



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 20  
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August 2012

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

AUGUST SPEAKER VICKIE ROZELL

## DRAMATIC LICENSE

### Playwright might be right calling for you

by Colin Seymour

Surely many of us in South Bay Writers have aspired to become dramatists, but few of us seem to be involved in that discipline at present. What might be holding back a would-be playwright, like a poet who doesn't know it? Do we suffer from a peculiar strain of stage fright?



Even publishing a book is becoming far less daunting than the prospect of nursing your first play from conception to production. Nevertheless, our August 14 dinner speaker, Vickie Rozell of TheatreWorks, may well offer hope that even you could write a play that goes all the way.

For one thing, it's a growing field, especially for women.

"A lot of classic plays were written by men, but there are a lot more women writing them now," said Rozell, whose TheatreWorks roles encompass fine-tuning scripts and writing impressive essays in program notes. She also has a significant role in TheatreWorks' acclaimed annual New Works Festival in August. Rozell cited the late Wendy Wasserstein as a progenitor of the current demographics trends among playwrights.

"People have started doing more plays, which presents opportunities for more

kinds of plays." This bodes well for newcomers. Five of the six New Works playwrights this year are new, according to Rozell.

And don't worry about your age. "Plays are plays," Rozell said. "In theater, if you're good at your job, they don't care what race or age you are. If the play is good and they think it's interesting to their audience, they will do it."

So, how does one get started?

"The first thing you do is try it," Rozell said. "You need to be familiar with theater . . . the style and the format . . . then sit down and give it a try."

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## Making of a Story

Exercises enhance, enliven  
Alice LaPlante's workshop

by Carolyn Donnell

Alice LaPlante returned for an encore performance on July 21st at the South Bay Writers workshop, "The Making of A Story." Back in January Alice spoke to us about point of view and scene versus narration. This time around Alice concentrated on leading us through instruction and exercises to learn "What Makes a Good Story."

The first point presented was to quantify the experience and to learn more about one another. Alice assigned us an exercise to illustrate this, following a Harper's Index format. List five instances of the number of times you have done something – how much time it took, how many things you have or have had in a particular subject. Examples included how many books one has published, how many books are started but not completed; how many siblings, how many siblings are still talking to you; how many hours spent on the Internet, how many hours spent on computer games; and so on.

*Continued on Page 6*

## SBW Annual BBQ

Our annual July barbecue, hosted by Edie and Jim Matthews in their park-like backyard, provided fun, food, and frolic as evidenced by the photos on <http://southbaywritersgallery.shutterfly.com/>

A big THANK YOU to Edie and Jim.

### WritersTalk Challenge

Winners will be announced at the August 14 dinner meeting of South Bay Writers.

# President's Challenge

by Bill Baldwin  
President, South Bay Writers

## Let's get this party started!

I'm very grateful to be a member of California Writers Club and especially the South Bay Branch. CWC is over a hundred years old, and our own branch has been around now for 25 years, I believe. Perhaps this year we can find a fitting way to celebrate our own quarter-century of existence!

I was delighted to see new folks coming forward to help run the club. I'm looking forward to working with Rita Beach as our new vice-president and Mike Freda as new treasurer. I know it took some courage to throw themselves into board work—and I know they will bring a refreshing energy to the South Bay Writers Board.

Thanks also to the members who have decided to continue on the board: Sylvia Halloran (secretary), and Dick Amyx and Andrea Galvacs (board members-at-large). It takes dedication to continue serving when that calls for time and energy every month. Do feel free to share your ideas with Dick and Andrea; we have been and will continue to ask for feedback from *you* about how we are meeting your needs and wants. We can always use suggestions. This is *your* club; we stand ready to serve *you*. And be sure to read Sylvia's reports on the board meetings in *WritersTalk*, and share your opinions on board issues.

Lastly, many, many thanks to Colin Seymour and Richard Burns, our outgoing vice-president and treasurer. They've given us uncounted hours of devotion and continued to give even when they could instead have gone off to work on their own writing projects. These are the kind of folks that keep this club going. Thanks to all of you!

Now we enter a new year. I imagine questions from writing spirits hovering around me. We enjoy our monthly meetings; we enjoy our workshops. How many do we want per year? Might we want more emphasis on our workshops and less on our monthly meetings? Shall we explore other ventures like larger writing contests, or contests connected with community events (such as county fairs), or writing scholarships? Might we be interested in another branch anthology or (wait for it!) even another East of Eden Conference?

I drove down to Carmel yesterday (July 14th—Bastille Day) to visit the Carmel Bach Festival; I returned via Salinas. Driving past the exit for the Steinbeck Center always calls back SBW memories; we've had so many good times down at the East of Eden Conference.

These ideas, like our board, will require dedication and hard work. But we have Joaquin Miller to inspire us: His poem "Columbus" gave the California Writers Club its motto: "Sail On!" Let us sail boldly onwards into the remainder of 2012, and then on into 2013!

I'm looking forward to an exciting year with South Bay Writers! **WT**



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### 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, or sign up online southbaywriters.com.



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## WritersTalk

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

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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

### 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

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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.

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by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Editor



## Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman

"Show, don't tell." How many times have we heard that?

One solution, of course, is to enrich the scenes in your story with vivid descriptions involving all the senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, although we often depend more heavily upon seeing and hearing. Why not enlist the sense of smell?

Smell and taste are so closely related that, if a cold blocks your nasal passages, your food tastes bland. There are many categories of taste — salty, bitter, sweet, spicy, sharp — and many ways to connect taste to food. Smell can be described in much the same way as taste. A smell can be a scent, a fragrance, an odor, or a stink, but for effective use, you need a concrete reference, such as the reek of death, the stink of an outhouse, or the rich smell of brewing coffee.

In writing, you needn't limit smell to sensual detail. An odor may evoke a visual memory or warn of danger or lead into a flashback. Smell can be a plot element; for some people, a whiff of perfume can trigger an asthma attack while the suffocating cloy of cheap cologne can cause olfactory fatigue or even a heart attack. In fact, smell can become the theme of a novel.

The best example of smell used to write a novel is Patrick Süskind's *Perfume*, the incredible story of Grenouille, a man born completely without a bodily odor. Grenouille experiences the world through his astounding ability to detect various scents and store them in his mental filing cabinet. In eighteenth century France, his astute nose is a blessing because manufacturing perfume is a lucrative trade but also a curse because perfume is needed to mask noxious odors, hygiene being non-existent in many people's lives.

Not only can Grenouille identify everyday smells, he also can identify the scents that evoke moods of trust, adoration, and lust, and he can recall all of these at will. He catalogs the smell of a brass doorknob along with the caramel scent of a baby and the heavy, heady sensation of an exotic perfume. His life's work is to capture the fresh smell of innocent hope that he smelled once on a beautiful adolescent girl. This is the story of his quest.

Süskind's realistic depictions of the smells and aromas of eighteenth century France are so evocative that *Perfume* is not the kind of book to read while eating a sandwich.

The book has been made into a movie, *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*, but without the verbal descriptions of smells, it comes out as a story about a murderer who has no sense of good or evil.

Smells have the power to transport us back to other times, revive our memories. Nowadays, we tend to be removed from "natural" smells, which isn't always a bad thing, but are our lives becoming too sanitized? It is considered anti-social not to use a deodorant, yet we would hesitate to advise someone to use it if he needed to. Is this the last taboo subject?

If you read *Perfume* to study how Süskind uses the sense of smell in writing a novel, you'll never think about your nose in quite the same way again. *WT*

# New Members

by Rita Beach

Every month it is my pleasure to introduce our newest members to South Bay Writers. Each additional membership signifies the growth of our organization, the infusion of new ideas, and a variety of personalities from an eclectic mix of individuals. Their life experiences enrich us all. We encourage each member to extend a welcoming hand to the new faces in the crowd. They have joined for a number of reasons—to network with other writers, to find critique groups, or perhaps to seek knowledge and inspiration.

I am pleased to announce our newest junior member, **Lorna Johnson**, age 10. Lorna has already had her short story, "The Elephant Smiled," published in a previous issue of *WritersTalk*. Andrea Galvacs, Lorna's grandmother, is an active member of South Bay Writers and knows talent when she reads it. She encouraged Lorna to submit her story and join the club. Lorna is a fifth-grader at Earl LeGette Elementary School in Fair Oaks, California, and enjoys reading fantasy (Harry Potter) and realistic fiction books. She enjoys writing both of these types of fiction. Lorna has participated in a program at her school called Writers Workshop for the past two years and says she has several notebooks filled with story ideas, prompts, and story arcs. She's a Girl Scout, plays soccer, likes to snow ski, and enjoys writing and illustrating when not playing with her cat, Plunkit. She promises to attend more meetings when she passes her driver's test in a few years. We are delighted to have you, Lorna!

**Quyen Thai** of Santa Clara joined us in May. His writing interest is short stories, and he writes both fiction and non-fiction. He wrote a piece that was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul – Teacher Tales*. Quyen only recently moved to this area and is looking forward to networking with other writers, learning about publishing, and is seeking fresh ideas about writing. When not writing, he enjoys casual running and spending time with good friends. Feel free to contact him at quyen1979@hotmail.com.

We welcome another new member, **Matthew Sloan**, who hails from Santa Cruz. He enjoys yoga-meditation and staying fit by mountain biking and running. He likes singing and loves the creative and performing arts. Matthew told me he loves the spirit of life. We look forward to having his spirit rub off on some of us. Though not yet published, he has written and directed children's plays and a one-man comedy show. He writes children's stories and poetry and is currently working on a memoir called *Through a Son's Eyes*. He is looking for a critique group and wants to learn about all aspects of writing and publishing. Contact Matthew at mosloan@gmail.com.

**Earl Hardy** joined South Bay Writers after hearing about the club from other members and reading about us on-line. He writes fiction more in the realm of science fiction, fantasy, and the paranormal. His current work is *The Man Who Liked Cats*, a contemporary paranormal fantasy, according to his own description. Earl is looking for representation at this time and joined to find out all the information he could about writing, publishing, networking, and critiquing. Earl holds a degree in history from UC

Davis and works as a field supervisor for a commercial HVAC company. He is also a certified general electrician in California. Isn't it amazing that, with all the different backgrounds we come from, the common denominator that binds us is writing? We can contact Earl by email at eehardy@aol.com.

**Brian Dizon** found our writers' club on-line. Like many who join, Brian wants to learn more about writing. He writes fiction and non-fiction and is seeking information about publishing. Brian wants to join a critique group and to network with other aspiring writers. His love of writing had its roots in songwriting. In the Philippines he played rhythm guitar in a band, sang, and wrote their original material. He also enjoys charcoal sketching, sports, books and good conversations. Contact Brian at brian.a.dizon@gmail.com.

What a wide and diverse group of new members to join us! We welcome each and every one of you. There are no guarantees of success, but if we surround ourselves with those who hold the same dreams, interests, and aspirations, just maybe, we will find our way.

WT

## August Accolades

by Andrea Galvacs

I'm always happy to report our members' good news if they wish to share them. This month I'm not just happy, I'm *deeeelighted* because one of the writers worthy of an accolade is my granddaughter!

**Lorna Johnson's** story "The Elephant Smiled" appeared in the July issue of *WT*. This makes her a published author at the age of 10. We should all have been so lucky!

Poetic Artist **Stephen C. "Steve" Wetlesen** will receive another annual commission from people who prefer not to be named here, to create a new customized individual Christmas Holiday Season card for 2012. This is the latest in a series of collaborations with a visual painter. WT



## ISBN – What's that?

A book is given an ISBN of 978-0-3995-3238-2. The 978 allows ISBNs to "Harmonize" with Global Trade Item Numbers (GTIN), known as the Universal Product Code (UPC) in North America. The 0 means published in an English-speaking country. The 3995 is the publisher's identifying number while 3238 is the number assigned by the publisher for that particular book. As for the 2, it's a check sum digit, whatever that is. WT



# Networking Log

by Elena Martina

I do not have a list of networking connections to present but I met individually with two SBW members, Nina Amir and Valerie Lee, and we talked about our busy schedules as writers. Nina works on several blogs and other projects and Valerie has been working on a couple of books for a few years

In my case, I wrote three chapters on my second book and wanted to use *Facebook* for help in finding an editor. You never know how effective *Facebook* might be when you publicly voice what you need, but I gave it a try and posted a few lines about needing editorial help for my upcoming book. I received a few “likes” on my post, but not a solid lead. A few days later, I posted again, this time in different words: I asked friends to let me know if they knew of a local editor whom I could hire to work with me while writing my second book. The post worked, and I think the key word was “hire.” The message received several “likes” as the previous one did, except this time, someone wrote me interested in the “position.”

Tina Glasner answered my “ad” after another writer who saw my post wrote to her announcing my needs. Tina is an editor and also a writer with 25 years of professional experience. I will meet with her this month to see if we are compatible to work together. So, my message to you is, do not dismiss *Facebook* as possible outreach for your writing, editing, or coaching needs. Give it a try, or two.

I noticed that it would be very useful if I had some editors to recommend. If you are an editor who works for hire, or if you know someone who does, please send me your name, email, and the type of editing you do: copy editing; developmental editing; fiction or non-fiction; coaching of writing or grammar. Then I will be able to connect editors to those who want some help with their writing.

If you need help in networking, you can reach me at [onlyelenamartina@aol.com](mailto:onlyelenamartina@aol.com) for assistance. Don't hesitate to try something new. WT

# California Writers Week

Start planning now for annual October observance

by Donna McCrohan Rosenthal  
[pr@calwriters.org](mailto:pr@calwriters.org)

Nearly a decade ago, the California Writers Club Central Board worked to establish California Writers Week. The result: On September 4, 2003 at 10 A.M., CWC members gathered on the Assembly floor in Sacramento to receive a Joint Legislative Resolution from Assemblyman Tim Leslie. Further endorsed by the California Library Association, this document proclaimed the third week in October to be California Writers Week.

It read in part that “California’s literary tradition dates back to the works of Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Mary Austin, Nobel prize and Pulitzer prize winner John Steinbeck, Delilah L. Beasley, Joaquin Miller, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Barrio, Gertrude Atherton, Raymond Chandler, and Pulitzer prize winner William Saroyan.

“The California Writers Club honors all California writers, past and present, and continues to nurture the talents of new writers as well as established authors, and to provide a forum for the sharing of their writing experience.

“The California Writers Club encourages all California libraries to showcase the works of California writers through displays, author programs and reading clubs.”

In short, Members Resolution No. 2170 offers some dandy ideas for branch activities this fall, among them panel discussions, workshops, library displays, and outreach to schools. And mentioning the ninth anniversary of California Writers Week will add clout to your publicity.

Keep in mind that if you want to have events to promote this autumn, your branch should start planning now. For motivation, see the printable poster on our website, [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org).

Good luck and sail on!

WT

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## Note to the editor: May 21, 2012

by Nina Amir

I'm so excited to tell you that today is the official launch day for my new book, *How to Blog a Book: Write, Publish, and Promote Your Work One Post at a Time* — the day after that awesome solar eclipse I had the opportunity to watch! I'm told the energy shifted with that celestial event and that we now have the opportunity to clear away whatever has been limiting us. I, therefore, can't think of a better time to fully launch this book into the world, because it shows you how to write your book easily and quickly and promote it at the same time — to go beyond any limits you've felt to becoming an author. By blogging a book you can share your wisdom with the world and truly make a difference online and off.



Not only that, you can fulfill your purpose in this lifetime by putting your unique message into your blog and your book,J4

and touching other people's lives. So, no more waiting to write that book or making excuses about why you can't get it written and build that author's platform you need to become a successful author. Now is the time.

You can follow me on my blog tour:  
<http://howtoblogabook.com/book->

## Dramaturge Rozell

*Continued from Page 1*

If you don't have a premise in mind, she says, "practice picking up a novel and adapting it into a play. It's harder than you think. It's all dialogue."

There are other differences to consider. For instance, there can't be too many characters, Rozell said. "When people adapt novels into plays, like *Snow Falling on Cedars*, you have to lose whole characters, lose whole plot lines. A theater company just can't do a play with 50 people in it. You'll never get it produced."

They've got the personnel considerations down to a science. "They do what is called a track (deciding how many actors your play will need). The money it costs between five people and eight people is pretty big."

Those are the sorts of "things you have to think about that you don't have to think about when you write a novel." Another is where to send your play when it doesn't make the cut at New

Works, which recognizes, of course, that "most playwrights are not affiliated with simply one theater."

Nor do playwrights have to send queries one at a time, which keeps the play from getting stuck in the mud when a theater does show interest. "They don't say, 'I want to produce it right now.' They say 'this is an interesting play. Let me help you develop it.'"

That's not less than what we ask of most agents and publishers, so it's encouraging.

The revisions process might be relatively discouraging. Rozell will tell us how some of the sausage is made. But what she's most proud of, as a true editor ought to be, is New Works' reputation for respecting the playwright's work.

"In the end, it's the playwright's play."

That doesn't sound so daunting.

*Dramaturg Vickie Rozell of Theatre Works will be our August 14 dinner speaker at The Lookout.* WT

## Making of a Story: Recap

*Continued from Page 1*

The second point covered some dos and don'ts. Don't paraphrase and don't summarize. You need facts, but then add the details. Do avoid sentimentality and melodrama—where you try to evoke a reaction when you haven't earned it in the writing. Extravagant theatricality, predominance of physical action over characterization, is not encouraged. The litmus test is, is it appropriate to the situation?



## SBW speaks up

*by Marjorie Johnson*

On July 21, thirty-eight members and friends of South Bay Writers attended the Alice LaPlante seminar. Feedback and answers to the four questions posed to participants are collected here.

1. Do you like the 8 am to 2 pm format?

Yes 21; no 17. Comments pro: Nice—doesn't take the whole day; still have Saturday afternoon free. Comments con: Too early, 8. Later time better, but if not possible, that's fine, 1. Time 9 to 3 or 10 to 4 much better, 4. Go 9 to 3 with no breakfast—just start, 2 persons.

2. Do you like having a full breakfast as opposed to coffee and muffins?

Yes 28; no 9. Comments pro: Need fruit and veggie options; I am picky and I loved the breakfast and the lunch; breakfast appreciated but not expected or necessary. Comments con: Just skip breakfast; the food here is always bad; breakfast is distracting and adds to cost of the event; food not a major issue; cut expenses and lower cost.

3. Did you like having a workshop in the middle of the summer? Yes; all.

Several persons said that the Alice LaPlante workshop set a perfect example for future workshops; other comments follow. This workshop was so helpful, provocative. I want more workshops just like this one; the exercises really enlightened me. I learned a lot from the Alice LaPlante seminar. I liked the lecture and exercise format. This was wonderful—loved Alice. "Alice," followed by six stars drawn on the paper. I like the real workshop format where we have to work, not just be talked to. This workshop reinforced what we're learning by putting ideas to use immediately (practice) so they're imbedded. Alice is very kind and I learned a lot from her; she made me think about writing in a new way. This workshop was very helpful and, being a beginner, I would appreciate workshops on any writing topic; 4 persons.

4. What topics would you like to have addressed in a future workshop?

Revision strategies. Novel revision; help with revision; work-in-progress development—how to get unstuck.

We continued with another exercise, "I don't know why I remember," and were asked to think of five situations, using as much concrete detail as possible. Think small. See little details, such as a dog with ball, a breeze blowing clothes. Include all five senses to picture what is in your imagination: "The writer's camera is on." A suggested do-it-yourself exercise would be to take a scene and use a different color highlighter for each sense.

After each exercise, Alice asked attendees to read their impromptu compositions and discussed the effectiveness of the writings; group participation made this a richer experience. Members of the audience expressed their liking for the lecture and exercise format, and one added, "The Alice LaPlante workshop sets a perfect example for future workshops."

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## Making of a Story: Recap

*Continued from Page 6*

Recommended reading included *The Art of Fiction* by John Gardner, *The Triggering Town: Lectures and Essays on Poetry and Writing* by Richard Hugo, and *Bird By Bird: Some Instructions On Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott.

**Alice LaPlante** is a writer and teacher of writing who has more than 20 years experience as an award-winning journalist, corporate editorial consultant, writing coach, and university instructor. She is also an award-winning fiction writer and was a Wallace Stegner Fellow and a Jones Lecturer at Stanford University. She teaches creative writing at both Stanford and San Francisco State University and has written a book on creative writing, *Method and Madness: The Making of a Story*, and the novel, *Turn of Mind*. Her email is [alice.laplante@gmail.com](mailto:alice.laplante@gmail.com) and her website is [alichelaplante.com](http://alichelaplante.com) **WT**



## July 21 Workshop

*Photos by Carolyn Donnell*



# Women Traveling Alone—Beware

By Valerie Lee

Author of *The Jade Rubies*

Today's newspaper headlines report many scary things, like car-jacking, kidnappings, and shootings, so it comes as no surprise that we must be aware of our surroundings and take care of ourselves.

This is especially true if you are among the thousands of women who must travel on business. Not only will you have a chance to represent your company but you can go to exotic places, get to know your clients, and perhaps even make new friends.

Traveling should be fun, even if you're away on business. Regardless of who you are, you should always be cautious. Many women have moved into more challenging roles and are faced with instant decisions when they are on the job. It can be a challenging and rewarding position to be in but the added bonus of the actual sale and recognition is just too much to pass up. Traveling for business can be challenging and rewarding but you might find yourself apprehensive, and you should be. You are a woman by yourself in a strange city and that can be frightening. To avoid being one of the statistics, here are a few suggestions.

Be aware of where you are at all times. Pay attention to those around you. Avoid going into dark areas late at night. If you feel uneasy getting on an elevator because you'd be alone with man, just wait for the next car.

On the plane, conduct yourself professionally and never tell anyone next to you that you're on business and alone. It's not necessary to mention where you will be staying either or what company you are with. Keep nametags hidden.

Lock all doors in your rented car. If for any reason a man approaches you for directions or help, do not get out even if he says someone is injured. Open your window slightly, saying you will contact the police for him.

If your car breaks down, use your cell phone to contact AAA. If someone stops to offer assistance, don't leave your car.

## Off the Shelf by Edie Matthews & Betty Auchard



Under no circumstances should you accept a lift from a stranger. Trust no one.

If someone tailgates you or tries to push you off the road, lean on your car horn. If need be, make as much noise as possible and be as conspicuous as you can. Hopefully, that will be enough to attract a crowd or the police.

Alone in a restaurant, drape your overcoat on the chair across from you as if you are expecting someone. Anyone on the prowl will get discouraged if you keep looking at your watch. In the meantime, never make eye contact with any stranger. Try to appear confident. Bring out a notebook, look it over, and pretend you are engrossed in something.

If possible, have dinner with a colleague from work at a restaurant, and have them accompany you back to the hotel before it gets dark.

In your room, check the bathroom and bedroom thoroughly even before putting your purse down. (Keep it handy: a handbag can be useful if needed, especially if you have your cell phone or iPod in it.) When you feel it is safe, double bolt your door and push a chair

against it. Don't open it unless there is an actual fire and then only when you smell smoke.

One of the most enjoyable features about traveling is room service. If you are going to take advantage of it, look through the peephole to make certain that it's a waiter with a cart before you open your door.

Make sure your bathroom door is locked and drapes closed before you take a shower. It might be a good idea to leave the television on soft volume. When you are through, listen to the television. Has it been changed? Is it louder? Be prepared for anything.

When you are ready to call it a night, make certain drapes are securely drawn, windows are closed, and a night-light is on. If there is an adjoining door, make certain it's locked. Might be wise to put a chair there to block it. You don't want any surprises.

Protect yourself, wherever you are. Favorite hideouts for predators are dark parking lots. The most desirable spot to park would be in a well-lit area, preferably with a security camera above.

*Continued on Page 12*



## Suggested future workshops

*Continued from Page 6*

How to know when a work is “ready” since with the computer and word processing we can keep working on it forever.

**Critique groups.** How to start a critique group; motivation (see Eric Maisel) and coaching yourself and each other over a long project; group support, critiques, meetings and classes; resources — who to see for what needs; critiques of each other’s work.

**Publishing, promotion, and platform.** Self-publishing or how to get published, 2; step-by-step how to self-publish, 2; how to find a publisher, 2. Publishing and tips on how to get published, 2. Promoting your book, 2. Marketing your fiction, 2. Building platform without wearing yourself out. Learning how to create an e-book. Actually creating a blog (and/or website) in the workshop; I need to DO IT under the guidance of a teacher. However, 3 persons said they had heard enough about publishing already and that the information is available online. (*Note: See short articles on publishing websites elsewhere in this issue.*)

**Workshops on craft, fiction.** Plotting, 6; creating character and character development, 6; writing genre books; how to find a co-author; story flow and how to work in back story; tension in narrative; active language; writing genre books; structure of a story and how to fill in gaps; how to write an opener to novels — subtle but good. Conflict in fiction: how to flesh out and make unique and avoid clichés. Plot — timeline. Generating story ideas. Finding your writer’s voice. Learning drama, film, and theater techniques that can help in writing. Learning to write humor.

**Workshops on poetry; personal essays; and nonfiction articles.** Creating your author bio and answers to the question, “What do you write?” Writing a children’s story.

**Workshops on memoir:** choosing topics, negotiating truth.

This is a tall order to fill, but in the words of one workshop participant, “Workshops are essential to our growth as writers. I applaud your arranging this one.”  
WT



## SBW writing contest

Everybody likes a contest. Did you know that every time you submit a story, a poem, an essay, or a memoir to *WritersTalk*, you are automatically entered in the *WritersTalk* Challenge Contest? See page 14.

We will announce the August winners at our August 14 dinner meeting.

Be sure to send your entry for the next judging, prizes to be awarded in February.  
WT

### Overheard at the workshop:

“How do you remember so many jokes?”

Colin Seymour’s answer: “I don’t. I remember the punchline and make up a story to go with it.”

## Send food articles for \$\$\$

You don’t need to be a food writer to write about food for the online food magazine *Table Talk at Larry’s*. We are accepting submissions of all things food related.

Visit [www.tabletalkatlarrys.com](http://www.tabletalkatlarrys.com) and get a feel for what we publish. Then scroll down to Submit in the right hand column and send us your work. We pay a stipend of \$35 upon publication.



### Romanesco broccoli

A head of Romanesco broccoli is a striking example of an approximate fractal in nature, and the number of spirals is a Fibonacci number.

— Wikipedia

## Three members offer fall writing classes

by Carolyn Donnell

If you are interested in furthering your writing education, there are several South Bay Writers Club members who can help.

Lita Kurth will be teaching Introduction to Creative Writing (EWRT 30), Monday – Thursday, 10:30 – 11:20, at De Anza College this September. Check [deanza.edu/schedule/](http://deanza.edu/schedule/) for details.

Jackie Mutz teaches an ongoing Creative Writing Workshop on Mondays from 10 am to 12 pm at the Santa Clara Senior Center, through Santa Clara Adult Education. The next class will start in September and another in October. Each session runs four weeks. See [santaclaraadulted.org/](http://santaclaraadulted.org/)

Sylvia Halloran will have three classes/workshops in the fall through Los Altos Adult Education at the Hillview Center in Los Altos.

- Freelance Writing Workshop, Wednesdays, 9:15 – 12:15, begins September 5
  - Memoirs Writing on Fridays, 9:15 – 12:15, begins September 7
  - Memoirs Writing on Thursdays, 12:30 – 3:30, begins September 6
- See [mvla.net](http://mvla.net) or call (650) 940-1333.

*Editorial note:* Some of us will view a DVD from The Great Courses, lectures by Professor Tilar J. Mazzeo, “Writing Creative Nonfiction,” on third and fourth Tuesday nights, 7 – 9 pm. The plan is to show these on a big screen TV in a private home, an opportunity limited to the first fifteen persons who sign up at the August 14 South Bay Writers general meeting.

Outside of the club, WriterU has online courses in which you interact with an instructor. Check them out at [www.WriterUniv.com](http://www.WriterUniv.com).

Santa Clara Adult Education has several online courses. Starting dates are August 15, September 19, and October 17. For class descriptions, schedules, and registration, go to [www.ed2go.com/santaclara](http://www.ed2go.com/santaclara) Classes listed are: Beginners Guide to Getting Published; Fiction Writing — Advanced; Mystery Writing; Pleasures of Poetry; and Travel Writing.  
WT



## Your nose knows

Since this month's discussion of sensual detail focuses on the sense of smell, some explorations for your nose follow.

### Aroma of used books:

Walk into a used bookstore and you will encounter the unique aroma of aging books. Books, made from organic matter, are affected by light, heat, and moisture, but even more by the chemicals used in their manufacture. Also, a book can absorb an odor, such as that of tobacco smoke. So what is that used book smell? "A mixture of grassy roots with a faint tang of acid and a hint of vanilla over an underlying mustiness," said Richard of AbeBooks on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

### Scents of Ethiopia:

The fragrance of eucalyptus stoking a home fire; the smell of wet grass, of dung fuel, of tobacco, and the perfume of hundreds of roses; the scents of Ethiopia.

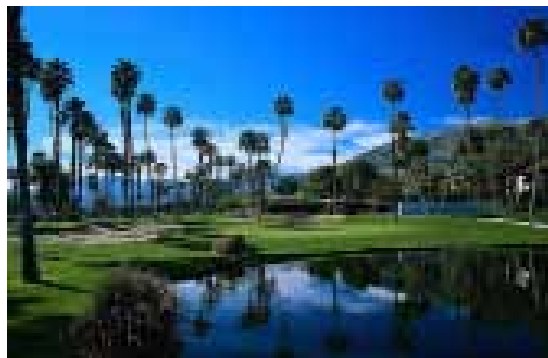
The musty ammonical reek of liver failure; the sweet fruity odor of diabetic coma; the freshly baked bread scent of typhoid fever; the sewer breath of lung abscess; the grapelike odor of a pseudomonas-infected burn; the stale urine stink of kidney failure; the old beer smell of scrofula.

From *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. WT

## A Beautiful Thing to Feel

At the first tee, I don't let on how my stomach does flip-flops,  
How my hands tremble so much I can barely hold my driver.  
I fervently wish all that sport psychology training and  
Those mind-calming meditation tricks would kick in.  
I back off, wait for calm, and  
Stand behind the ball picturing the ideal flight.  
The gallery, dead silent, is patient, holding its collective breath.  
I settle into my stance, knees flexed, grip strong.  
It's just another shot at the driving range I tell myself.  
But this is the U.S. Open at Olympic Country Club, and  
I can't really erase that from my mind.  
I take the club back low in a wide arc,  
Pause for an instant at the top,  
Then my hips shift and turn, I pull the left arm down,  
Right elbow is tucked into my side,  
The club-head accelerating out and toward the target  
Exploding through the ball at impact.  
The ball streaks low and straight,  
Seeming to take a second flight high into the blue,  
Finally drawing to the left slightly as it drops from the sky.  
It kicks to the right off of the distant fairway hill just as I planned.  
My follow-through is full and well balanced.  
The power of a golf shot, well struck, is a beautiful thing to be a part of,  
A beautiful thing to feel.  
I try not to smile as the crowd applauds  
And I pass my club to my caddy.  
Maybe I will come back tomorrow.

— Richard A. Burns



## Old people do smell

Old people have a reputation for producing a distinct scent that follows them around like, well, a bad odor, according to Amina Khan in an article in the *Los Angeles Times*. In a study done by Johann Lundstrom, a neuropsychologist at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, subjects could indeed pick out the aged aroma and rated it as more pleasant and less intense than body odors from twenty-somethings and middle-aged folk.

Human beings aren't known for their olfactory prowess, but humans do use their noses when selecting romantic partners, picking out kin and distinguishing men from women.

While the notion that the elderly have a distinct smell exists in multiple cultures — an odor usually said to be unpleasant — this probably has more to do with negative perceptions of old age. WT

# Terse On Verse

by Pat Bustamante

## Awesome August

Isn't it great to make that sale?  
(Don't put yourself down,  
Erase that frown  
Forget any 'typo'). Just brag-and-know  
You wrote a WHALE of a TALE!

— Pat Bustamante

On handling a sale: Can this be one of those “write this day down in my journal” occasions?

When I sold a poem to a national monthly magazine I realized it might be some time before they would be interested in my work again. Usually it is only a columnist who gets his name published every month. However, I write short stories and anecdotes too, and when the call came from the editors regarding an anthology to be printed, subject to be stories about World War II, I got into it. After that I offered a humorous tidbit to one of their regular columnists that also was accepted.

Variety is not just a spice in the writing field; it's a necessity of life for a writer. Free-lancing means that it's best to grab at all likely possible venues. Be sure to mention your successes each time an editor asks for a short bio.

If you are like me you won't forget that first sale, no matter how many follow it. And if you pursue self-publishing and reach your sales-goal on time, celebrate it! “Social networking” is wonderful for expanding your contacts so get out the word: “I AM A PROFESSIONAL WRITER!”

Writing is easier than it has ever been. (And don't forget to fill out an “accolade” form at the next meeting!) WT



## Haiku On The Artistic Sex Life

Deep cello pieces -  
far more interesting.  
Likewise fine paintings!

—Stephen C. Wetlesen



## Fibonacci Daisy

It's left as an exercise for the reader to explain the title of this picture.

If you would to see beauty in mathematics, go to the picture of the week in the Mathematical Association of America's Found Math Gallery at [www.maa.org/FoundMath/](http://www.maa.org/FoundMath/)

## Short Life of Beauty

Maybe a radical climate-change-of-heart  
Maybe abduction  
Maybe she ran away?  
Demeter “The Mater”  
Yes she would have worried over her little girl  
Like every mother does when one is late.  
Demeter knew the girl was careless  
Could parse aloud the sounds of every symphony of soul  
Was too attractive, too unaware, sang so loudly;  
Persephone was headstrong, also adolescent;  
No need to say any more than that.

Call the police, alert the media:  
Offer what reward can bargain for a life--  
But would you go directly to the Land of Death?  
Could you face down a black-hearted master  
Of underworld behavior,  
Offer deals, acknowledge and bow before his ugly face,  
Hating him? Still, anything to end the loss  
Of girl-song, daughter of the sweetest time of year,  
A child Demeter loved above her very life.  
Death ends the story of many a blonde-haired screen-  
goddess, too —  
But eventually we forgive Death, keeping what we can  
Just for a while rejoicing at least to have (or to have had)  
Memory's short Season of Love and beauty and birth.

—Pat Bustamante



## Women travelers beware

*Continued from page 8*

Once you are ready to leave your car, grab your purse, coat, and briefcase all in one swift motion. Do not hesitate and walk quickly.

Always have your car keys ready when you return to your car. As you climb in, toss everything in the back seat to make certain no one is hiding in there. Again, lock the door. If someone follows, speed up and don't worry about going through a red light if necessary. Be careful not to cause an accident, either to yourself or to someone else, but do what's necessary for your own safety.

Carry a flashlight and have a cellular phone or some handy alarm system that creates noise. But if you must, just scream as loud as you can. No perpetrator wants to attract attention. Your voice can be your best defense.

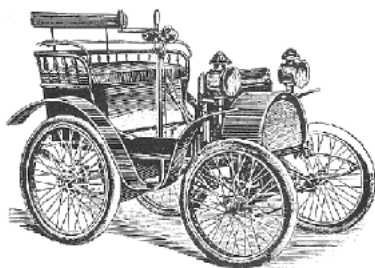
Crime does happen, so use common sense. Clutch your handbag under your arm and do not keep cash all in one place. Robbery is something to worry about but money is nothing compared to your life so travel smart and beware. Being suspicious and careful can save your life. Do not become a victim.

Most of us enjoy travel. We can't wait to go to new places and eat out. To relax in a beautiful hotel room is a real treat, especially with room service. There's no reason why we can't take advantages of all the perks that the hotel offers, like the spa or gym.

Yes, we should worry about our safety, but that doesn't mean we can't have fun. We want to experience all that a big city has to offer and see the fantastic, bright city lights at night. We can do all this and still be on guard. Eventually you will be a seasoned business traveler, well aware of how to take care of yourself. After you learn these simple precautions, you will have a sixth sense wherever you are, whether on business or pleasure.

So happy travels.

WT



## Time

Once upon a time, time was measured by the deliberate, ponderous strokes of the grandfather clock, whose very long pendulum said, "There-is-plenty-of-time. There-is-plenty-of-time." Later clocks had swifter strokes from shorter pendulums that said, "Time to get busy! Time to get busy! Time to get busy!"

Now, an electronic clock has the shortest possible pendulum—none at all. Everything is speeded up, making us chronically tired.

## It's that time of year again.

The 2011-2012 CWC South Bay membership year ended June 30. Renewal dues \$45 keep you a member in good standing through June 30, 2013.

### Benefits of membership:

- Networking and fellowship with other writers
- Hearing great speakers and attending workshops
- Getting your creative work published in *WritersTalk*
- Getting a free web page on the SBW website

Send your check for \$45 to CWC South Bay, P. O. Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055, Attn: Membership, or renew online at [www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com).

## Publishing information

I own a website [www.mypertpitch.com](http://www.mypertpitch.com) which contains an unrivalled database of book publishers who are currently accepting submissions from authors. This isn't just a general publishers list. Each link leads directly to the submissions page. I have around 1,000 publishers worldwide covering all genres. The site doesn't contain any self-publishing or vanity companies; it is a genuinely free and open resource.

Please have a look at my site, <http://www.littlebrown.co.uk/Authors/G>

As a published author myself I know I would have appreciated a resource like this when I was looking for my first book deal. I look forward to hearing from you.

Brian Grove <[briangrove@live.co.uk](mailto:briangrove@live.co.uk)>

## Publishing Pathways website

The California Writers Club NorCal group has made publishing information available on [www.cwcnorcalwriters.org/pubpathways/](http://www.cwcnorcalwriters.org/pubpathways/) This website is always under construction to keep it up-to-date. If you find additions or corrections that should be made, please contact an SBW mentor listed in the *WritersTalk* masthead on page 2.

Note: Another good source of publishing opportunities is the *Writer's Digest 2012 Yearbook*. WT



## Is this your last issue of *WritersTalk*?

Be sure to renew before the end of August when the mailing list will be updated.

# Poetic Requiem

## Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Memorial Gathering

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Sorry I have been AWOL, missing in action and out of circulation.

A few weeks ago, accompanied by terrible fever and other numerous symptoms, which I tried mightily to fight off on my own, my left foot blew up in a terrible infection, which, with me fighting it tooth and nail, resulted in me being hospitalized. Valley Medical Center is sheer hell at the best of times; they never let you sleep, and the food and endless racket are terrible. Would wish my worst enemies to end up there.

They did finally let me out, but I learned to my shock and dismay the infection had been caused by a tunnel-like hole going from the top off my foot near the large toe to the bottom, which they hope to close up using special dressings, but it is really a hassle. A long course of antibiotics as well, and really, really off my feet except a few excursions. Many kudos to my medically trained mother for helping to dress it every day.

Hospital felt like prison, and being home is parole, but it feels lonely. I may recover in a few weeks or months, or maybe they might have to cut off a toe or two, we shall see. In the meantime, thank you for your friendship and prayers.

Also I dread lots of medical bills. Anybody who opposes universal national health care has never seen the things I've seen, believe me. The patients around me were all far, far worse than I, something out of Dante's Inferno. No commercial insurance profit based system can possibly work for these poor people, many of whom had worked hard in very laborious employment their whole lives. They are no welfare slouches, believe you me.

I'll close with one happy thought. I always try to make lemons into lemonade. My internist doctors at VMC happened at the time to be putting together a memorial gathering for all the patients the doctors had seen die during their soon to end three year residency periods at the hospital. When a couple of them talked to me and learned of my art, they asked me to put together the piece you see reproduced below. It met with most enthusiastic reception, as indeed my regular permanent doctor also expressed his deep appreciation. I humbly present this to you only because I want everyone to know that, however dark things are, opportunities always abound to turn things around and add beauty to the world in the worst of times. Had I not met with my catastrophe, this art piece would never have now existed to move people.

Thank you for your prayers and support, and I hope to get back to you.

Warmest Regards,

Steve Wetlesen

### POETIC REQUIEM

Facing the front of one wing  
of Santa Clara County Medical Center,  
stands a sweeping triangular,  
multiple floors in height,  
fir tree

of such stately nature that  
should cause patients to yearn  
to become landscape painters.

If observers stand close  
to the blue green needles  
during bracing winds and strong breezes  
and listen with  
deep intent,  
they will hear,  
as in far mountain forests,  
the eternal song  
of its ethereal whistle,  
its sweet howling sound.

Name this the Song of Memory.  
Let its otherworldly music  
call to mind the faces,  
evoke the names

of souls we have seen and known,  
who came to this House of Healing  
for the final stage of the journey  
and departed our world.

Tears may come with this song,  
yet may everyone be comforted  
by its intense beauty.

Perhaps it seems  
the tree weeps also.

At the same time,  
its symphony is forever,  
its tones of grief intertwine with joy.

— Stephen C. Wetlesen



## 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](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) and we will add your listing to our directory of experts.*

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

Bob Garfinkle [ragarf@earthlink.net](mailto:ragarf@earthlink.net)

### **Banking**

Pam Oliver-Lyons [polpap@prodigy.net](mailto:polpap@prodigy.net)

### **Character Development**

ArLyne Diamond, Ph.D.

[ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net](mailto:ArLyne@DiamondAssociates.net)

### **Counseling/John Steinbeck**

Dr. Audry L. Lynch

[glynch0001@comcast.net](mailto:glynch0001@comcast.net)

### **Engineering: Mechanical,**

### **Aero, Aerospace**

Jerry Mulenburg

[geraldmulenburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geraldmulenburg@sbcglobal.net)

### **Growing Great Characters**

### **from the Ground Up**

Martha Engber [martha@engber.com](mailto:martha@engber.com)

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

Rick Deutsch

[MrHalfDome@gmail.com](mailto:MrHalfDome@gmail.com); 408-888-4752

### **Hospital and Nursing Environment**

Maureen Griswold

[maureengriswold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maureengriswold@sbcglobal.net)

### **Internal Medicine/Addiction**

### **Disorder/Psychology**

Dave Breithaupt [dlbmlb@comcast.net](mailto:dlbmlb@comcast.net)

### **Marketing and Management**

Suzy Paluzzi, MBA [jomarch06@yahoo.com](mailto:jomarch06@yahoo.com)

### **Mathematics: Teaching and History/Fibonacci Sequence**

Marjorie Johnson

[marjohnson89@earthlink.net](mailto:marjohnson89@earthlink.net)

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

### **Southwest History**

Reed Stevens

[reedstevens@earthlink.net](mailto:reedstevens@earthlink.net); 408-374-1591

### **Teaching and the Arts**

Betty Auchard [Btauchard@aol.com](mailto:Btauchard@aol.com)

### **Telecommunications Technology**

Allan Cobb

[allancobb@computer.org](mailto:allancobb@computer.org)

### **Television Production**

Woody Horn 408-266-7040

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

Susan Salluce [susansalluce@yahoo.com](mailto:susansalluce@yahoo.com)

## 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. [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)

## Contests

### **Fault Zone Contest**

*Fault Zone: Over the Edge*, an anthology of short stories edited by the SF/Peninsula Branch of California Writers Club will be published by Sand Hill Review Press. Non-members of SF/Peninsula Writers are eligible to enter this short story contest. First Prize, \$300 and publication in anthology; Second Prize, \$100; Third Prize, \$50. Deadline, August 15, 2012; reading fee, \$15. For details, visit [www.cwc-peninsula.org/fault.html](http://www.cwc-peninsula.org/fault.html)

### **Write Across Golden Gate**

2012 Fiction and nonfiction prose contests, sponsored by CWC Marin Writers. First prizes, \$500; 2500 words maximum; deadline, August 31, 2012. Go to [www.CWCMarinWriters.com](http://www.CWCMarinWriters.com) for full details.

### **Contests and Conferences**

Please send announcements of contests and conferences to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com).

## 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, 500 – 1500 words

Memoir, 500 – 1200 words

Essay/Nonfiction, 500 – 1200 words

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**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August 2012</b>			1	2	3 7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	4
5	6	7	8 SBW Board Meeting 7:30 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 Regular meeting Lookout Restaurant Sunnyvale, 6 pm	15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>	16	17 7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Pruneyard, Camp- bell	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>Future Flashes</b>						
September 11 Dinner meeting						

### Your ad could go here

\$7 per column inch for SBW  
members

\$10 per inch for nonmembers

### Stay Informed

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

### Members Books

Go to [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com) to see the  
members' gallery and members books.  
Add your book to our website.

### South Bay Writers Anthology



\$10

At the meeting.

On the website.

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

### Poetry Readings

#### Poets@Play

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

#### Poetry Center San Jose

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

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



### 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](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

## Ongoing Critique Groups

### Our Voices

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

### Valley Writers

Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center  
in 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.



## 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

### August Regular Monthly Meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday August 14

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

## Dramatic License

Speaker: Vickie Rozell  
Dramaturg of  
TheatreWorks

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

### Is this your last issue?

Be sure to renew before the  
end of August when the mail-  
ing list will be updated.

