



WRITERSTALK

Volume 20
Number 1
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Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

JANUARY SPEAKER

Alice LaPlante

Unreliable Narrator:

Point of view with a loose screw

by Colin Seymour

January SBW dinner speaker Alice LaPlante has generated quite a buzz these past eight months with her mystery novel narrated by an Alzheimer's disease-stricken protagonist.



"Alzheimer's disease doesn't seem like a great subject for a page turner," began the Los Angeles Times review of *Turn of Mind*, noting how many of us dread Alzheimer's. "And yet a page turner is exactly what Alice LaPlante has crafted. She manages to take hold of the aforementioned dread and modulate it . . . with the suspense developing partly in the real world, partly in the narrator's unreliable mind."

And here's what appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, from contributor Glenn C. Altschuler: "The debut novel of Alice LaPlante, a teacher of creative writing at San Francisco State University and Stanford, *Turn of Mind* is an art-

ful, ambitious and arresting attempt to capture the thoughts and feelings, by turns confused, conspiratorial, canny and clear, of a person in the throes of mental illness. And by using Dr. White as her (riveting, revealing and eminently unreliable) narrator, LaPlante reminds all of us, passionately, that no matter what the state of our health, reality can be elusive and subjective."

The state of LaPlante's health last May put her in the hospital for four days, beginning the day she was scheduled to speak at SBW's dinner meeting. The topic, of course, was the Unreliable Narrator, and now the ever-more eminent LaPlante has agreed to try again on January 10.

She swears she's a reliable person, and I believe her.

"According to the conventions of fiction," LaPlante says by way of definition, "a third-person narrator always tells the truth."

So, those of you who want craft instruction to be a focal point of our dinner presentations won't want to miss LaPlante's appearance.

LaPlante's presentation was to have been the 2010-2011 season's third presentation on craft, a sequence that began with Tanya Egan Gibson's "world-building" concept of creating settings and continued with Nora Profit's "Think/Feel" system for structuring your narratives and scene-building.

Continued on page 8

Holiday Bash 2011

*Over the freeway and thru the woods
To Gisela's house we go
GPS knows the way
To carry South Bay
Thru dark narrow streets, oh ho!
Over the freeway and thru the woods
To have a first-rate play;
Hear dinner bells ring
A-ting-a-ling-ling,
The Holiday Bash, hurray-ay!*

—M. Johnson

South Bay Writers Club gives a heartfelt thanks to Gisela Zebroski for hosting our 2011 Holiday Bash in her lovely home hidden in the dark hills in Los Altos.



Colin Seymour and Gisela Zebroski
—Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Look for more photos on the members' gallery at www.southbaywriters.com and on pages 8 and 9.

**South Bay Writers wishes you a
happy and prosperous New Year.**

President's Challenge

by Bill Baldwin
President, South Bay Writers

Begin Again

So a new year is beginning—symbolically a new beginning. Of course, every *day* is a new beginning. Every moment, we have the chance to begin again. What have we learned in this last year that we can apply to this coming one?

Me? Over the holidays I've been reading more than usual, and working more than usual on writing. It actually all started at the summer writing retreat in Alamo, back on Labor Day. I read through a manuscript and went off to think about how to finish it. I finished rewriting a second manuscript and typed up a third.

Meanwhile, I read a couple novels from one of those lists of "Hundred Best Novels:" *The Sheltering Sky* (Paul Bowles) and *The Power and the Glory* (Graham Greene). I'm part way through *The Natural* (Bernard Malamud)—but don't know whether I'll finish it; I've gotten distracted by *Grief* (Andrew Holleran, not on the list of the Hundred). And meanwhile, I found an audiobook of *Mrs. Dalloway* (Virginia Woolf), which distracted me from the complete audiobook of *On The Road* (Jack Kerouac) which I'd already listened to multiple times.

Indeed, my specialty has often been reading only the first five or ten pages of some famous book. I've never finished *Great Expectations* (Charles Dickens) or *David Copperfield* (also Dickens). By the time this article appears, I'll know whether I've finally managed to read *The Christmas Carol* (Dickens again). My whole life, I've only seen film adaptations of it, or stage parodies, or television parodies.

Maybe you've spent the holidays reading and writing, and maybe you haven't. Either way, use what you're doing to your writing advantage. You may have tastes different from "common opinion." Paul Bowles said he never "got" *Moby Dick*. And Mark Twain didn't "get" author Jane Austen.

Whatever your tastes, material is everywhere; you just have to keep your eyes open. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or drama, material is all around us. All those holiday parties and potlucks, the workplace over the holidays: think back. What have you seen that you can write about? What bothered you? What made you laugh? What made you angry? Take notes! Rage, spoof, wax poetic. Gossip to yourself, or gossip via email and keep the email. Make fun of something. Make love to something. Enjoy literary doodling.

Those "Hundred Best Novels"? Brainstorm to yourself about them. Or about TV shows. Or about movies you love or hate. Get yourself worked up about something—and then write about it.

Get going with those writing projects. No excuses. It's a new day, a new year.

Sail on!

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.



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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
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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.

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.

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by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson
Editor



Clean out your mental slush pile

They tell me that this is the time of year when editors clean out their slush piles and retail stores take inventory, but that may have been in the days before e-books, self-publishing, and Amazon.com. However, January is the perfect time to clean out your mental slush pile.

"Rethink the way you think," creativity expert Michael Michalko tells us in *Thinkertoys*, a comprehensive handbook which details ingenious techniques for approaching problems in unconventional ways. Steve Jobs called this, "think out of the box." Michalko and Jobs would agree that organizing information into new patterns gives rise to new ideas.

Michalko says it's impossible to be creative if you have a negative attitude. While most people agree that our attitudes affect our behavior, few understand that our behavior determines our attitudes. You can pretend your way into a new attitude; even when depressed, a social occasion such as a wedding reception forces us to act as if we were happy. Observing others' faces, postures, and voices, we unconsciously mimic their reactions; by mimicking happy people, we become happy.

Scientists have established that you can condition yourself to trigger a particular chemical pattern in your brain, consciously altering your physiological responses. Michalko's exercises help you to overcome fears and doubts and to cultivate a positive attitude. He claims that his book will change how you perceive your own creativity and show you how to generate ideas at will, see problems as opportunities, and become the "idea person" in your organization.

So how does this pertain to writing? Some brainstorming techniques apply directly. For example, always ask "what if?" when you read an interesting news story. As a beginning, go to "News of the Weird" in the *San Jose Mercury News*. I'm sure that Stephen King used "What if?" to write his new bestseller, *11/22/63*, in which a high school English teacher goes back in time to 1958 and attempts to prevent the Kennedy assassination.

Another creativity exercise is writing for 15 minutes from a prompt as found on www.writersdigest.com. My father, a master storyteller, would ask my sister and me what to put into our bedtime story, two choices each, something like an elephant, a square nail, an empty aspirin bottle, and a riddle. He would always say, "Well, let me see," and launch into a tale guaranteed to give us the giggles.

How does this pertain to *WritersTalk*? We strive to bring you the latest writing news, including what our members are up to as well as information on contests and conferences, hints on craft, and pep talks on writing. You can participate by submitting a piece for publication or by drawing our attention to local activities and news stories of interest to writers. In particular, please send us articles on creativity.

Last month, the editor goofed and/or the computer gulped, causing the "Help Wanted" ads in this column to morph. Interestingly enough, more people read the strangely formatted ads. South Bay Writers again invites your participation. **WT**

Help Wanted

Publishing Pathways mentor. DVD training available. Learn first hand, then help others. Contact Dave La Roche, dalaroche@comcast.net

Help Wanted

Greet new members. Welcome those joining South Bay Writers. Contact Marjorie Johnson, marjohnson89@earthlink.net

The Call

by Derald Hamilton

Derald Hamilton announces the publication of his novel, *The Call*, available on Amazon.

Satire and the supernatural blend together in this humorous but disturbing account of divinity school and the people who are drawn to answer the call to ministry.

The story is conveyed in the first person through the eyes of Ishmael O'Donnell, an observant young man who wrestles with familial dysfunction, possession by the spirit of his long-dead twin brother, and a quest for purification from both. The book chronicles the events that lead up to his seeking out seminary as a means of attaining purification. Upon his arrival at seminary and during his three-year journey through the curriculum, he finds himself engulfed in an unending torrent of duplicity, impertinence, and societal abnormalities within a communal setting of characters so driven, tenacious, over-the-top, and supercilious, it hurts. The mocking inner voice of Ishmael's twin reverberates louder and louder as he desperately tries to come to grips with what is taking place about him, while discovering who he is within the confines of a cloistered setting, inundated with its own unique form of madness.

And when he finally does obtain the key to his purification...but such things are not revealed second hand.



Leading and Managing a Global Workforce

by ArLyne Diamond, Ph.D.

My fourth book, *Leading and Managing a Global Workforce*, is finally finished. I do hope the book will be of value to you and to the people with whom you work. Let me share some reviews rather than giving you a book synopsis.

"ArLyne Diamond is to be admired for her insight into management and leadership. Her comprehensive guide provides clear directions on how to lead in the changing Global Economy. Required reading for executives." —Stephen Miller, CEO Eclipse Identity Recognition Technologies.

"A highly useful collection of management knowledge nuggets. Users can relate very well to the personal experiences captured by ArLyne. Applying these concepts to current day challenges will help the reader progress professionally in the years to come." —A.G. Karunakaran, President and CEO, Multicore Ware, Inc.

"ArLyne brings to the vast sea of management/leadership books a very personal perspective from her many years of consulting and teaching. Putting things in an historical and geographic format demonstrates her knowledge of the reality we experience in trying to adapt to the global business world of today." —Michael J. Cubbin, President Bay Area Metro, DeVry University.

"ArLyne Diamond's book, *Leading and Managing a Global Workforce*, has the rare quality of blending work experience, psychological insight, and business know-how. The result is a powerful guide for leaders on how to manage and inspire their workers throughout the world." —Fred Foldvary, Director Civil Society Institute, Santa Clara University.

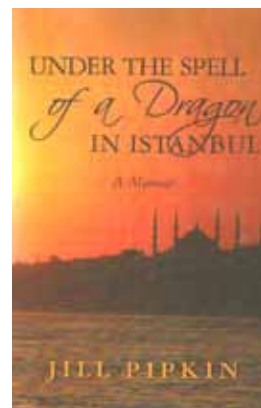
"*Leading and Managing A Global Workforce* is a practical, easy read for anyone in leadership or management. Once again, Dr. ArLyne Diamond gives her audience food for thought in a compelling and unusual manner with timely insights for a rapidly changing global economy." —Dr. Lydia Ortega, Chair and Professor of Economics, Dept. of Economics, San Jose State University.



Under the Spell of a Dragon in Istanbul

by Jill Pipkin

Jill Pipkin announces the publication of her book, *Under the Spell of a Dragon in Istanbul: A Memoir*. Available from Amazon.com.



It is 1972. Berkeley is humming with spontaneous creativity. Jill Pipkin abruptly exits her stable world of physics research at the university, and her marriage, to find new meanings. Her childhood fascination with art resurfaces when a friend shows her pictures of ancient mosaics in the Hagia Sophia Church of Constantinople.

She travels to Istanbul to photograph the mosaics. But her search turns up very little, and the streets of old Istanbul are dangerous for a young unescorted Western woman in a short pink dress and Dr. Scholl's sandals. Disillusioned, she prepares to give up her quest and head for Iran.

Fate intervenes when she finds a postcard showing an ancient dragon of Babylon. She learns that an original tableau is located at the Museum of the Ancient Orient, and she decides she must see it before leaving Istanbul. But her plan is thwarted because the museum is closed for renovation.

A young Turkish man offers to show her the dragon and to guide her to the ancient mosaics. Later, he offers her a magic potion. Love steps in and takes over, setting up an explosive situation.

Accolades

by Andrea Galvacs

Hello Everyone!

Jackie Mutz announced in last month's *WT* that she was resigning her position as disseminator of members' good news. We will miss her but wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

My name is Andrea Galvacs and I want to thank Jackie for having confidence in me and wishing me well as her successor. Starting with this issue of *WT* I have the pleasure of being your equal opportunity agent. You don't know what this is? That's because I invented the title and adopted it myself.

As an agent, I collect the names of SBW members who accomplished something to brag about by writing, editing or achieving anything related to these fields. By equal opportunity I mean I accept all successes, big or small, lucrative or gratifying, those you wish the world to know. Once I have the information, I will make sure it is published in *WT*.

For this to happen, you must let me know the good news by emailing me at accolades@southbaywriters.com and then, you can share it with your colleagues in this column. Like this:

Andrea Galvacs volunteered to be in charge of the Accolades column of *WT* and she was given the job. *Surprise!*

Derald Hamilton has sold almost 200 copies of his book *The Call*, which was reviewed six times. He was also interviewed on it and is now preparing to launch a massive marketing campaign. Congratulations and good luck!

Jackie Mutz, whose poem *A Day on the Green* appeared in December *WT*, will also be published on the Los Gatos Poet Laureate's Facebook page. Congrats!

Anna Thumann received an order for 25 copies of *Alcatraz Schoolgirl* from the museum store on Alcatraz.

Poetic artist **Steve Wetlesen** was commissioned to create special individualized Christmas cards in collaboration with a visual artist for a couple who prefer to remain anonymous. He also created a life tribute piece for a holiday season party.

Marjorie Johnson's novel, *Jaguar Princess*, was reviewed in the November 30 *Santa Clara Weekly*.

Susan Paluzzi was invited to read by Cupertino's Poet Laureate, David Denny, at the event "Winter Light" on February 2.

Carolyn Donnell's mini-memoir, "Finding Family," placed in the Altering Your World Forever contest at writeradvice.com and will be published in the winter (Jan-Mar) issue of *Writer Advice*.

Valerie Lee had a book reading and signing event for *Jade Rubies* on December 4 at Los Altos Cafe and Books. She also announced her upcoming book on serial killer, Charles Ng. **WT**



Valerie Lee reading from *Jade Rubies*
Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Poetry Readings

by Suzy Paluzzi

David Denny, Cupertino's Poet Laureate, will present the first in a series of coffee shop poetry readings, "Winter Light," with special guests Ken Weisner, Ann Muto, Karl Kadie, and Susan Paluzzi, at Bitter+Sweet Coffee+Dessert, 20560 Town Center Lane, Cupertino, on Thursday, February 2, at 7:00pm.

Welcome

South Bay Writers welcomes new members, the heart of the growth and the future of our organization.

We invite you, our new members, to send an email to newsletter@southbaywriters.com telling us who you are and what writing interests you have.

New Members

by Rita Beach

This month we introduce new member **Art Santos**, who heard about South Bay Writers on-line. He writes both fiction and non-fiction, including flash fiction, short story, social essay, and stories for children. Art describes himself as a white-African-American baby-boomer, having been born and raised in south-east Africa. His other attributes include the fact that he is a liberal Democrat, single, sign of the Taurus, and a compulsive reader.

Peter Duysings' personal background gives him exceptional credentials to write from experience in his fictional stories. As a former U.S. Military Combat Controller, a Security & Weapons Defense Specialist, and a U.S. Government Paramilitary Agent, Peter can write with authority based on first-hand knowledge. He has advised foreign military forces in small arms efficiency and counterterrorist methods and has led teams in the field against insurgents. Peter is seeking a publisher for his book, *Terror in the Night*, an action thriller about U.S. intelligence agencies and Special Forces missions against terrorism. Peter also is writing a trilogy of naval military adventures: *Winds of Fury*, *Seas of Dread*, and *Islands of Fire*.

Lisa St. John from Palo Alto has an interest in writing nonfiction books. Her piece, "Planning for Midlevel Managers," was published by the World Health Organization in 1985. More recently, she wrote an article on autism for the San Mateo Mother's Group, which they published in their October 2011 newsletter. In January 2011, one of her pieces appeared in *OTL – On The Level*, a BMW motorcyclists' magazine.

Susan Vaughan writes poetry and has been published in the literary magazine, *2River View*. We hope she will send a sample to *WritersTalk*.

Catherine Marshal-Smith attended Mark Coker's workshop and writes novels. Currently, she is seeking representation for her novel, *Richard and Michael: An American Family*.

To all our new members: Welcome to our club. It's great to have you aboard.

WT

Jane Parks-McKay was an active CWC South Bay Branch member for years, serving as club secretary and joining Bill Baldwin, Audry Lynch, Betty Auchard, Jack Hasling and others from South Bay Writers in "The Traveling Steinbeckians" to celebrate Steinbeck's 100th birthday. Parks-McKay has written a popular book and has been a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist. She's a member of the Santa Clara County Branch of the Pen Women and is an archival volunteer at the Pajaro Valley Historical Museum. She's happy to be back within the SBW fold!

Writers' Block My Way

By Jane Parks-McKay
janeparksmckay@sbcglobal.net

When the call went out from Marjorie Bicknell Johnson to share how we deal with writers' block occasionally, I had to chuckle a bit: I get writers' block ALL the time!

How do I deal with it? For years, I would suffer, I would procrastinate, I would try to analyze and reanalyze what I was doing, or more technically, what I wasn't doing.

When I was a journalist, a good friend commented that I seemed to wait until the last minute to write a story for the newspaper. That surprised me as I was researching it for days; I had just not written it. It sure didn't feel that I was waiting until the last minute. But I was. She was right.

When I became a caregiver to a family member, I learned a lot. One of the things I learned is basically, I don't like to write at home, nor have I for many years. There are far too many interruptions since my husband quit working. We obtained — count them — five active pets and every time I looked around, there was some project facing me, another set of dishes to wash, another load of laundry to do and someone's needs to take care of.

Aha, I thought!

I started writing in a notebook, an old fashioned bound one from the drug store. I hand wrote my notes and typed them out later. It worked! I started writing in odd places. One time, after going to a chapel to pray, I wrote a

children's story, all in 25 minutes. My Mom's grave is a wonderful place to write. One time I drove all the way to Monterey County to write and dang if there wasn't someone else there in his parked car hanging out where my spot was. I couldn't write. And I didn't. I needed solitude. Looking back, I wrote my first and only book in the laundry room when my husband and I were newlyweds.

Aha, I thought!

In other words, when I write, I need to be alone in a quiet place and I need to handwrite my thoughts. OK, I know in Silicon Valley this doesn't sound very high tech, but it works. Because of these aha moments, not long ago I've actually written two pieces that I would not have written, one submitted for an anthology. Even if it doesn't get accepted, as our wise SBW President says, "For Heaven's sake, just write something down."

And I did. AHA!

Digging Dirt

by Dave La Roche

One summer, out of the Air Force with a wheelbarrow, a pickaxe and a friend, I dug a basement in dry Missouri clay. Grueling, sweaty, never-ending work as we progressed, shovelful by shovelful. Occasionally the wheelbarrow, a wooden antique with a bum axle, broke, and the head came off the pick handle, but we labored on and in time a house was built and a family moved in. I have gone by that house, now and then, to point it out to friends, to take satisfaction, and I saw kids playing and parents watching and reading from their Adirondack chairs.

Writing a book reminds me of digging that hole, a word at a time, and when finished we want someone to read — to sit back in Adirondack chairs and enjoy the work that we've done. That means getting it published — a cover, book design, printing and the rest — putting a house and its family over the basement.

A woman wrote a book. Her readers and friends fell in love with it. Enthusiasm overcame patience and she eagerly sought out a publisher. After dropping about triple her five-thousand-buck target, she ended up with a garage full

of books, her Prius out in the driveway. "Damn, now what? Move my Adirondacks into the yard?"

There are hundreds of publishing companies vying for money and almost as many publishing methods. Six large "sisters" aspire to rule the planet; hundreds of others are little more than a website, and as many more in between those extremes. Some are legit and some are quite ruthless — welcoming glitz up front and vampires later — bloodlust satisfied and now, asleep in their coffins. Publishers, as people in any other business, are interested in money, and ours spends just like the next guy's. Once they have all we've got, it's over — out the window, an empty bag — ouch! "Used-to-be," we said, "the writer wrote, the agent did the rest." Not the same today. Today the byword is caution. The method for writers like us is do-it-yourself and know what you're doing. Be frugal.

So, what's this about and where the hell are all these words taking me? Here's where, I say. We, here at NorCal, have devised a solution.

Publishing Pathways, a collection of CWC authors with publishing experience and insatiable curiosity, has developed a system of serious, honest, no-B.S. help for the writer who has little experience with publishing. There is a leader, Nancy Curteman of Fremont Area Writers, and there are mentors among us who will show the way to refining your publishing goals and point out the safest and most suitable path for achieving them. Each Northern California Branch has at least one mentor waiting to talk to you. We at South Bay have Nina Amir, Graham Flower, David Breithaupt, Dave La Roche, and Marjorie Johnson to begin with, all with emails listed in the masthead, all trained in the program's nuances.

Contact a mentor when you are ready. Feel safe, feel satisfied that you are on the right publishing path — and keep your Prius snug in the garage.

The mentors will give you access to the website publishingpathways.com where the universe of publishing may be viewed in a nutshell. You may find your entire solution, or you may find options that you otherwise would not consider.

WT

A Place for Book People

by Meredy Amyx

Lovers of the written word have found a virtual gathering place at a website known as LibraryThing. Created in 2005 as a personal project by founder Tim Spalding, the site was conceived as a tool for bibliophiles to catalog their libraries. It has evolved into an active social network with more than 1.4 million user accounts. Reader to reader, writer to writer, and writer to reader, book people find broad fields of common ground on LibraryThing.

I happened onto the site for the first time in mid-November and spent some time wandering around, trying to get oriented. It wasn't obvious at a glance. The book cataloging function was fairly easy to understand. It was the social aspect that took a while to make sense, but I'm getting the hang of it now.

Listing my books at an online site seemed like a really pointless activity when I was first exposed to it on Goodreads.com. Maybe I'm just not the targeted user for Goodreads; I didn't want to spend time posting my reading matter or writing reviews of it, didn't want to follow anyone or be followed, didn't want the opinions and recommendations of people who wrote like schoolkids. And even if I thought I might live long enough to post all the books I own, what would be the purpose except to display the titles to people who couldn't possibly want or need to see them?

Somehow all those possibilities looked different to me on LibraryThing. And in fact they are different, not only in presentation but in scope and depth. LT, as they call it, richly rewards curiosity and an impulse to explore. Before very long, I began to understand the map of the territory and to realize that the territory itself was vast, almost dauntingly so.

I think that what first caught and held my attention was the tab labeled "Zeitgeist." There I could see not only statistics on the site itself and its most active users but lists of highest- and lowest-rated authors, most-reviewed books, and more. I clicked on the link "author cloud," and almost before I knew it, I was browsing author pages and book pages, reading members' reviews of my own favorite selections. Minutes later I

could start listing titles, and in very short order I had added 200.

That's when I got a message that told me 200 is the limit for a free account. I could stop there, or I could pay \$10 per year or \$25 for a lifetime membership and list as many as I want.

I have a handy decision-making tool that I call the pizza standard: in terms of value per dollar, how does a given expenditure compare with the cost of a pizza? This one was easy. For about what I'd spend treating the family to one pizza supper, I could enjoy full privileges permanently on a site that I was already learning to enjoy.

By that time had I begun to see some merit in developing an orderly catalog of the books piled around me in my study. I had even made small inroads into listing those on the nearest bookcases and on the bedside table. What's more, I was starting to observe what could be done with the information.

LibraryThing offers just about every possible angle you can think of from which to view your collection. You can group your books under standard headings ("Your library," "Currently reading," "Wish list") and you can create your own (mine include "SJPL," "Edited by me," and "Ditched without apology"). You can also apply metadata tags to characterize and categorize your works—tags as global as "children's literature" or "mystery" and as idiosyncratic as "weird" and "Lois's bedroom."

And as soon as you begin listing and marking your collection—behold! LibraryThing has quantities of information to display:

It allows you to see all the books you have tagged a certain way and the books that are most often listed with those tags by all members.

It lets you find out who else has your books and read their reviews.

It shows you which other users have the most books in common with you—either proportionately or by raw data—and which books other users might recommend to you (and recommend *against!*) on the basis of those patterns.

It lists titles by author in order of popularity among members and shows you which ones you already own.

Scenes from 2011 Holiday Bash
—Photos by Carolyn Donnell



Submit Your Fiction Today!

by Victoria M. Johnson

I'm delighted to inform you about a fabulous opportunity to publish your short fiction. In fact I'll give you the top ten reasons you should submit your fiction to this publication. It's a professional periodical that has published my work since 2008. With a steady readership, it is available in print form to members and online to the entire world. You've probably guessed that I'm referring to our very own *WritersTalk* newsletter.

You enjoy reading it every month, don't you? Surely each issue has you admiring the work of your fellow chapter members. Why then haven't you submitted *your* fiction? Allow me to cite several benefits of submitting your short fiction pieces to *WritersTalk*.

1. Get a byline. Send us your flash fiction or short short, and see your name in print! Getting published in *WritersTalk* is getting published.

2. Build credibility. Publishing credits tell editors that you can make a deadline, you can follow submission procedures, and that someone else found your work publishable.

Continued on page 12

Continued on page 12

Alice LaPlante

Continued from page 1

Instead, LaPlante's topic closely follows Susanne Lakin's November talk on writing with a cinematic lens.

Some of LaPlante's pointers will be of the "don't do this" variety, but she's also fascinated by the consequences of bucking conventional wisdom concerning reliability.

The unreliable narrator is a subset of Point of View, which is one of the most exacting elements of writing. A point-of-view miscue can generate deal-breaking disrespect from agents and editors.

So we can use this focus on narrators, and we are more aware of the concept than we think, LaPlante says.

"Most of us do ask, 'Can I rely on what this narrator is telling me?' " she said last spring. She added that we do the same "with people we meet and talk to." Therefore, "reliability" is an important element.

Lest you think it's a dry element that will put us all to sleep, consider this line from the *Turn of Mind* narrator's diary, one of the many striking excerpts I could have chosen:

"Ask a dementia patient who she loves, and she draws a blank. Ask her who she hates, and the memories come flooding in."

WT

More Holiday Bashing

Highlights from the gift exchange included a soft and fluffy throw, first opened by Bob Garfinkle who tried to hide it, then stolen by Jeanne Carbone (*Almaden Times Weekly*), and in a triumphant swoop, stolen back by Kathy Garfinkle.

WT



Turn of Mind: A review by Marjorie Johnson

Alice LaPlante's debut novel, *Turn of Mind*, paints a startling portrait of a disintegrating mind. Dr. Jennifer White, a retired orthopedic surgeon who is losing her mental faculties to Alzheimer's disease, is the prime suspect in her best friend's murder. She doesn't know herself whether she did it; is the impossibility of recognizing reality a blessing or a curse?

Turn of Mind is both literary and thriller. When Jennifer White escapes from the assisted living facility, she reports: "Overpowering heat, the air thick and foul-smelling from the fumes of softened asphalt under your feet. It gives as you step, makes a dark, sucking sound with each move. Like walking on a tarry moon."

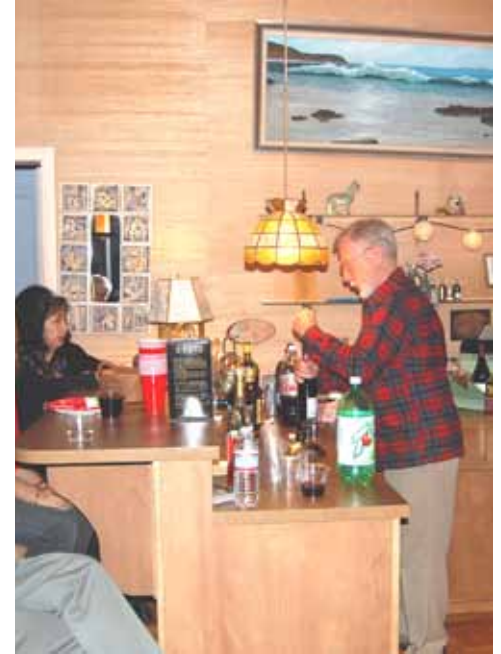
Published in July 2011, *Turn of Mind* has already received worldwide attention, with reviews in *The New York Times*, *NPR Books*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *The Washington Post*, to name only a few of many.

Alice LaPlante is also the author of the classic, *The Making of a Story: A Guide to Writing Fiction and Nonfiction*. WT

Holiday Bash

Continued from page 1

We feasted from a plentiful potluck selection, including Edie Matthews' marinated chicken and Marjorie Johnson's homegrown Satsuma plum cobbler and all the chocolate (the writer's fifth food group) we wanted, washed down with hazelnut cream coffee and libations, Coke to wine, from the bar upstairs.



Frank Johnson serving libations to Valerie
—Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Edie Mathews ended the merry evening by leading a group-sing of "Silent Night" and then assigning parts for "The Twelve Days of Christmas."



Edie Matthews
—Photo by Frank Johnson





**2011
Holiday
Bash**
—Photos by
Carolyn Donnell



Haiku Quintet — Chill Fog

Walking chill through fog,
Too-thin gloves, wool scarf, wool hat.
Fog blankets coldly.

Drizzle soaks browned soil.
Sprouts grow green, future's flowers;
Tender weeds compete.

Cold, wet fog nips so,
Subtly intoxicating.
Chill-out, now, relax.

Goose-bump dotted arms;
Too quick to some grand errand;
Car seat froze my ass.

Walk through chilly fog.
Note how tingly fresh its breath.
Thick gloves; fingers numb.

— Richard A. Burns

Street Trees

I know a street lined with trees
That lean across to touch their neighbors,
Like star-crossed lovers, forever apart.
But where they touch the street is an arbor
Green and cool on an August day.
I draw to the side to let others by,
And drive on my way, faith restored.

I see a street with trees newly placed,
Slim and spare as witches' broomsticks,
Thin and promising as the children
That fill those hopeful new homes.,
A little water, the springtime sun.
The leaves are waiting to appear.

I see a street with signs.
"Repossession," they say.
"Bank Owned," "Short Sale."
The children have gone.
Dreams and trees die.

I step out my door in the pale light of dawn.
My own tree still stands, fifty-four summers on.
Neighbor's tree stands, and their branches touch,
Their friendship echoing their human kin.
In autumns long gone, we raked leaves into piles,
Children buried themselves under those leaves,
And called "Where are you? I can't see you."
I stride down the street on my morning walk,
And count the ancient trees. So many are gone,
Lost to disease, lost to winds and storms,
Lost to decorator's tastes. But our tree stands.
Down the street, witches' broomsticks rise.
There an old tree stands, shorn of its leaves.
If it dies, does anyone care?
Live on, my old tree, a dozen summers more,
Then shade my spirit at Heaven's Door.

— Jamie Miller

Poetry on the Move: Invention

by Sally Ashton, Poet Laureate Santa Clara County

Announcing the Santa Clara County Poet Laureate's 2012 project, Poetry on the Move, a poetry contest supported by the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, VTA, Arts Council Silicon Valley, and Santa Clara County to put poetry in public transportation. Winning poems will be placed in VTA light rail and buses next year.

Call for online submissions: Send your best poem, 50 words or less, that in some way relates to the contest theme, "Invention." I'm looking for poems that celebrate who we are and what we do in Silicon Valley. Use Invention as a subject or a theme, or think of your poem *as* an invention. In it, capture the spirit of "making new" that shapes our county. I will post a few samples of 50-word poems on www.poetlaureateblog.org, but it's up to you to find a way to envision the theme.

Take your journal, ride VTA around the county, and see what inspires you out the window. Visit the Tech Museum, Computer History Museum, or an art museum. Walk your city or stay home and Google. Get inspired. Write. Invent something!

YOU HAVE—YOU LOVE—YOU KEEP

Whatever **you have**, you love and keep; so, say wow
When you have anything, it is involvement, right now
You have you enjoy, you possess; you have it in hand
No one can say whatever, it is not; you're in this land
When we look at have, we talk about cover, a take in
A must to say, you have covered bases, that's within

Whatever you have, **you love**, you keep, you are right
There are ways of showing love; adore what is in sight
There is a word known world-wide. The word, devotion
Yes, you enjoy what you love; now we called it affection
Affection or devotion, could be number one, or fondness
Fondness means love is like having a crush. Loveliness

Whatever, you have, you love, **you keep**. You celebrate
Great to say, **you have, love and keep**. That is a trait
Any one time, is permanent and has the power to hold
It is reserved, saved, it's yours, whatever, young or old
Closing, **HAVE, LOVE, KEEP**, is something observed
Think of what has been gained. Self-respect is reserved

— Clarence L. Hammonds



The Mulenbergs at the 2011 Holiday Bash

— Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante

January Too Scary!

The pessimist sees a glass half empty
The optimist says it's just enough.
The writer wakes sweating, having
dreamt he

(Or she) was on *Oprah* who called the
bluff:

You've yet to write any readable stuff!

— Pat Bustamante

A new column for a New Year

Everybody who writes knows what
"writer's block" is. Many have a pet
solution, but many more have some
excellent excuses. My current favorite:
"There's something wrong with my
health, lack of energy, lack of spark."

Let us leap over some other "writer is
not writing" excuses: my job is very
demanding; my lack of a job has me
deeply depressed; the house needs seri-
ous attention: my family needs me full
time; and, a personal best—my com-
puter is broken.

Overcome it. You must. It is imperative
that you write something, as important
as breathing. You are not a computer or
a machine; you are part of the history-
keeping bastion of our human race. We
are the only creatures on the planet who
write. And need to!

If you are currently unblocked — Send
something to *WritersTalk*. **WT**

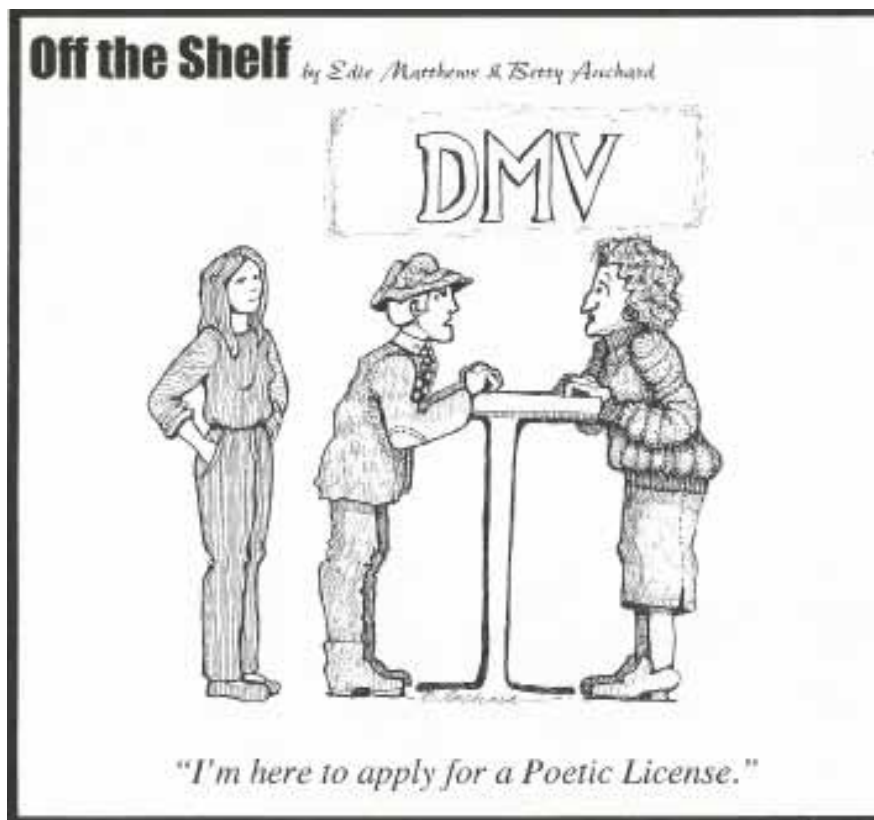
The Dig

by Pat Bustamante

I held the manuscript, reviewing the
facts. Eve Fancher had to be the person
who disappeared fifteen years ago from
the house next door.

She left in the middle of the night. The
dogs, Snow and Cookie, were hungry,
barking and howling; I fed them the
first few days. Then they were gone
too. Ray Fancher had asserted that fleas
from their two dogs were so horrible
anybody would go "fleeing."

The old house stayed empty for the
next six months: coffee cup on the table,
furniture abandoned, slippers on the
floor, open magazines — as if Eve, her 15
year old son, and Ray had just walked
out in a hurry.



I did tell Ray, one Saturday when he
came hurrying to pick up some boxes,
"I called the sheriff." I wanted to see his
eyes when I said, "There was this really
bad smell."

"Oh that was the dogs," he said. "The
flea situation was impossible. Had
to put them down. Nobody could do
anything, and they were suffering. So
they're buried out back. Sorry about
that." He did not blink an eyelash.

The creek bank behind our twin houses
had yielded bones occasionally — Indian
burial bones. I concocted ghost stories. I
did try to find my neighbor Eve whom I
worried about because they fought con-
stantly and she had mentioned divorce.
She had inherited money and quit her
job. Suddenly in the money, then mov-
ing away? But why did she have to cut
herself off from friends?

Switch to 15 years later, with two own-
ers subsequent to the Fanchers. I am
watching the evening news: horrible, a
maniac who kidnaps children, his yard
being torn up in the search for bodies.

I hear digging. Not the TV. I turn that
off. Digging right next door.

I tiptoe to my front door, which opens
to a narrow space by the fence separa-
ting our two houses, the Fancher house
and mine. The last family that lived

there moved away suddenly when the
lender repossessed the house. Vacant
the better part of a year — but loud dig-
ging sounds definitely came from there.

When I swept open my door, the lights
in the kitchen next door switched off. I
got brave enough to peer over the fence
at a big hole, deeper than six feet, a long
trench. The kitchen door over there was
ajar. Nobody was visible the several
times I peeked. The "for sale" sign had
vanished. House sold? New neighbors?
Bad case of gophers?

It did get me looking at my theory
about murder and mayhem. But who
would look into this after 15 years? And
why not dig at the end of the long yard
where I would have dug first had I been
brave enough?

The major hole reached under the
Fancher house near the bathroom and
the kitchen. Pipes were down there.

Finally I heard voices. This time I
leaned against my bedroom wall, close
to the digging. I heard, "Not copper
pipes," and some words that sounded
plumber-ish.

They weren't looking for bodies. They
were looking for copper, close enough
now to gold in value. It's all a matter of
what is most important in life. **WT**

A Place for Book People

Continued from page 7

It displays a random sampling of titles from your collection, just for fun.

And that's only the beginning. Among other things, you can see fellow users' libraries, provided they have made them public, and view them with the same collection and tag filters, as well as whatever other information they've chosen to share about themselves. In most cases it's a lot. LTers seem to be a pretty open and trusting bunch with a real sense of comradeship.

And that brings me to the social side. At first I was overwhelmed by so many topics and threads and because the range of subjects seems so broad, from erudite discourses on obscure literature to cheerful banter about popular titles, from group reads and discussions to off-topic chatter on politics, religion, and everything *but* politics and religion.

My tentative conclusion after a month of exploration is that there are two keys to the social aspect of LT. The first is to know that within the larger membership there are numerous groups organized around some theme or interest or style of interaction. These are like neighborhoods within a metropolis. A master page shows you the group names and links you to their descriptive home pages.

There are groups for admirers of specific authors, for whole genres such as fantasy and crime and young adult fiction, for people who want to jump into a thicket of liberals and conservatives and brawl with them, for librarians and tea drinkers and people who want to set themselves various reading challenges, and for those who enjoy word games and puzzles. There are groups for volunteers who support the site and help users with questions. There are groups for writers and a special category for authors who post their books on LT. On my first day, listing books close to the top of my nearest piles, I found SBW members Betty Auchard and Valerie Estelle Frankel among the LT authors.

Each group has one or more discussion threads posted, whether active or dormant, and those are listed on its main page. You can read the threads and in most cases post to them without joining the group. By reading the threads in a

group forum, you can get a feel for the nature and character of the group, learn something about who the regulars are, and decide whether you'd feel comfortable in their company.

You can also opt to ignore threads or entire groups in which you have no interest, and their posts will disappear from your pages.

The second key is that every discussion thread, no matter how you stumble onto it, seems to take place within a group. The group appears to be the organizing principle; I do not see any threads that exist outside a group framework. And the name of the group is displayed as a link beneath each thread topic. You can click it and see the larger context in which the thread is taking place. I was unaware of this at first and thought the group name was the thread topic and vice versa. This led me to post in the wrong thread a time or two and also to miss the relevant context clues.

Once I figured out the structure, I was able to identify a small number of groups that I thought I'd like to join or at least put on my watchlist. And from there I began to see places where I could chime in and regulars whose names I recognized.

Finally, a useful concept for experiencing LibraryThing as a whole is that there are several alternatives for viewing almost every type of information displayed on the site. And the alternatives give you different perspectives and different methods of access. For example, your own home page shows you one gathering of your data and your public profile page another. Likewise, you can view the forums—the discussion threads—just for your own groups, for any thread in which you've posted, for those you've starred, and for those that are currently active sitewide.

In my short acquaintance, I have found LT to be high in entertainment value. It's a bountiful source of information pertaining to all aspects of the reading life, and what's more, it's a welcoming place for congenial interaction among people with shared interests.

Come check it out at www.LibraryThing.com. And be sure to leave me a greeting. You'll find me there as Meredy. **WT**

Submit Your Fiction

Continued from page 7

3. Gain readers. Writers write to get read. Share your work and gain readers. Not only that, you may gain fans.

4. Build name recognition. I'll bet you recognize the names of many members who submit their pieces often. Why aren't you taking advantage of this same opportunity to build your name?

5. Share content on your website. Are you looking for ways to spruce up your web site? How about adding links to the *WritersTalk* issues that your work appears in? Or, you can add content to your site if you mention the piece in a blog post. See how I announce my *WritersTalk* articles at: victoriamjohnson.com/articles-about-writing/

6. Share the link on Facebook. Every time you publish you should share the news (and links) on your social media network. Doing so gets your name out in cyberspace. So, get published in *WritersTalk*, and then spread the news.

7. Post a sample of your work. Your flash fiction or short story in *WritersTalk* becomes a sample of your work. Another editor may ask you to send links (or clips) so she can see your writing style and skill *before* agreeing to read the story you want to send her.

8. Improve your craft. Writing to create a piece you'll submit means you are *practicing* your craft. By polishing the piece, readying it for publication, you are *improving* your craft.

9. Win a contest. Need I remind you of the *WritersTalk* Challenge? It's a semi-annual contest consisting only of the work submitted to and published in *WritersTalk*. A contest win will look great on your writing resume and may boost your confidence.

10. Get discovered. Remember that *WritersTalk* isn't just read by members. Since the newsletter is also posted on the South Bay Writers web site, which receives thousands of hits monthly, you never know who could be reading it: maybe an editor, maybe a publisher, certainly readers.

Are you ready to submit your short fiction to *WritersTalk* yet? I hope so. The benefits are too amazing to pass up. What are you waiting for? Readers are eagerly standing by! **WT**

Contests and Conferences

Call for Poetry

by Anthony Pfannenstiel,
Editor/publisher

Fault Lines Poetry Journal is calling for poets of all ages and backgrounds to submit their poems for publication in the newest poetry journal on the West Coast. Published out of Portland, Oregon, *Fault Lines* is reaching out to poets from Oregon, Washington, Northern California, and British Columbia. It seeks imaginative, evocative, and powerful poetry for its maiden edition. Poetry can be on any topic in any form. Space is limited and the submission end date is looming: deadline, January 15, 2012.

Submit your poems on our poetry website under the Call for Submission section at www.faultlinespoetry.com. If you have any questions, contact me at faultlinespoetry@gmail.com

Redwood Writers

2012 Winter Workshops

Jan 21 – Mystery, Thriller, Suspense with Ann Parker and Camille Minichino

Jan 28 – Romance with Rachael Herron, Sophie Littlefield and Juliet Blackwell

Feb 4 – Mainstream and Literary with Jeanne Miller and Joan Frank

All workshops will be from 10 am to 1 pm at the Petaluma Senior Center, 211 Novak Drive, Petaluma. Cost to members to attend all three is \$90 or \$35 each; nonmembers, \$105 or \$40 each. Register online at <http://www.redwoodwriters.org> or via snail mail to Winter Workshops, 10106 Old Redwood Highway, Penngrove, CA 94951. Please list workshop dates on checks.

Anthology

Redwood Writers' 2012 *Vintage Voices Anthology* will be both a tribute to Jack London and a fundraiser for Jack London State Park. Submit your work January 1 thru March 1, 2012: Poetry, Flash Fiction, Short Stories, Memoir, Essays, Interviews, and Journalistic Pieces. Send by e-mail: anthology@redwoodwriters.org. Any questions? Check our website.

Comedy Writing Workshop

by Ann Damaschino,
Mt. Diablo Branch
anndama@comcast.net

Two local authors will teach a FREE comedy-writing workshop for Contra Costa County middle school students from sixth through eighth grades on January 21, 2012, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Walnut Creek Library.

The Mt. Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club and the Walnut Creek Library are sponsoring the workshop, led by children's book authors Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff and Sarah Wilson. Register at <http://tinurl.com/7humdhm>

The workshop is in preparation for the Contra Costa County Young Writers Contest, sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club. Deadline for contest submissions is April 1, 2012. For contest guidelines and writing tips, go to: <http://cwcmt-diablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/>

Interesting web site

Bridging the gap between readers and authors, the WoMen's Lit Café will offer free promotions to authors, reviewers, bloggers, and editors – bringing readers, authors, and author services together under one umbrella in a free, easily navigable venue. Check it out: www.womenliterarycafe.com

Writing Alchemy

Matilda Butler is teaching a new online class called "Writing Fast, Writing Deep" that features the quick-start version of writing alchemy, a new approach that will transform your writing. Class starts January 9.

Kendra Bonnett and Matilda Butler are close to finishing their book, *Writing Alchemy*.

Here's a link for more information:

<http://womensmemoirs.com/memoir-writing-news/memoir-class-news-join-us-for-writing-fast-writing-deep/>

2012 SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE

February 16-20 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel

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 top editors.

For registration and complete information visit: <http://www.SFWriters.org>

Speakers Fremont Area Writers

Meet 2 pm, DeVry University, Fremont
January 28: Dawn Armstrong, Muse to Money \$\$\$

February 25: Geraldine Solon, award winning author of *Love Letters*
cwc-fremontareawriters.org

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
glynch0001@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. 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
Derald Hamilton
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

Central Coast: 5:30 third Tuesdays, Bay Park Hotel, 1425 Munras Avenue, Monterey. centralcoastwriters.org

Fremont: 2:00 fourth Saturdays at DeVry University, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Room 204, Fremont. cwc-fremontareawriters.org

Marin: 2:00 fourth Sundays, Book Passage in Corte Madera. cwcmarinwriters.com

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

Redwood: 3:00 first Sundays at Copperfield's Books, 2316 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa. redwoodwriters.org

Tri-Valley: 11:30 third Saturdays, Oasis Grille, 780 Main Street, Pleasanton. trivalleywriters.com

Sacramento: 11:00 third Saturdays, Luau Garden Chinese Buffet, 1890 Arden Way, Sacramento. sacramento-writers.org

San Francisco/Peninsula: 10:00 third Saturdays, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont. 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

Valley Writers

Meets: Valley Village Retirement Center, Santa Clara, Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Marjorie Johnson – 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day			SBW Board meeting 7:30p		7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		6:00p Regular Dinner Meeting, Outlook Inn Sunnyvale				Editors' Powwow 10:30 a.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>					7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Pruneyard, Campbell	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	January 2012			
Future Flashes						
February 14 regular 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



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: 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

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

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.

