



WRITERSTALK

Volume 20
Number 7
July 2012

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

South Bay Writers Summer Potluck Barbecue



Fire up the BBQ—it's time for our annual Potluck BBQ! Since there's never enough time to chat at the regular meetings, in July South Bay Branch is hosting a potluck barbecue. The table is ready for lots of delicious dishes prepared by members—the club will provide the BBQ chicken and beverages. Come and enjoy good food and good company. Chat with old friends and make new friends and contacts.

When: Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 2 pm

**Where: Home of Edie Matthews,
917 Perreira Drive, Santa Clara**

Bring: A dish to share

Last name begins:	Please bring:
A – H:	Appetizer or Dessert
I – R:	Main Dish
S – Z:	Salad or Side Dish

The club will provide the meat and drinks.

There is no charge for this event.

There is no regular meeting in July.

**Please RSVP to Edie Matthews at
rsvp@southbaywriters.com
or call 408 985-0819**

JUNE RECAP

Crackback!

by Rita Beach

Mark Purdy was the speaker at the June 12th meeting of the South Bay Writers Club. He spoke of his collaboration with Fitz Hill on their book, *Crackback! How College Football Blindsides the Hopes of Black Coaches*. The book deals with colleges that give unequal treatment to blacks when considering and hiring head coaches for college football.

The title *Crackback* refers to a blind hit from an opposing team, and metaphorically to black candidates who are led to believe they are in the running for a college coaching job, but then at the last moment knocked out by a white candidate. Hill had experienced this prejudice and bigotry, but also gathered the statistical information to back up his thesis of disparity in his doctoral dissertation.

Purdy's presentation captured the attention of the audience, even those who have no interest in sports. He was humorous, effective in conveying what it is like to collaborate on a writing project, and thought-provoking in his expertise on sports. The moral of the cautionary tale he told was to know what's involved before you jump into something.

Purdy reminded us that co-writing with just anybody on any project is not a recipe for success. He had turned down other offers of collaboration, most notably one with Jerry Rice. But, Purdy had a personal interest in the issues Hill was addressing, trusted Hill's credentials, and they liked each other—essential when spending endless hours together and in correspondence.

Continued on Page 6

Making a Story Workshop July 21
Don't miss it. See Page 9.

President's Challenge

by Bill Baldwin
President, South Bay Writers

Summertime and the Writing is...Easy?

Summer is here, and I hope you all get a good rest over the summer. The weather has turned hot now, at least as of June 15, and we all deserve a break.

Yes—a break. Therefore, don't come to the Lookout on the second Tuesday in July—unless you plan to play a little golf. We will *not* be having our regular dinner meeting.

However, we encourage those obsessive writers to join us at the Alice LaPlante workshop, "The Making of a Story," on Saturday, July 21. On the following weekend, Saturday, July 28, relax, have fun and come to Edie Matthews' house for our annual summer barbecue.

All of this should give us a good summer break—unless we decide to spend some time writing. Imagine—*Writing*—outdoors under redwood trees or at the beach.

The composer Gustav Mahler did most of his composing during his summer break from conducting the Vienna State Opera. I'm not sure what his wife thought of that. But they spent their summers in the Austrian Alps, and she may not have minded her husband working on his mammoth symphonies there. He didn't spend the entire time working, after all; his family meant a lot to him and he spent time with them hiking and relaxing.

So write if you like, but take it in stride. You don't have to be another Mahler.

Have a good summer, everyone.

Sail on! WT



It's that time of year again.

The 2011-2012 CWC South Bay membership year ends 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.

Inside:

SBW elects new officers	4	Hammonds: Close Unbelief	10
New Members	4	Llewellyn: The Garden; No Suffering Poet Here; Hummingbird	10
SBW at San Mateo County Fair	5	J. Miller: Lockdown	11
Peradotto: Book Review	6	Terse on Verse	11
Scenes from SBW June 12	7	L. Johnson: The Elephant Smiled	12
Vegh: Announcement of novel	8	M. Johnson: Fibonacci Forever	12
Hammonds: Memoir	8	Mulenberg: Life of Language	13
LaPlante Workshop: Make a Story	9	Contests	14

California Writers Club South Bay Branch

— o —

Executive Committee

President—Bill Baldwin
pres@southbaywriters.com
408 730-9622

Vice President—Rita Beach
vp@southbaywriters.com

Secretary—Sylvia Halloran
secretary@southbaywriters.com

Treasurer—Michael Freda
treasurer@southbaywriters.com

Members-at-Large—Dick Amyx and Andrea Galvacs

Central Board Rep, Norcal Rep—Dave La Roche
dalaroche@comcast.net

Directors

Programs—Rita Beach
vp@southbaywriters.com

Publicity and Public Relations—Edie Matthews
publicity@southbaywriters.com

Membership—Marjorie Johnson
membership@southbaywriters.com

Networking—Elena Martina
networking@southbaywriters.com

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin, WABaldwin@aol.com

Publishing Mentors—
Nina Amir, cpywrtcom@aol.com
Marjorie Johnson, membership@southbaywriters.com
Graham Flower, physicsnerd1@gmail.com
David Breithaupt, dlbmlb@comcast.net

Webmaster—Rik Scott
webmaster@southbaywriters.com

Workshops—Vacant position
workshops@southbaywriters.com

Join Us

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



WritersTalk

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

Managing Editor

Marjorie Johnson
newsletter@southbaywriters.com
408 243-2098

Contributing Editors

Rita Beach
Pat Bustamante
Carolyn Donnell
Andrea Galvacs
Victoria M. Johnson
Karen Llewellyn
Colin Seymour

Submissions

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

Guest Columns

Almost Anything Goes (300 words)

News Items (400 words)

Letters to the Editor (300 words)

to Andrea Galvacs
newsletter@southbaywriters.com

Creative Works

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

Accolades

accolades@southbaywriters.com

Announcements and Advertisements

newsletter@southbaywriters.com

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

Advertising is accepted on the basis of its interest and value to writers. Because California Writers Club is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation, *WritersTalk* cannot accept political advertising of any kind. Advertising rates for Club members, \$7 per column inch; non-members, \$10 per column inch. We will assist with layout.

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

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

Subscriptions: Nonmember subscriptions are \$20/year. Send a check payable to South Bay Writers, P. O. Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055, Attn: Membership.

Circulation: 200

Copyright © 2012 California Writers Club South Bay Branch.

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Editor



From Hungary with Love

July *WritersTalk* arrived early in your mailboxes because I am attending the Fifteenth International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Applications in Eger, Hungary.

In July 1962—yes, fifty years ago—I worked closely with my mathematics thesis advisor, Verner E. Hoggatt, Jr., who was so enamored with the Fibonacci numbers that students at San Jose State College nicknamed him “Professor Fibonacci.” He was

founder and first editor of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, an academic mathematics journal still being published today. (I am still on the editorial board.)

By now, you probably wonder, what or who is Fibonacci?

Fibonacci was the nickname of Leonardo of Pisa, foremost mathematician in Europe in 1202. His contribution to science was *Liber Abaci*, (*Book of Calculation*), in which he introduced the Hindu-Arabic numerals and showed how to compute with them. These are the numbers and the arithmetic you know today. To understand the significance, try to do long division with Roman numerals. Prior to 1202 merchants and scientists calculated with an abacus and recorded the results in Roman numerals.

So, what is this Fibonacci number thing? The unnamed sequence 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, . . . , was the solution to a problem posed in the *Liber Abaci* (yes, they had homework problems in 1202), but the name “Fibonacci sequence” didn’t arrive in the mathematical literature until 1876.

The first issue of *The Fibonacci Quarterly* appeared in San Jose in February 1963. The Fibonacci Association, an international group of people interested in number theory and the mathematics arising from this amazing sequence, meets every two years. At these meetings, each presenter has twenty minutes to explain the mathematical project that has consumed him for the past two years.

While I am not so consumed as some, I will be presenting a paper, “The Golden Ratio in Classical Maya Architecture.” The Fibonacci numbers are closely related to the Golden Rectangle, a shape much admired by the ancient Greeks, closely resembling that of a 5 x 8 filing card.

Believe it or not, while there was no common source, the ancient Maya also revered the Golden Ratio. In the *Popol Vuh*, their sacred book, they describe the construction of the square as the first action of the gods in creating the Cosmos. They also give a construction for the Golden Rectangle.

My husband and I have many photographs we took while visiting Maya ruins, and my co-author of this project, Dr. Colin Spears, contributed slides taken when his grandfather visited the Yucatán in the 1950s. We have put together a beautiful *PowerPoint* presentation. My challenge now is to make it stay together when I try to use it in Hungary. Sometimes the technology moves much faster than I do.

The Fibonacci Association has some parallels with South Bay Writers; the same *aficionados* come year after year, and they love cookies.

Our last biennial Fibonacci meeting was amusing. All the young first-time attendees split to remote corners of the hallways during every break, consulting cell phones and laptops but not relating to one another, while the gray-haired participants held such animated discussions that they forgot to drink their coffee. Ah, the times they are a changin’.

Sometimes a vacation is just the thing to reconfigure your writing machinery. I hope that you have the opportunity to enjoy a trip this year. **WT**

SBW Elects New Officers



The SBW election of officers was held at the June 12 general meeting as prescribed by the bylaws. Officers elected for the 2012-2013 term, left to right above, were Member-at-Large, Dick Amyx; Secretary, Sylvia Halloran; Vice President, Rita Beach; Treasurer, Mike Freda; Member-at-Large, Andrea Galvacs; and President, Bill Baldwin. — Photo by Carolyn Donnell

New Members

by Rita Beach

Each month in *WritersTalk*, I introduce our newest members to you. These new faces have much to contribute to our organization, such as fresh ideas, new leadership, and endless enthusiasm. Club members: be sure to introduce yourselves, interact, and share your insights with our new members.

With membership, individuals seek inspiration, knowledge about writing and publishing, and camaraderie through networking and critique groups. This is the common ground we all seek on our writing journey.

In May, we mentioned new member **Rich Amooi**, but I have since found out more about him. Author Seth Harwood, who spoke at CWC in Berkley about a year ago, told Rich about our club, which is a reminder to all of us to spread the word. Rich is a radio personality on Mix 106.5 and 94.5 KBAY in San Jose. He has written about a thousand

radio commercials. After taking a few creative writing classes at Stanford, Rich began writing short stories and poems in 2010. He has plans to self-publish a book of his short stories and to podcast some of his work. He has a DJ business that provides entertainment at weddings and other special events. Other interesting facts include that he played competitive soccer for 25 years. According to Rich, his other interests are a love of music, reading, meditation, silliness, walking, and traveling. Rich and his wife live in San Jose with the “hairy dog.” You can email him at rich@richamooi.com or visit www.richamooi.com.

Lisa Francesca is a new member who learned about South Bay Writers on-line. A non-fiction writer, she has outstanding credentials to accompany her talents. She said she spent her twenties in the poet and artist colony of San Francisco’s North Beach, where she served espressos, acted as curator at art shows, and performed her poetry in cafes, libraries, and on the radio. The



View from the Board

by S. Halloran

Five of us, President Bill Baldwin, Vice President Colin Seymour, Treasurer Richard Burns, Secretary Sylvia Halloran, and Member-at-Large Dick Amyx, met in Sunnyvale on June 6, 2012.

According to the revised bylaws, although four board officers were present, a quorum had not been reached. No business could be conducted. It was, however, an evening of thoughtful discussion and ended with thanks to all who served as officers this year. **WT**

birth of her daughter propelled her into editorial work and freelance writing, and over the next 20 years she wrote and edited copy for such diverse companies as Gallimard, Sunset, Adobe, and Deloitte. She also taught three full-time semesters in San Jose State’s MFA Creative Writing program, including “Writing Your Spiritual Memoir.” Several of Lisa’s articles can be found in back issues of *Eucalyptus Magazine*, and most recently she was published in *Caesura*, a national literary magazine. That article was based on an interview she did with Santa Clara Poet Laureate, Sally Ashton. We welcome a new member who has spent most of her life doing what we all love to do—writing. Visit her webpage www.lisafrancesca.com.

South Bay Writers wishes to welcome **Nader Khaghani**, who heard about our club through an acquaintance. He writes fiction and non-fiction and is a painter and a poet. He has published *The Grand Conference of Birds at Grant Park/Hueless in Chicago*, the myth of primordial pair color and form penetrated deep into the fabric of arts and creativity after 35,000 years of painting history. He has a CPA, a BS and Masters in accounting, but loves writing fiction and painting. Like many other new members, he is seeking knowledge about writing and wants to learn about publishing and to network with others. Contact him at nader_khaghani@yahoo.com or visit his website, huelessinchicago.com. **WT**

South Bay Writers are Winners

by Marjorie Johnson

South Bay Writers was well represented at the San Mateo County Fair, Literary Division, on June 10. Martha Engber presented a workshop, "Growing Great Characters." Bill Baldwin, Carolyn Donnell, Marjorie Johnson, and Jamie Miller attended the *Carry the Light* anthology launch party, signed books, and read from their entries. Audry Lynch, unable to attend, won an honorable mention for her essay, "Mark Twain Carried the Light."

Bill Baldwin placed second with his memoir, "And Ye Shall Find Rest," and Carolyn Donnell took first in Senior Western fiction with her story, "Walking Shoes," as well as an honorable mention for "Anno Forestem Silva." Jamie Miller won three prizes: first and second for his free form poems, "Aurora" and "Orders of Magnitude in Green," both of which appeared in April *WritersTalk*, and a first for Senior General Fiction, "A Poem for Jimmy."

Katie Wheeler-Dubin and Jill Hedgecock signed books with our attending SBW members. Katie won "Best of Show" for her short story "Lilith." Jill, an active member of CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, received an honorable mention for her essay, "May Good Fortune Shine on You." WT

**Alice La Plante
Method and Madness:
The Making of a Story
Workshop**

Saturday, July 21


Don't miss it.

**See announcement on
Page 9.**

San Mateo County Fair Literary Arts Division



Front, left to right: Carolyn Donnell, Bill Baldwin, Jill Hedgecock
Back, left to right: Katie Wheeler-Dubin, Marjorie Johnson, Jamie Miller
— Photo by Frank Johnson



The Gang's All Here . . .

. . . and we're waiting for you!

California Writers Club Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 21, 2012 • 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. • Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland
Barbecue • Potluck • Open mic •
Free admission • Open to all CWC members, family and friends
Details, directions and ADA accessibility: www.calwriters.org
RSVP: Linda Brown (Berkeley) 510/530-1261 BrownCalifornia@aol.com



Pictured from left: George Sterling, Mary Austin, Jack London, James Hopper
Photo by Arnold Genthe, circa 1902-1907. Graphic design by Joyce Krieg, Central Coast

*If you are not attending the Alice LaPlante workshop on July 21,
you may want to get acquainted with California Writers Club
members from other branches.*

Mountain men take you to the Sierra with them

A Book Review

by Chuck Peradotto

Sierra Crossing

Tom Stienstra and Michael Furniss
Wild Earth Press, Arcata, California

Available in Kindle and iBook formats

Tom Stienstra is an award winning outdoor writer for the San Francisco Chronicle and among his accomplishments are many outdoor guide books and a soon to be published novel. Michael J. Furniss is the publisher of Wild Earth Press, an outstanding outdoor photographer and scientist. The authors were accompanied by Tom's brother, Rambob Stienstra, on a trek that followed loosely the explorations of the John Muir and Joseph Walker in the Southern Sierra.

Tom's descriptions and Michael's art-quality images along with Rambob's observations take the readers with them as if they were fellow travelers on a wonderful journey.

Sierra Crossing is partly a trail guidebook, as you could easily follow in their footsteps, and partly practical outdoor advice but mostly a fascinating adventure. The reader is drawn along as the three explore one of the most remote and wildest parts of the world.

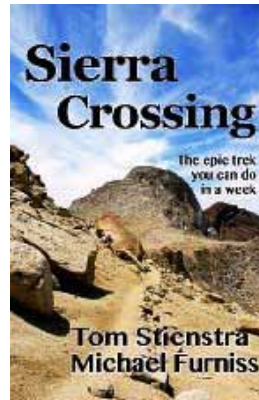
The 70.7-mile, eight-day trek begins in the eastern Sierra below Mount Whitney at the Horseshoe Meadows Trailhead; then up and over the Sierra Crest and down into the magnificent and unspoiled Kern River. It seems that the more difficult a place is to get to the more pristine it remains.

The days pass with many pleasant hours of hiking, exploring, camping and fishing among remote 14,000-foot peaks. It is not all roses though; the discomfort of blisters, rattlesnake encounters, and the concerns of being solely responsible for your own safety and comfort are addressed.

Tom intersperses mountain men, natural history and humor into his daily journal. The three hikers spend much time exploring and enjoying the Kern River and Canyon and then head up and over the Great Western Divide and down to Sequoia National Park and the base of the Western Sierra.

Sierra Crossing is must reading for anyone with even the slightest interest in the wild outdoors.

Being new to electronic books, I downloaded the Kindle for my computer and was amazed at the ease of reading and moving through the text and the high quality of the photo reproductions. I highly recommend it as an addition to your reading entertainment. **CP**



Purdy: Crackback!

Continued from Page 1

Purdy reiterated that writers who work together "must like each other, be open-minded, and believe in what they're doing."

Purdy's role was to take Hill's dissertation with all its research figures and academic purpose and transform it into a journalistic style with language which everyone could read and relate to. Purdy said, "As a writer you must seek clarity and express yourself so that everyone understands, whether they know anything about the subject or not."

Though Purdy and Hill used a handshake to seal their agreement, most deals should be written out in great detail. Collaborations have certain issues and questions, such as, who decides when the book is finished; how much time each person is willing to commit; whether or not the writer or co-writer will receive an advance or work pro-bono; how expenses will be covered; and how the money will be split if in the book becomes a financial success.



Mark Purdy signs a book for Karen Llewellyn. Photo by Carolyn Donnell

Purdy's conclusion is that certain books need to be written. He and Hill are proud of the book and hope it exposes problems and influences positive change for the future of sports. **WT**

A recap of other events on June 12

by Rita Beach

Bill Baldwin thanked present and past board members for their services. Andrea Galvacs handled the accolades for Marjorie Johnson, Bill Baldwin, Carolyn Donnell, and Jamie Miller being published in the San Mateo Fair anthology, and raffle prizes were awarded for those who renewed their memberships.

Election Chair Meredy Amyx officiated over the election of new officers: President, Bill Baldwin; Vice-President, Rita Beach; Secretary, Sylvia Halloran; Treasurer, Mike Freda; and Members-at-Large, Andrea Galvacs and Dick Amyx. **WT**

Dash of madness

No one ever creates anything great without a dash of madness.

--Aristotle

Photo on right:
Colin Seymour, Mike Freda talk to
speaker Mark Purdy



Photo below:
Accolades to Marjorie Johnson, Bill
Baldwin, Carolyn Donnell, and Jamie
Miller



Scenes from SBW Meeting June 12

– Photos from Carolyn
Donnell's camera



Photo above:
Rita Baum, Karen Llewellyn, Dave Breithaupt, Vicki
Burlew, Cathy Bauer, Diana Szucs-Richomme,
Alex Leon, Sherrie Johnson, and Rita Beach

Photo on left:
Victoria Burlew, Diana Szucs-Richomme,
Marjorie Johnson, Cathy Bauer

Members' Books



Jeannine Vegh's new novel probes the depths of psychological trauma

Former South Bay and Fremont CWC member, Jeannine Vegh, has published her first novel, *Little Girls Should Ride Ponies*, available in paperback on Amazon and through CreateSpace, and as an ebook through Smashwords, BarnesandNoble, Sony, Apple, Kobo and Diesel. Her website is <http://ladyjatbay.wordpress.com>.



In *Little Girls Should Ride Ponies*, Isabel is a woman on the path to rediscovery after dealing with early psychic wounds as well as family members with unusual proclivities. Camille is a famous medium on the west coast. Her visions are astounding and her followers swear by her pronouncements. Dominique is a murderous womanizer who tours the countryside eliminating child molesters. Born-again Jeanne, still living in the Midwest, tries to save the family from discovering what she believes are the family secrets. Meanwhile, Isabel is able to find love through Alejandro and his family. She has finally found some normalcy in her life, but at what cost? Does her mother really know her secret, or have one of her own?

Little Girls Should Ride Ponies takes a controversial look at the depths of psychological trauma.

Indie Authors are LinkedIn

by Wilma Reiber

There are various discussion groups within LinkedIn. In the Indie Authors group, someone posted this List of Blog Radio and TV Author Interviewers. Some SBW members might be interested in listening or even getting interviewed.

Author Talk: www.maldene.com

Bookmark: <http://bookmarkradio.com/>

Julia Widdop's Blog TV: www.blogtv.com/people/juliawiddop

Bookworm: www.voiceamerica.com/show/1856/book-worm

Author Spotlight: www.chattinmanhattan.com/contact-us/become-a-guest

Various Listings: www.blogtalkradio.com/writing

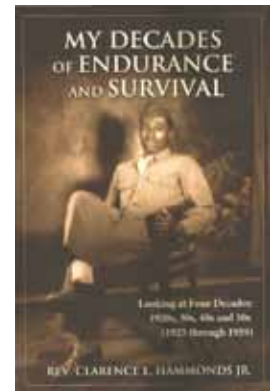
Launch Publicity: www.launchpublicity.com/

The Authors' Show: <http://theauthorsshow.com>

Faith, fate intersect: Hammonds' memoir

Rev. Clarence Hammonds Jr. announces the publication of his memoir, *My Decades of Endurance and Survival*.

He writes, "Do you like reading about people who have endured and survived in some of the toughest times in this country? This is the story of a man who escaped a sure death by being at the wrong place at the right time, the story of a little boy's moral and religious development from church kid to US Army Chaplain's Assistant."



In 1943 at age 18, Hammonds was drafted into the US Army and served in World War II. His Army outfit, the 1903rd Ordinance Ammunition Company, was all African-American and dealt with the supply and storage of weapons and ammunition. While he was filing a report for the PX (the company store), the rest of his entire outfit died when an incendiary bomb they were handling exploded – his friends, his brothers, all dead. Even after sixty years, he feels the pain.

Hammonds ate his last Army dinner on March 5, 1946 after serving his country in India and Tinian, where the atomic bombs were loaded for their mission. Since then, he has served his community as a minister of the Gospel for more than 60 years.

If words are to be used to enter men's minds and bear fruit, they must be the right words, shaped cunningly to pass men's defenses and explode silently and effectively within their minds.

—J. B. Phillips, writer and clergyman
(1906 – 1982)



CWC South Bay Writers Presents

Alice LaPlante

Method and Madness: The Making of A Story

Saturday, July 21, 2012

Workshop: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.



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.

Workshop includes breakfast and lunch.

Location: Lookout Inn, 605 Macara, Sunnyvale, CA (at the golf course)

Registration: Early bird: \$45 member, \$55 non-member.

After July 6: \$65 per person.

Register and pay by credit card (PayPal) at www.southbaywriters.com

If you must pay by check, please use the form below.

* * * * *

Mail this portion to: SBW Workshops, P O Box 3254, Santa Clara, CA 95055.

Check payable to South Bay Writers.

Name: _____ CWC Branch _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone # _____ Email _____ Amount Paid _____

Early Special Price: 3 persons sign up together, \$35 each

Please note early start time, 8:00 a.m.

No Suffering Poet Here

Poets suffer and toil?
Well, that is what I've heard.
But I think most of us
Like playing with the words.

For words are dark or sunny,
Benign or filled with fear,
They frolic and they tremble,
Repel or draw us near.

We hear the bay of lonely wolves,
We feel the pine-filled breeze,
We remember all our child-like joy
At birds and flowers and bees.

Nature's glory, human grace,
The calm when struggles cease,
The poet plays with words
To help our worlds increase.

But suffer and toil? I think it wrong
To claim we wrestle so.
I think we dance to dazzling song
Of things the world should know.

The life we pass and do not see,
The sights we don't explore,
The poet brings them close and says,
"Look here, there's so much more."

She writes her simple verses
And sells them for a song,
Because that is the going rate
For verses short or long.

And so the dance goes on and on,
The poet twirls anew,
And dizzy from the pirouette,
She hands her gift to you.

— K. O. Llewellyn

The Garden

The evening clouds lie in plump furrows,
Pink and gray in the sunset
Against the last of the blue sky beyond.

The breeze grasps at winter,
But clutches only fall,
Tossing leaves along the curbs,
Tumbling the golden debris over lawns.

Dusk throws a hood over the day,
Stifling my efforts against obstreperous weeds.
It's a never-ending battle.
I stand upon the ramparts of my raised beds
And shake my trowel-sword at the oxalis
Which, like sin, is with us always.

Evening has fallen,
And I collapse, defeated,
Swearing to gird myself for war again tomorrow.
Tomorrow, I will get to the root of this.

— K. O. Llewellyn



Hummingbird

The whirling green startles us
Coming so suddenly
From nowhere
Buzzing like an oversized bee
Around the Lilies of the Nile.

We pull up short,
In fear of sending it
Zipping away.

Mesmer couldn't have done better.
Bringing us to a halt and
Hypnotizing us with speeding wings.
Tiny jewel in motion.

— K.O. Llewellyn

Close Our Unbelief

Whenever there is a close out, it is a definite out
There's nothing left, in the store, if that's the thing?
Close out, don't look for anything else. All is gone
Going some other place? This out is different, yes

There's nothing left, in the store, if that's the thing?
So you close out unbelief, it means you have belief
Going some other place? This out is different, yes
Close out unbelief when there's doubt about a thing

So you close out unbelief, it means you have belief
Be ready to close out unbelief. You expect a miracle
Close out unbelief when there's doubt about a thing
When there is unbelief, in your thinking, don't move

Be ready to close out unbelief. You expect a miracle
Miracles still happen, and will always be here for us
When there is unbelief, in your thinking, don't move
Stay ready, and keep closing out on all unbelief, now

Miracles still happen, and will always be here for us
Close out unbelief, when you see it coming your way
Stay ready, and keep closing out on all unbelief, now
Be sure, be very sure; hold on to your belief, forever

— Rev. Clarence L. Hammonds



Overheard:

Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage.

If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it.

Go out and get busy.

--Dale Carnegie

Lockdown!

by Jamie Miller

"Doc, look at this!"

"Later, Sharon. I'm busy."

"Now!" The Dean handed the Principal a sheet of numbers. "This was in a girls' bathroom. Possibly an attack threat. Want the school locked down?"

"Not yet." Doc studied the numbers.

"Linda, get the admin staff!"

"Everyone?"

"Everyone. Quick!" Doc pondered the numbers as the staff gathered. "OK, people, what is this?"

"Code for an attack plan?"

"DaVinci code?"

"Satanic ritual stuff. I recognize it."

"Sharon, what else did you see?"

"I was patrolling as usual. I saw a girl exit that bathroom. I think it was Shaneese Barnett."

"Linda, get Shaneese here. Now!"

The girl walked in, stopped, and searched the suspicious crowd.

"What'd I do?"

"Shaneese, is this your paper?"

"Oh, you found it! Where?"

"Never mind. 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34," he read aloud. "What's this about?"

"Umm... It's a Fibonacci sequence. That's all. You write down a '1' then another '1' then you add the last two numbers to make the next one. It's really interesting because --"

"Thank you, Shaneese. Back to work everyone. Sharon ... next time, *think*. OK?"

Shaneese watched, bewildered, as the crowd departed.

"What'd I say?"

JM

Terse On Verse, July

by Pat Bustamante

July Cry, Baby!

Oh it may sound silly

To denounce certain contemporary writers willy-nilly

But when you read their stuff

Next to yours, sometimes looks like plain old guff!

-Pat Bustamante

Writer-envy: I have a bad case of it. One famous bestselling mystery writer appropriated a title of mine from an online novel (no longer online, no longer for sale). All my friends are aware of how peeved I was! And it is perfectly legal to use any title. What really hurts is, I could barely break even on costs (of self publishing) while she made—you guessed it—a best seller out of my title.

Right and left we writers hear, all the publishing world is changing! And I hear, "You get a better chance to make it as a bestselling famous author!" I wish it for all of us.

I always recommend reading as much as you can, in the field of writing you have chosen. It was startling to me to find out that Stephen King took every horror-classic and re-wrote it for modern times. And look at the successes!

I do not simply desire to be published. I want to "make it big," to become an icon among the legions of authors! I am dedicated to the field of fiction—not sure if "genre" or "literary" would describe it best. Another astonishment to me: the library has a literary section and a mystery section, and some writers cross over from one to the other. They "graduate"! Who decides this? Do I have a chance to do it? It must have to do with how many books you sell, or how many independent but prominent reviewers will give you an A+.

We the writers frequently debate: Who should publicize? How should a "brand" be created? How in heck does one get to be famous, the "talk of the town"? Well, I say with tongue-in-cheek, you could commit some ostentatious crime. The Unabomber got on the front pages of newspapers with his writings—No, don't go there.

Most important is, remain your own best fan. Love everything you write. I still have a novel I wrote at age eight: *Gypsy, A Dog* (illustrated by yours truly), having just read *Lassie Come Home*, which is truly a classic. Don't please the world first; write to please yourself first.

Probably Stephen King is one of the most second-guessed and analyzed authors in this country today. He has always been modest about his years of published work. (I think he made it in this library to the literary category!) He helps other beginning writers; I admire that immensely. We writers, after all, are in competition with each other. (The "marketing" part anyway). Just as we have our own DNA, we each have our own voice.

Did the cave-man artist who created masterpieces revered from then to today do it as "art for the ages"? No. He had a message. He left us something beautiful.

Envyng successful artists is all right, but love what you write. No one else will do it as well. WT

Proofreading Tip

by Wilma Reiber

A tip about proof reading from the *Indie Times*: If you're going to proofread your own work, do it from back to front. Start with the last line of the last chapter, read it, then go up to the next sentence, and so on. This way the story doesn't flow the way your brain was expecting and it can't compensate. That's right, as clever as the brain is, you can still trick it.

The Elephant Smiled

by Lorna Johnson

The trip to Africa was really weird. We saw a fat elephant dressed in khaki pants and socks. The elephant smiled a big, toothy grin about a mile long. We all looked at it in disbelief, and one person fainted. Then our tour guide said shakily, "Moving on..." We all closed our gaping mouths, smiled, and clasped our hands politely like nothing had ever happened.

The tour bus continued driving over giant hills covered with toothpick grass and under huge trees that looked like twisted ropes. When the bus driver saw the giraffe, the bus slowed. The giraffe was wearing a sparkly tutu that puffed out a foot. It was practicing its grand leaps and when it saw us, the giraffe winked. We all stood as still as statues, frozen in place, eyes glued to the absurd animal. Then our tour guide said, "Th-th-that elephant was crazy, an-an-and n-n-now this? A-A-Africa is ruined! W-w-what will I do?" He was shaking all over. Then he burst out sobbing and curled up into a ball under someone's seat.

Everyone was silent. And right then and there, everyone started sobbing. Before long, the bus was loud from all of the wailing and the seats were damp. Just my luck, of course!

I was trying to calm everyone down when three small, brown, shifty looking monkeys climbed up the bus's steps sneakily. One scurried to the sniffing bus driver and snatched the driver's navy blue hat. Then, cackling insanely with glee, that mischievous monkey revved the bus's engine, and before anyone knew what was happening, one monkey was pushing the gas, one was steering, and one was blaring the horn. From the force of the abrupt acceleration, everyone was thrown back into their seats, and that's when the crying stopped and the shouting started.

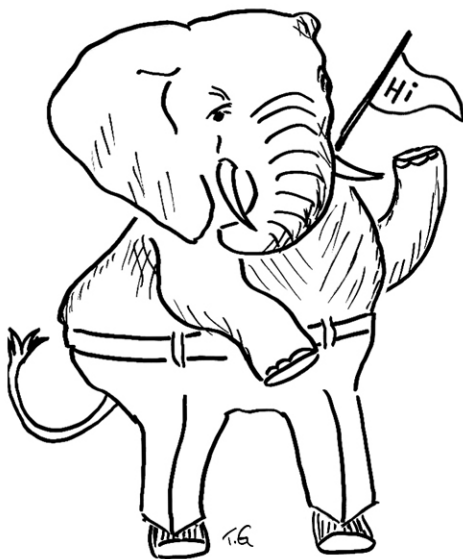
I'm sure one of the bus's wheels popped, vines snapped against the

windshield, and the bus tipped dangerously from the wild turns. At 100 miles per hour, the monkeys started fighting. The horn honker monkey was tired of his horn job and wanted to drive. Honker monkey stole driver monkey's hat and pushed him to the floor, landing on gas monkey's tail. Gas monkey screeched and hit driver monkey. Meanwhile, honker monkey clapped and whistled, cheering the fight on.

Just then, the bus hit a big bump the size of Texas. We all went flying, and I hit my head on the roof of the bus. The lion the bus ran over adjusted his tuxedo and roared. The tourists all gathered themselves and leaped off the still moving bus, surprisingly in front of the loading zone at the "Safari Amazing – Home of the Most Adventurous Touring" where we all started our tour not so long ago.

We all looked around, still dazed from the wild ride. We gathered up our belongings (some people's stuff was still in the bus, but the bus was now nine miles away, still moving) and marched into the visitor center to complain to Zane, one of the employees. We complained to him, and I noticed that he looked an awful lot like a gorilla. LJ

Lorna Johnson is SBW's youngest member. She is 10 years old and just finished fourth grade. Cartoon by Tina Glasner. – Ed.



Fibonacci Forever

by Marjorie Johnson

Many members of SBW have asked me about Fibonacci numbers and what the *Fibonacci Quarterly* is. The sequence 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ... is related to many problems of interest to a number theorist, and the *Fibonacci Quarterly* is devoted to the study of integers with special properties. The *FQ* seeks university-level articles and encourages new results and challenging problems.

In 1978, my husband and I looked up the statue of Fibonacci in Pisa, Italy. Frank climbed rickety scaffolding that surrounded the statue to take a portrait shot, a photo that appears many places on the Internet.

Fibonacci numbers and number theory have been my hobby. I kept a bibliog-

raphy and information sheet for the Fibonacci Association for many years; of course, everyone uses *Google* these days. By 1995, I had listed close to 100 references, not to mathematical articles, but to diverse applications; for example, the Fibonacci numbers appear in the growth patterns of plants, in music, in electronics, and in the genealogy of the male bee. The closely related Golden Rectangle is found in art, sculpture, and architecture from the ancient Greeks to modern times.

My friends send me cartoons. One had the text: "Mom sewed one sparkly here and here; two sparklies here; three sparklies; five sparklies; eight sparklies; thirteen –" "Fibonacci sequins, of course."

Another recent cartoon had the characters eating chips with captions: "One cheesy tortilla chip, one cheesy tortilla

chip, two chips, three chips, five chips, eight chips ..." "Math geeks shouldn't be allowed near certain foods." "But they're Fibonachos."

And perhaps math geeks shouldn't be allowed around certain newsletters. WT



We Live a Life of Language

by Jerry Mulenberg

We speak, listen, read, write, and think in language. Our lives are consumed with language. Where does it come from? It is a product of both our genes and our environment. Because we're human we have a built in capacity for spoken language (our genes) that, according to Stephen Pinker in *The Language Instinct*, is universal among human societies. We've learned to represent our English language in writing using only 26 letters plus a few flyspeck marks, and a few more flyspecks with little tails. The particular language we speak, however, is a result of our environment—the language spoken by those around us.

Growing up with people around you speaking English, you speak English, and the same for other languages. A good example of this is a family I knew with children the same age as mine. Living in the U.S. at the time, the mother was from Germany and the father from Sweden. The mother spoke only Swedish to the father and he only German to the mother while the children spoke only German to their father and only Swedish to their mother. The children often spoke English to each other, and of course in school and with their friends. This was at least a trilingual family that had a great advantage when they traveled to visit family in the different countries or go there on vacation.

Even knowing only one language, we are forever taking it in; we're reading, listening, and thinking. Others of us can't wait to get it out by writing, speaking, or dreaming about stories, real and imagined. Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* is a great example of this. When we who write read, we can't help but enjoy an interesting turn of phrase, or feel disheartened when we find an error or poor phrasing.

For me, when I read, I get excited when I find a phrase or sentence that is interesting or I can use in my own writing such as the first sentence of this article. I read it, or heard it somewhere, and jotted it down as I often do for possible future use. Sometimes I can't wait to

use it. Other times it sits in my notebook where I capture ideas, thoughts, dreams, worries, and often snippets of stories. These snippets may be beginnings, sometimes endings, and often are simply unknown phrases that might, or might not fit somewhere in a piece of writing that I hope to complete in the future.

My problem is that writing is hard. You need to put forth effort to write and it can be painful, tiring, and even worrisome. Is it any good? Will anyone like it? Or will they think it bad, weak, amateurish, or any number of similar unflattering thoughts. I can't think of anything more disconcerting than exposing yourself to the ridicule of others for something that you created for your own, or others' pleasure. Except perhaps public speaking, which is supposed to be what most people fear the most, and it is also the use of language.

I've read what some really good writers felt about their writing, and it doesn't seem much different than my own concern. E.B. White said of himself that he was a farmer who sometimes wrote. He told of rushing to the mailbox where he had deposited a manuscript to his publisher in the hope of retrieving it because it really wasn't good enough. Another author called her writing the *Midnight Disease*. She was by day a surgeon and even though exhausted when she finally returned home in the evening, she *had* to sit down to write to get it out of her system before she could sleep.

When we write, many of us don't do it to earn a living because it's really hard to do so. If we sell what we write that's wonderful, but to make enough money to live on as a writer has always been difficult for most people, even those who are famous for their writing. Mark Twain, Ernest Hemmingway, and John Steinbeck all had periods when they were not making much, if any, money although they survived during their bleak times to become excellent writers with few money cares. They persevered because they continued to write and write and write. Not just for money, but to prove to themselves, and to show

others, that they could write and write well.

Early in his writing career, in a letter to a colleague, Steinbeck stated that he felt he might produce something good by his fifth book. Mark Twain became a performer giving lectures on stage to support his family. All of us can read and we can write, often creating our own realities.

We all live a life of language. We can't help it. And though we may never become rich or well known, we can enjoy language and writing for the sheer pleasure of it. And hate it for the angst it may cause us. JM

Publishing Pathways Needs Your Help

by Dave LaRoche

The goal of the Publishing Pathways program is to provide reliable information and resources on all aspects of publishing and book marketing to CWC members. If you have had a positive or negative experience with a publisher, or any other related service provider, we'd like to know about it and post it on our website. Your recommendations may require a brief testimonial in support of our users' understanding, although your name can be held in confidence.

In addition, if you would like to be listed in our Skills Bank or on our Speakers List as an expert on any aspect of book publishing or marketing, we'd love to include you. Your service may be complimentary or offered with a fee—either way is okay.

If you have any information related to your experience with publishing you think would be helpful to others, please contact any of our South Bay Publishing Pathways Mentors: David Breithaupt, Graham Flower, Nina Amir, or Marjorie Johnson. Any SBW Board member will have their contact information and can assist you. DL

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 and we will add your listing to our directory of experts.

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 martha@engber.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

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

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

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, Zio Fraedos Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/>

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

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

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 for full details.

Conference

Romance Writers

Romance Writers of America (RWA), the trade association for published and aspiring romance writers, is holding its annual conference from July 25-28, 2012, at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California. Go to www.rwa.org/cs/conferences_and_events

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
1	2	3	4	5	6 7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	7
8	9	10 No regular meeting	11	12	13	14
15 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>	16	17	18	19	20 7:30p Open mic Barnes & Noble Pruneyard, Campbell	21 Alice LaPlante Workshop, Lookout, 8 am - 2 pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 SBW Annual BBQ
29	30	31	July 2012			
Future Flashes						
August 14 Dinner meeting			NOTE: CWC picnic July 21, Oakland			

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 announcements. southbaywriters.com

Members Books

Go to 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

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



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

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

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

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

MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

No Regular Monthly Meeting in July

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

Annual SBW BBQ

Details inside on Page 1

WritersTalk deadline is always
the 15th of the month.

