his eyes meet her each time she  
reaches for his solid, graceful Skarker self,  
another adventure begins in *Los Gatos*,  
where cats of mystery speak their silence  
in the childhood dance of dreams.

— Jacqueline Mutz

## Twain's Footsteps

Continued from page 10

We attended a Mambo Night, a Tuesday Night Barbecue, and the Hippest Happy Hour in Town on Fridays, but nothing compares to the crowds that Mark Twain drew to the hotel when he made an appearance. His admirers and the winter visitors flocked to the Princess where he signed autographs and lectured for hours. Twain was the Rock Star of Bermuda in his day.

From the Princess, which clearly has a corner on the Mark Twain connection, we ventured forth to see what the town of Hamilton had to offer. We were surprised to find two other statues of Mark Twain on his bench, one in the lobby of the Butterfield Bank and the other near the front steps of the XL Capital House on Bermudiana Road. We stepped inside the latter to ask the history of the statue, but the receptionist waved us away with a laugh, saying, "That man is all over town."

We went for help to the Bermuda Public Library on Queen Street. I had just given them my request for information on Twain when the desk assistant, Mrs. Mickey Bowers, pressed a book into my hands entitled *Mark Twain in Paradise: His Voyages to Bermuda* by Donald Hoffman. While I scanned the book for ideas, Mrs. Bowers disappeared and returned with more treasures for my Twain search. One was a huge folder entitled "Clippings" with all the local magazine and newspaper articles about Twain's activities around Bermuda. While I was reviewing this surfeit of riches, she told me about the Bermuda Archives.

A couple of blocks from the library, a government building houses the Bermuda Archives. They have a huge collection of pictures of Mark Twain in Bermuda — with his friends, talking to the locals, in a swimsuit, riding in his donkey cart, and lecturing at the Princess. If you pay for copying costs, they will send you anything you want from their extensive collection.

Next I walked to a local favorite of Twain's, the Chatham House at the corner of Burnaby and Front Street, which is an elegant smoke shop. Its slogan is: "If smoking is an art form, then we're an art gallery." You can purchase the

ARTICLE

## Suicide or Murder?

By ArLyne Diamond, Ph. D.

The newspaper reported that he was found on his property with a bullet hole in his head and a bite mark presumed to be from one of the big cats. Someone had gone into the Wild Animal Preserve and opened all the cages, releasing the animals. Many had stayed in or near their cages, but a few ventured out to see the world.

He had a reputation for being a loner, a rebel, a man who frequently came into the view of the authorities. Indeed, he did a stretch in prison for having illegal firearms.

But he loved his animals. He adopted those rejected by others, including big cats who had been adopted as babies by people wanting exotic pets, but who later discovered that they were too big to keep in their homes or to train safely. He nursed those that had been injured. He cared for the animals and gave them homes in a safe and comfortable environment.

Someone discovered a couple of lions and tigers running loose and rightfully called the police. From that time on, we can only speculate. What we do know is that the police killed most of the animals they found loose. The police declared it a suicide. But there was no note. They claimed he was deeply in debt and very depressed. That might be true, but — How could a man who loved and cared for animals so deeply, release them? That makes no sense to me.

My theory is that someone who had a grudge against him, killed him and released the animals in spite. Vengeance is ugly and leads men to do strange things. Is that what really happened? I don't know. Does it seem likely that a man who loved and devoted his life to caring for animals would release them, knowing that the police would be called and would shoot to kill?

Think about this when creating actions for your characters. As Judge Judy would say, "If it doesn't make sense, it probably isn't true." **WT**

very best in pipe tobaccos and any of twelve top brands of Havana cigars — it's legal in Bermuda to buy them and smoke them. Mark Twain and the original owner, Mr. Pitt, were best friends. Today the shop is owned and managed by Mr. Pitt's grandson.

According to Mr. Trew, this new exposure to Twain's impact on Bermuda gets American tourists to read or re-read his books. If you get bitten by the Twain bug, stop in at the Bermuda Bookstore just a few steps from the Bermuda Library.

Most of all, I wanted to see Bay House where Twain actually lived in Bermuda. It is privately owned but I had the address so we hired a taxi. We found it on a private and tranquil access road off Pitt's Bay Road, where the Princess is located. Bay House is a coastal property, sloping gently down to the waterfront of Hamilton Harbor; its extensive grounds give it an exclusive quality. We asked the taxi driver to drive to the end of the narrow driveway, and for a few minutes, we savored the view of the waterfront harbor and the small islands

on the Great Sound — the same beautiful view that Mark Twain must have enjoyed.

That night we went to the Lido Restaurant at the Elbow Beach Hotel to enjoy an anniversary dinner. I wore an evening dress and my husband looked handsome in a white suit, in the best Twain tradition. According to an article from the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, March 17, 1907, Twain said he was returning to Bermuda "in search of rest, British humor, and an opportunity to appear logical in March in a white suit."

In his last years, Twain's heart and happiness were centered in Bermuda, his respite from financial cares and sadness after the death of his wife and two of their children. His death brings to mind his most famous quote about his beloved island: "You may go to heaven if you want to — I'd rather stay in Bermuda." **WT**

"The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."  
Wrongly attributed to Mark Twain.



# Contests and Conferences

## Contest deadlines

The following contests, described in November *WritersTalk*, have deadlines coming soon:

### **Dream Quest One Poetry & Writing Contest:**

Deadline, December 31, 2011.

### **2012 Indie Publishing Contest:**

Deadline January 4, 2012.

### **Writecorner Press:**

March 31, 2012.

## **CENTRAL COAST WRITERS**

### **“California Gold”**

#### **2012 Spring Writing Contest**

*\$250 Award in Four Categories:*

**Best Rhymed Poem -- Best Unrhymed Poem**

**Best Short Story -- Best Short Non-Fiction**

*Entry fee discount for members of California Writers Club*

**Postmark deadline: 1/31/12**

**Details & Rules at:**

**[www.centralcoastwriters.org](http://www.centralcoastwriters.org)**

## Contest: Redwood Writers Conference

*by Robert Digitale*

*CWC Redwood Writers Branch*

Poets and writers are invited to submit entries to a contest connected to Redwood Writers' 2012 Next Steps Writers Conference, April 27-28 in Santa Rosa. "Odyssey" is the theme of Next Step's Prose Contest, open only to registrants of the April 28 writers conference at Santa Rosa Junior College. Contest winners will be announced at the conference luncheon, and their work will be considered for inclusion in Redwood Writers publications. First-place winners will receive \$100 each; second-place, \$50; and third-place, \$25.

Contest guidelines, fee schedules, and other information appear on the conference page of [www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org).

## Best Website Design

Jill Britton, a mathematics instructor at Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, has crafted an outstanding website. Check out her attractive and user-friendly design:

<http://britton.disted.camosun.bc.ca/home.htm>

Yes, I know that her site is devoted to mathematics; be careful — she will make you like math!

Britton shows applications to art and architecture as well as beautiful patterns. Perhaps she will give you ideas to improve your own website. **WT**

## Oregon Coast Children's Book Workshop

Next summer, July 9-13, 2012, we will present the tenth *Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop*, [www.occbww.com](http://www.occbww.com), in the exquisite Oregon coast town of Oceanside. Every summer we've had to turn away students. So, if you care to join us, you might want to register sooner than later.

The instructors for the workshop will include five established children's book authors who specialize in young adult and middle school novels, picture books, non-fiction, magazine pieces, and poetry; two children's book editors from major houses; and one children's book agent. Summer Workshop 2012 promises to be our best yet.

More and more of our students are publishing and signing with agents. If you are ambitious to publish a children's book, this is the workshop for you. It will allow you to connect directly with authors, editors, and agents who are active in the children's book business. See [www.occbww.com](http://www.occbww.com) for all details.

**CWC Sacramento** has announced its 2012 Short Story Contest, open to all writers. Prizes are \$100, \$50, and \$25, with 750 words the maximum length.

Entry fee for each submission is \$10, deadline January 31, 2012. Go to their website [sacramento-writers.org](http://sacramento-writers.org) for details on format and submission.

## 2012 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE-February 16-20, Mark Hopkins

A Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community for all Writers! There is so much to learn, the SFWC is also offering pre-event and post-event classes. Connect with bestselling authors, respected literary agents, and editors from the top publishing houses.

Learn the secrets of publishing from the best in the business. SFWC features 100 bestselling authors, successful literary agents, and respected editors from top publishing houses; 50+ sessions; and networking with the presenters.

For registration and complete information visit: <http://www.SFWriters.org> or call 925-560-1403.

## WRITERSTALK Challenge

### **What is it?**

Twice a year, in February and August, awards are given to contributors to *WritersTalk*. You need take no special steps to enter this competition; if your piece in one of the designated genres is published in *WritersTalk*, you are a contestant in the Challenge.\*

### **Genres**

Fiction  
Memoir  
Essay  
Poetry

### **Judging Periods**

January 16 through July 15  
July 16 through January 15

### **Prizes**

One winner will be selected from each of the eligible genres. Each winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$40.

### **Judging**

Judging will be done by *WritersTalk* contributing editors and other Club members whom the contributing editors may ask to assist.

\* Eligibility for the *WritersTalk* Challenge is limited to members of the South Bay Branch of the California Writers Club; judges may not judge in any category in which they have an entry. **WT**

## Directory of Experts

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

### **Astrology, Singing**

Sara Aurich  
saraaurich@comcast.net

### **Astronomy, History of Astronomy**

Bob Garfinkle  
ragarf@earthlink.net

### **Banking**

Pam Oliver-Lyons  
polpap@prodigy.net

### **Character Development**

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

### **Counseling/John Steinbeck**

Dr. Audry L. Lynch  
glynych0001@comcast.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

### **Real Estate, Horses, Remodeling,**

### **Southwest History**

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

### **Profile Writing**

Susan Mueller  
susan\_mueller@yahoo.com

### **Teaching and the Arts**

Betty Auchard  
Btauchard@aol.com

### **Telecommunications Technology**

Allan Cobb  
allancobb@computer.org

### **Television Production**

Woody Horn  
408-266-7040

### **Thanatologist: Counseling for Death, Dying, and Bereavement**

Susan Salluce  
susansalluce@yahoo.com

## South Bay Writers Honor Roll

The following members of South Bay Writers have written books that appear on [www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com). Check out our Members' Gallery and Members' Books.

Betty Auchard  
Dale Aycock  
Robert Balmano  
David Breithaupt  
Susan Taylor Brown  
June Chen  
Rick Deutsch  
Gary Dow (G Wayne)  
Martha Engber  
Valerie Frankel  
Robert Garfinkle  
Tina Glasner  
Jack Hasling  
Marjorie Johnson  
Sherri Johnson (Danny Culpepper)  
Victoria Johnson  
Susanne Lakin  
Michael Levin  
Audry Lynch  
Tom Mach  
Kathryn Madison  
Sam Marines  
Jana McBurney-Lin  
Evelyn Preston  
W Craig Reed  
Wilma Reiber  
Reed Stevens  
Anna Thumann  
Wendy Tokunaga  
Mary Tomasi-Dubois  
Valerie Whong (Valerie Lee)

## CWC Around the Bay

These are published meeting locations and times for 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:** 1:30 third Sundays, Oakland Public Library Main Branch. [cwc-berkeley.com](http://cwc-berkeley.com)

**Central Coast:** 5:30 third Tuesdays, Bay Park Hotel, 1425 Munras Avenue, Monterey. [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

**Fremont:** 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 204, Fremont. [cwc-fremontareawriters.org](http://cwc-fremontareawriters.org)

**Marin:** 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. [cwcmarinwriters.com](http://cwcmarinwriters.com)

**Mount Diablo:** 11:30 second Saturdays, Hungry Hunter, 3201 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette (Pleasant Hill Road and Highway 24). [mtdiablowriters.org](http://mtdiablowriters.org)

**Redwood:** 3:00 first Sundays at Copperfield's Books, 2316 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. [redwoodwriters.org](http://redwoodwriters.org)

**Tri-Valley:** 11:30 third Saturdays, Oasis Grille, 780 Main Street, Pleasanton. [trivalleywriters.com](http://trivalleywriters.com)

**Sacramento:** 11:00 third Saturdays, Luau Garden Chinese Buffet, 1890 Arden Way, Sacramento. [sacramento-writers.org](http://sacramento-writers.org)

**San Francisco/Peninsula:** 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. [sfpeninsulawriters.com](http://sfpeninsulawriters.com)

## Ongoing Critique Groups

### **Le Boulanger Writers**

Meets at Le Boulanger, Pruneyard in Campbell. Karen Hartley – Sew1Machin@aol.com All genres; open to all

### **Our Voices**

Meets in Santa Clara, every other Tuesday 7:15 p.m. Genres: Fiction, nontechnical non-fiction, memoir. Contact: Dave LaRoche – [dalaroche@comcast.net](mailto:dalaroche@comcast.net)

### **Valley Writers**

Meets: Valley Village Retirement Center, Santa Clara, Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Marjorie Johnson – [marjohnson89@earthlink.net](mailto:marjohnson89@earthlink.net)

### **Note:**

Come to a South Bay Writers dinner meeting to look for others who may want to form a critique group in your genre.

## Stay Informed

Sign up for the SBW email list to receive meeting and event announcements. [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 2011</b>				1	2 7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 CWC Book Fair Union City
11 CWC Book Fair Union City	12	13 6:00p Holiday Bash (no regular meeting)	14	15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>	16 7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Pruneyard, Campbell	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>Future Flashes</b>						
January 10 Reg. Dinner Meeting						

**Reserved  
for  
you**

### 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

### South Bay Writers Anthology



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

### Poetry Readings

#### Poets@Play

Second Sundays: Check for times  
Markham House History Park  
1650 Senter Rd., San Jose

Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dennis Noren at [norcamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:norcamp@sbcglobal.net)



### Poetry Readings

#### Poetry Center San Jose

Willow Glen Library  
3rd Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.  
1157 Minnesota Ave., San Jose

Free and open to the public. Featured Readers: Nils Peterson, December 15; Kathie Isaac-Luke, January 19. For more info, call (408) 808-3045 or (408) 266-1361

**Your ad could go here**  
\$7 per column inch for SBW members  
\$10 per inch for nonmembers



## California Writers Club

South Bay Branch

P.O. Box 3254

Santa Clara, CA 95055

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

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

### Holiday Bash December 13

No regular meeting

**Next Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m.**

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

Alice La Plante  
**"Unreliable Narrator"**

*WritersTalk* deadline is always  
the 15th of the month.

