



# WRITERSTALK

Volume 21  
Number 3  
March 2013

Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Writers Club™

MARCH SPEAKER

Bonnie Lee, EA

## Taxpertise:

### Are you sure that's legal?

by Rita Beach

Did you ever wonder what we could legally claim as expenses for self-publishing endeavors? Will Uncle Sam come knocking on our doors accusing us of being hobbyists instead of legitimate writers? What are the legal deductions we're entitled to as writers and what do we need as proof to make our case? Are you confused about whether your home office can be a deduction? Are you concerned or frightened that you lack the information you need to answer so many questions involving your taxes and your writing expenses?

On March 13, Bonnie Lee will be the featured speaker at the South Bay Writers Club meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose.

Bonnie Lee, Enrolled Agent (EA), believes knowledge is power and her mission is enlightenment. When dealing with the IRS, you need to know what you are entitled to claim as deductions and what you cannot. She will tell us.

*I've never made a dime as a writer, so why should I come to this meeting?*

You may never have made a dime, but chances are you've spent more than a dime. Find out if all those unsold boxes of books accumulating dust in the closet are secret treasures waiting to be discovered as deductions. Bonnie Lee will empower us with the Taxpertise we desperately need to avoid Uncle Sam's backing us into a corner.



Bonnie Lee has written articles for Entrepreneur.com and uses radio broadcasts, her blog, and Twitter to reach out to thousands of taxpayers. *Taxpertise: The Complete Book of Dirty Little Secrets* is her Entrepreneur Press book that shares her insider experience gained from dealing successfully with the IRS for over 20 years. Our speaker is a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents (NAEA) and the California Society of Enrolled Agents (CSEA).

As an enrolled agent, Bonnie Lee specializes in resolving tax issues for independent contractors, the self-employed, and small business owners. She promises to answer specific questions applicable to writers. Her wealth of knowledge and entertaining

FEBRUARY RECAP

## Death by Meth

by Grace Tam

There were few empty seats at Harry's Hofbrau on February 13 when South Bay Writers heard from award-winning literary journalist Scott Thomas Anderson. He captured the audience with a powerful beginning, a soul-searching middle, and a scintillating end replete with an interactive questions and answers session.

Early in his career, Anderson wrote an award-winning feature story profiling a bull rider . . . "the image of the bull bucking in the cage—the shaking chute that rattled in the grip of my hands."

Later, Anderson received a grant for investigative reporting on methamphetamine and its effects on rural communities. As he visited crime scenes and talked to police officers, he realized that reports written in journalistic style could not depict the horrors of human suffering and "I threw my newspaper writing style out the window."

According to Anderson, literary journalism "takes reality and uses the power of language to thrust that reality into the reader's sphere." A newspaper journalist writes scenarios as a general whole and shows a national picture. However, no reader becomes invested in a story without a set of established and detailed characters. The media handles drug abuse stories by presenting one perspective—that of the addict. Anderson let his story unfold as seen by addicts, prosecutors, cops, and families. He used real stories taken from court records to develop the characters along with hard-hitting brutal descriptions and vivid imagery to capture the depth of the story.

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# President's Challenge

by Bill Baldwin  
President, South Bay Writers

## We Walked the (On)Line



I thought we had an excellent dinner meeting in February, and I'm looking forward to another good one in March. I'm also anticipating more material for my writing—I'm currently attending a convention over the Presidents' Day weekend—though I took time out to attend our South Bay Writers Open Mic at the Willow Glen Library. We're getting quite a good mix now of various types of writing. If you haven't attended one of our open mics, I really encourage you to give it a try—at the very least to hear some of our members read.

At our last dinner meeting I mentioned opportunities for further involvement in South Bay Writers, and I specifically mentioned our web presence. We have several things going on online—some people think we have *too* many. Not all of it is owned or run by South Bay Writers. Our events are announced on MeetUp, but we do not officially own the site. We have an old group on Yahoo Groups, created to encourage discussion among members or other interested people. With the coming of social networking, many members joined Facebook. Some years back, we created a Facebook group. This enabled members to discuss relevant topics. More recently, we've created an official Facebook page. We also have, on top of all this, our actual website.

Do we *need* all this? No—dare I say—of course not. But there are good reasons not to reduce everything to a single, allegedly "all-purpose," web location.

Some people don't *want* to participate in Facebook. Some people don't *want* to be involved with Yahoo Groups. But it's useful, I think, for us as a group to have a presence in various places, for the sake of those of our members who associate there. Some people disagree with me.

A South Bay Writers Board committee has been reviewing these sites and these questions. If you have a suggestion about these issues, do let us know at our next dinner meeting, or send me an email at WABaldwin@aol.com. Other members are interested in your opinion. —WT

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**April is National Poetry Month.**  
**Send your best to *WritersTalk* by March 16.**

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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—Andrea Galvacs,  
accolades@southbaywriters.com  
Dick Amyx, dick@amyx.org

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  
408 985-0819

Membership—Sally Milnor  
membership@southbaywriters.com

Networking—Elena Martina  
networking@southbaywriters.com

Open Mic—Bill Baldwin, WABaldwin@aol.com

Publishing Mentors—  
Nina Amir, cpywrtcom@aol.com  
David Breithaupt, dlblmb@comcast.net  
positions available

Webmaster—Rik Scott  
webmaster@southbaywriters.com

Workshops—Edie Matthews  
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, Sally Milnor, 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

### Contributing Editors

Pat Bustamante  
Carolyn Donnell  
Andrea Galvacs  
Victoria M. Johnson  
Karen Llewellyn  
Sally Milnor  
Grace Tam (Intern Editor)

### Submissions

Members of the South Bay Writers Club are encouraged to submit their creative works for publication in *WritersTalk*. Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for an agent. All submissions will be copyedited to uphold our publication standards. The Managing Editor decides which submissions to publish.

Submission deadline is the 16th of the month.

Suggested word limits are not absolute; query the editor. Electronic submissions should be text or attached MS Word file sent to newsletter@southbaywriters.com

**Anything Goes—Almost** (300 words)

**News Items** (400 words)

**Letters to the Editor** (300 words)  
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 and is published free of charge.

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by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

Editor



## Next to Normal

Have you checked out the plays at the San Jose Repertory Theatre? They offer top-notch performers who use a state-of-the-art stage right next to a big parking lot. Shakespeare, eat your heart out!

There is something magic about watching a play; you are transported to another world from which you can examine life from a new perspective. Plays engage, entertain, and inspire people. Story telling is part of being human—we need stories.

Recently, Frank and I viewed “Next to Normal,” Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt’s powerful and moving musical which won the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The production took on a difficult and painful topic—mental illness.

Why, you may ask, a musical about a bipolar schizophrenic? Other people may have asked that question; the audience seemed sparser than usual. We decided to try it; otherwise, how do you know if you like it or not?

The actors in “Next to Normal” portrayed the scenarios of never knowing what the “crazy” person will do next and how one person with mental illness devastates the entire family. Diana, the bipolar mother in the play, hears voices and always sets a place for her son at the table, even though he has been dead for fifteen years. She exhibits other abnormal behavior, to the extent that her teenaged daughter avoids inviting friends home. Diana agrees to undergo electric-shock therapy, but there are unexpected side effects.

People with bipolar disorder go through violent mood swings—from the depths of depression to the highs of mania. Also known as manic-depressive illness, bipolar disorder is a deadly mental illness that afflicts about 5.7 million Americans. We now treat it with “meds” and sweep the whole problem under the rug.

For me, the play was a disturbing experience because I once knew someone who went through a period of schizophrenia. Without money for private treatment, the choices were whether to commit him to a mental hospital or to gut it out and pray. If he were committed, the stigma of mental illness at that time would have made him unemployable, but his family never knew what strange thing he would do next. I also served on a jury once to decide whether to allow a mental patient at Agnew to stop treatment and to leave the hospital—very serious business in those days in the ‘60s.

Plays are like poems: good ones evoke emotional responses and give fresh perspective into the human condition. We need the arts for they reflect ourselves, holding a mirror up to Nature, to paraphrase Shakespeare. **WT**

## Writing Opportunities

To enter the ongoing *WritersTalk* Challenge Contest, send your creative works—short fiction, memoir, essays, poetry—to newsletter@southbaywriters.com.

Send your best poetry to *WritersTalk* for our April poetry issue.

# CWC Central Board and NorCal Group Updates

by Dave LaRoche

The **California Writers Club Central Board** met on Jan 27 at the Holiday Inn Express at the Oakland Airport. Representatives (board directors) traveled in from all branches to participate in this daylong meeting. The following are high points from this meeting.

- A new branch, Napa Valley Writers, received its charter, bringing the total number of branches to 19 and the total membership to over 1600.
- A motion to reduce the secretary's duties with more reliance on the new Membership Record Management System (MRMS) was passed. This system, incidentally, is an Internet based application, the product of the San Fernando Valley's Ray Malus's effort.
- Policies and Procedures were updated to include recent e-business changes and distributed to all branches. The P&Ps are also available on the CWC website.
- The 2012-13 Winter CWC Literary Review will be sent out to members in February.
- On July 20, the Club picnic will again be held in Joaquin Miller Park –burgers and drinks furnished, the rest via potluck. Sixty

attended last year and enjoyed music, readings, networking, and conversation.

- Jack London awards and elections will occur the next day at the July 21 Central Board meeting, again at the Holiday Inn venue.

The **CWC NorCal Group** met at the Bellevue Club in Oakland on Feb 2. All northern California branches were represented, including Napa, the twelfth member of the northern-region group.

- Discussion centered on the upcoming San Francisco Writers Conference where the Group will staff a booth. South Bay Writers will be represented on Friday from noon to four by Elena Martina, Jana McBurney-Lin, and Apala Egan with backup availability from Nancy Curteman, Gisela Zebrowski, and Bradford Blake. Our purpose here is to promote the club and gather members. Book covers, membership applications, club brochures, banners, sign-up logs, and word games are ready to go. Tri-Valley's Deborah Bernal and Paul Chinick are the NCG leaders of this event.
- **LitQuake**, San Francisco's literary festival scheduled for October

5 – 13, and its **LitCrawl** October 13, are being considered for NorCal involvement this fall. (See [litcrawl.org/sf/](http://litcrawl.org/sf/) and [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org).) A venue is being sought for the Crawl. We are considering an ad in the Lit-Quake publication – again in an effort to promote the Club, particularly the NorCal branches. A panel dealing with publishing is likely.

- Publishing Pathways will soon awaken from slumber. Elaine Webster, President of Redwood Writers, has picked up the mantle and will actively move forward. Mentors may expect contact from her. Judith Marshall, Mt. Diablo, and Deborah Bernal, Tri-Valley, are also on the committee.

The NorCal Group, currently chaired by Joyce Krieg, is open to all members, and particularly those with ideas and energy. We have held retreats and a leadership conference; established the publishing pathways program; and are always on the lookout for events that foster branch operations and promote the Club. If interested, contact me by email, [dalaroche@comcast.net](mailto:dalaroche@comcast.net). –WT

## New Members

by Sally A. Milnor



I am happy to report that, so far this year, our South Bay Writers Club has six new members.

**Gay Bachmann** first heard about South Bay Writers online. Her

primary interest is fiction writing, and she is currently working on a novel.

**Jennifer Bridgman** also heard about us online. Jennifer writes about topics that are personal to her; and her goal in writing is to inspire, inform, and entertain others through her words. This year she will publish her first book, a memoir. Last year she was awarded tenth place in *Writer's Digest's* 81st Annual Writing Competition (Magazine Feature Article Category). Select

chapters from her book, as well as links to both award winning columns, can be found on her website [www.jenniferbridgman.com](http://www.jenniferbridgman.com).

**Elizabeth Kunselman** came to our meeting on February 13 and joined that evening. Elizabeth is interested in writing memoir, fiction, and non-fiction.

**Jan Panell** has authored and co-authored several articles for scientific publications. Her short story, "Nihonmachi Fantasma", was published in the *Red Wheelbarrow* literary magazine, and in 2008, she won a Carolyn Keene prize for her literary essay, "Life's a Bitch and then You Die". She is currently working on a collection of short stories.

**Christine Zilius Mason** has had a number of articles published in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, and several short stories such as "Whetstone;" "A Summer's Reading;" and "A Decent Inter-

val" published in literary journals. Her novel, *The Mystery of Nan Madol*, was published by Robertson Publishing. Recently, Christine signed with a New York agent to promote her novel. In addition to writing, she is interested in art, photography, and hiking.

**Gerri Tiernan** is a retired nurse and enjoys writing stories that include hospital scenes. Her novels are available in the Kindle store at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) under her pen name Whisper Lowe. Her books are *Pockets of the Heart*; *The Dark Side of the Tracks*; *ENGAGEMENT*; *Finding Teddy*; *At the Cabin*; and *God Ain't No Doctor*, a novella. In addition to her writing, Gerri loves the out of doors.

To our new members: We wish a warm welcome to each and every one of you, and we hope your membership brings you inspiration and enjoyment. See you at our next meeting! –WT

# Networking Log

by ElénaMartina

## Hobby writer

If, after attending multiple writers' meetings, book conferences, and poetry readings, volunteering at a writers' club and networking with published authors and bloggers, you are still stuck in your old and unfinished writing mode, you might be a hobby writer.



So what now? If the goal is to finish that book you've been editing for the last few years, you must set a reasonable amount of time for action. A deadline will help you feel in control only if you dedicate to it. I often tell writers to concentrate on one book at a time and leave other projects for later. Those seem to be reasonable suggestions, except that we writers are multifaceted and complicated. Our desire to write and rewrite several projects at the same time is common and unmanageable for most of us. Are we "Type A" personalities? Heck no, but we sure act as if we were.

Our main concern is to present the best work we can offer, yet we spoil it

by mismanaging time and effort. We choose to entertain time for writing poetry or short stories, while our big project sits on the back burner waiting to be stirred. Sound familiar?

If the endless hours of writing instruction by laureate authors have not helped you push your product to the masses, then you need to face the music and deliver your sonata sooner rather than later. What I mean is, work relentlessly on the one project you've been stressing about and push it to the forefront. Leave all other little projects and immediate accolades behind and make 2013 the year you publish your masterpiece.

I read somewhere that people deliver results or excuses—never both. Get on it, stop giving excuses, and finish that book already.

## New Critique Group

Pam Oliver-Lyons leads a mystery genre critique group called The Emperor's Mystery Circle. It meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at Emperor Norton's Restaurant, 7508 Santa Teresa Blvd. in San Jose. The group is devoted to the mystery genre and is looking for a variety of serious fellow writers at any level who need

critique in a positive atmosphere. You can contact Pam directly at 408-693-9250 or e-mail her at polpap@prodigy.net

If anyone wishes to start a critique group and wants tips, please read our October 2012 WT article, "Starting a critique group."

Questions? Contact ElénaMartina at networking@southbaywriters.com

— WT



ElénaMartina encourages SBW authors to exchange books and book reviews.

— Photo by Carolyn Donnell

# March Accolades

by Andrea Galvoacs



Bill Baldwin's poem "Los Gatos Reveries" will be published soon in *Los Gatos Poetry*, and Pat Bustamante's poem will also appear in the same anthology.

Luanne Oleas received her first royalty check for her novel, *A Primrose in November*.

In the spring of 2012, Suzy Paluzzi submitted her poem to the Poetry on the Move Contest. The current Santa Clara County Poet Laureate Sally Ashton included it in the related anthology.

Cathy Robbins received her first royalty check for her book *All Indians do not Live in Teepees (or Casinos)*. The book is in its second printing. — WT



CWC State President Robert Garfinkle announced the new Napa Branch and invited us all to the CWC picnic Saturday, July 20.

— Photo by Dick Amyx



Accolades to Cathy Robbins, Luanne Oleas, Bill Baldwin, and Pat Bustamante

— Photo by Carolyn Donnell



February 13, 2013

NorCal Representative Dave LaRoche presents the 2013 Matthews-Baldwin Award to Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

—Photo by Carolyn Domnell

## 2013 Matthews-Baldwin Award

by Carolyn Domnell

The annual Matthews-Baldwin Award for Service was first given in August 2007 when the CWC Central Board changed its schedule for the Jack London awards to every other year. The award was named to honor the dedication to the club of two long-standing members: Edie Matthews and Bill Baldwin. Every year the SBW Board selects a South Bay branch member who has provided substantial service to the club, either for a special event or a “personal dedication of time and energy over a duration.”

This year the award goes to Marjorie Bicknell Johnson. Author of two novels, she has served in many offices over the years from membership chairman – welcoming and encouraging new members and old – to the current editor of *WritersTalk*. Her service over the years epitomizes the word “exemplary.”

According to NorCal representative, Dave LaRoche, “Her involvement—the list of events and activities she has either led or been a major contributor—goes on and continues to grow. What South Bay Writers is, Marjorie has been a big part.” Another member, Jamie Miller, said, “Marjorie has done extraordinary work! Congratulations to one of the handful who has made SBW work over the years I have been around.”

Marge replied that she just does things because she loves the club. See photos of Marge at our Events Photo Gallery at [southbaywriters.com/wordpress/members/awards-and-recognition/](http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/members/awards-and-recognition/) or if you are on Facebook you can go to the page at California Writers Club-South Bay Branch.

In February of 2008, the first award went to Cathy Bauer for her dedication and work; 2009 saw *WritersTalk* editor Dick Amyx honored, followed by Betty Auchard in 2010 for hosting the Holiday Bash for many years and being a staunch supporter of SBW; and 2011 to Richard Burns, SBW treasurer for several years.

Keep an eye out for updates to the Awards and Recognition page at <http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/members/awards-and-recognition/> — WT

## Taxpertise

Continued from Page 1

stories guarantee a fun and informative evening.

Bonnie Lee has a real passion for what most of us hate or at best find intimidating. She thinks taxes are exciting! Who knew?

Our aim at South Bay Writers Club is to present a variety of speakers who will address different subject areas pertaining to writers. We look forward to Bonnie Lee’s expertise on taxes right before the filing deadline. If you have subject matter suggestions you would like to see covered at our meetings, contact me at [ritabeachmusic1@aol.com](mailto:ritabeachmusic1@aol.com). — WT

## Death by Meth

Continued from Page 1

In *Shadow People: How Meth-driven Crime is Eating at the Heart of Rural America*, real people are portrayed as characters and the setting becomes an additional character. “Write with a pulse when it comes to the setting, as you would with characters,” Anderson advised. “Choose what to focus on to present the overall truth or message.”

The last question of the night was how does an investigative reporter protect himself in cases of white collar crime. Anderson’s answer was short, simple, and to the point. “Your only protection is factual writing! — And that it’s not maliciously constructed.” — WT

**Editor’s Note:** Anderson takes great care with his facts and research. His award-winning book, *Shadow People*, is an outstanding example of creative nonfiction as well as a report of what the drug culture is doing to this country.



Scott Thomas Anderson  
—Photo by Dick Amyx

## More on reviews

In his February 15th newsletter, Dan Poynter tells us that reviews sell books. Reviews make a book stand out. We can help each other by posting (five star) reviews at Amazon.com, B&N.com, BooksAMillion.com and other web sites. To receive his free newsletter, request it at [DanPoynter@ParaPublishing.com](mailto:DanPoynter@ParaPublishing.com) — WT

# WT Challenge Contest Winners

by Andrea Galvacs

Challenge Mistress Andrea Galvacs had the pleasure of presenting the awards to the authors whose works, published in *WritersTalk* during the last six months, were the best.

The winners are:

- Fiction: *The Bus*, by Mike Freda, writing as C. Arthur Michaels
- Essay: *I Want my Book to be Read*, by Nina Amir
- Memoir: *My Truest Hope*, by Hi-Dong Chai
- Poetry: *Silenced*, by Carolyn Donnell

Congratulations to all! —WT



And the winners are ... Carolyn Donnell, Hi-Dong Chai, and Mike Freda. Camera-shy: Nina Amir.  
— Photo from Carolyn Donnell's camera



## Chocolates steal the show

Edie Matthews was everybody's sweetheart at the February 13 SBW meeting — she brought cookies and chocolates and displayed them on an elegant embroidered cloth.

ElénaMartina helped to display the Valentine goodies while Marcela Dickerson enjoys a cookie and Bill Baldwin and Bob Garfinkle look on.

Below right: February speaker Scott Thomas Anderson signed his prize-winning book, *Shadow People: How meth-driven crime is eating at the heart of rural America*, for ElénaMartina.

## More Photos

See more photos under Events on our Home Page [southbaywriters.com](http://southbaywriters.com); or go to <http://southbaywritersgallery.shutterfly.com/>

Photos this page by Carolyn Donnell



# Devastation

## Belmont Speedway, 1957

by Chuck Peradotto

There was a speedway off Bayshore Highway, a small bullring quarter-mile oval dirt track and old wooden grandstands. The whole track and infield pits were laid out so spectators could watch all the action. Hardtop races were held there every Thursday night.

I loved that place. Before I got my driver's license I talked my parents into taking me to watch the weekly battles. Later the *guys* and I would go.

There were intense rivalries among "Mad Man" Marshall Sargent, "Rambling" Ray Raineri, Al "Mambo" Pombo, and "The Villain" Clyde Palmer, aggressive drivers meaner than junkyard dogs and tough as pig iron.

The racecars were crude but also very fast and built to survive violent collisions. There were mostly old Ford coupes with racing flathead engines and beefed up suspensions.

Darkness fell and suspense and excitement built under the lights. Lastly was the main event, a rowdy free-for-all.

The racing frequently became heated and tempers flared. Punches were traded and sometimes tools, tires and more were thrown. By the end of the night there were numerous fistfights between the drivers and often all out brawls between the pit crews, and sometimes a general melee that included the spectators would break out. The fans always got their money's worth. The ones who didn't join in the fracas sat back, watched and rooted on favorites until someone summoned the police who usually arrived too late.

When the race was over the winner was presented with a trophy by a pretty girl who rewarded him with a big kiss as flashbulbs popped to record the victory.

They also held "Destruction Derbys", events where old cars from local auto wreckers crashed into each other until only the winner was left running.

Our car club, the San Bruno "Lightning Rods," entered some cars and I was to drive one of them. We got the cars from the wreckers, the bigger and heavier the better—huge 1940's and 1950's Lincolns, Chryslers, Cadillacs, Hudsons and Fraziers. The further back the

radiator sat from the grill and bumper the better, as that vulnerable part was protected by up to a yard of steel.

We prepared them by removing all the glass, seats (except the drivers) and interiors. For safety we got some wide canvas airplane seat belts and bolted them to the sheet metal floor. That, along with an ill-fitting borrowed helmet, was it.

The Saturday of the Destruction Derby we drove the stripped cars to Belmont. No lights, no windshields, with lettering on the sides from the sponsors and the auto wreckers who donated them. We waited in line, registered the iron, and checked in. Anyone who drove that night had to have a competition license and had to be at least 18. I was 17, didn't shave for two weeks, and wore old greasy clothes. I pulled a hat down over my dirtied face, wore dark sunglasses and waited until dark. No problem: I paid my fee and was given a license.

Over 100 cars crammed that tiny track. The starting gun barked and bedlam broke out. Cars were shooting everywhere at full throttle, most in reverse using the massive rear bumpers as battering rams and tearing into each other trying to wreck mayhem on the other cars. Smoke, sparks, flames and the smell of burnt tires permeated the air. Steam and water from burst radiators were everywhere.

My parents were in the stands. My father said my mother's eyes popped and she started screaming, dug her fingers into his arm almost to the bone, and kept them there the whole time. I can't believe no one was hurt that night.

We all crashed and banged into one another, creating havoc. Some of the drivers were cagey and laid back protecting their radiators, the most vital parts because once they were gone, we were done. In a short time those overheated old engines would seize up.

I took out quite a few cars and at the end of the 15-minute "quarter" they paused the action and let drivers of the immovable cars climb out to safety, leaving the scrap where it died. The smoke from radiators and tortured rubber cast an eye-watering pall over the track. Under weak stadium lights the

wrecked cars and smoldering parts resembled the aftermath of a bomb blast. Some old rivals hunted each other and, using the cars as weapons, met on the track with a vengeance.

The gun went off and we stood on the gas. The chaos resumed. Soon someone hit me in the back from the side and tore the complete rear end from under my car. I could look out the back at the carnage and mud. I was done when another driver pulled in front of me, stopped, then backed full speed into my radiator which immediately exploded and erupted in a cloud of hissing steam, drenching me. That finished my car.

Now the half time came. I got out of the wreck and ran to help my fellow club members. If you could repair a car during the breaks you could continue. I grabbed a cutting torch and fired it up and a couple of guys carried the tanks. We ran and slipped in the slush through the devastation and across the track, cutting fenders and pieces hanging from my friends' cars away from the smoking tires to get them going again. Cars were on their sides and others, completely turned over, rested on their tops with drivers hanging by their seat belts. As for other cars, we wondered how they got into those positions.

The last period began with more of the same—the drivers of the remaining cars trying to deal fatal blows to their opponents. The track was a labyrinth of torn and twisted metal.

The air under the yellow lights was a caustic mixture of white steam from exploded radiators, thick billowing black smoke from burning tires, and the eye stinging blue haze of raw gasoline and exhaust. The crowd stood while what they had just witnessed sunk in.

It had been total insanity. Finally a winner was declared and it was over. One of our guys took second place, I can't even imagine how.

Now the horrendous mess had to be cleaned up. We pushed and pulled and got all our cars out to the dirt parking lot so they could close the gates. The next day we towed them back to the wreckers. Those grizzled old guys just shook their heads and wondered how anyone had survived in the junk we returned to them. —WT





Above: Edie Matthews, Workshop Chair  
Left: Martha Alderson with her Plotline  
Below: the group of 51 at work  
— Photos by Carolyn Donnell

## January 27 Workshop on Plot

by Marjorie Johnson

On January 27, Martha Alderson presented an insightful six-hour workshop on plot to South Bay Writers. All the feedback that Workshop Chairman Edie Matthews got was verbal and positive, and several persons commented on the “fabulous workshop at such a reasonable price.” Edie reported, “I’ve attended her workshops six times, so I was surprised that it inspired me to add to my book.”

I have been told that I am weak on plotting; this workshop certainly gave me some good guidelines. Most of my publications have been articles on mathematics with a very rigid “plotline” and an absolute outline. However, for fiction, my characters tell me what comes next, within the framework of a storyline in my mind.

In preparation for the workshop, I read *Blockbuster Plots*, *The Plot Whisperer*, and Dickens’ *Tale of Two Cities*. I also looked at *Plotto* (William Wallace Cook) out of curiosity. *Plotto* lists some 1600 plots, but in a mechanical and abstract fashion, truly writing by numbers. *Blockbuster Plots* emphasizes the plotline with charts and rules, while *Plot Whisperer* goes more into psychology, motivations, and development of theme.

Ms. Alderson demonstrated that “the end of the beginning” in a novel usually comes at the quarter mark (page 90 of a 360

page book) while the climax is at the three-quarters mark (page 270). Throughout the day, she gave examples from *The Great Gatsby*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *East of Eden*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Tale of Two Cities*, among other well-known novels.

She had us take a break to stretch and exercise, important considerations for writers. We use small muscles to type; we need to do things using large muscles, such as taking a walk. Taking breaks at half-hour intervals stops your zoning out and so increases productivity. She also explained right brain (creative mode) vs. left brain (logical mode) and that using both sides benefits our writing. To engage both sides of our brains, we did several exercises.

One exercise that is probably the least familiar but the most beneficial has to do with crossing your body’s mid-line. Divide your body in half vertically — one eye on each side — and imagine a line between the two halves. Then allow first arms, then legs to cross that midway point. This helps your body and mind to release stress and increase blood flow.

**To our readers:** If you have favorite exercises to do near your desk when you take a break from writing, please send them to *WritersTalk*. WT



# Interlude

By Karen Hartley

The door always stuck and needed a push to open. Clothes were on the floor—a familiar scent in the air. Always there would be an ashtray: butts and ashes, matches burned, their job done.

The window was always streaked but the curtain would be open to let the fresh air in—and the sunshine.

Some days you were stuck too, and needed a push to open—to open yourself to me. Minutes you'd sit and look just at nothing, or just at me.

You never said what thoughts you had; never told me you were scared. I knew.

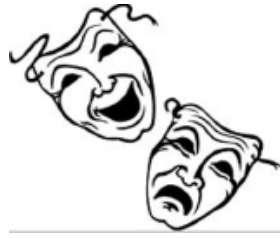
I never touched your hand for more than a minute; you never touched me except to kiss me when you knew I needed it. I never held you really close; you would never let me.

You never said what thoughts you had; never told me you were scared. I knew.

You hit the tennis ball so swiftly and laughed when I ran to meet it. Your perspiration rolled over your brow. You shed your shirt, showing tan and brawn—force I felt akin to. Your arm encircled me once after the game—wet, hot, yet welcome.

You never said what thoughts you had; never told me you were scared. I knew.

At times you made me laugh. Those moments flew; then you would sit again and look at nothing or just at me. We were



always quiet when we were together. When I would speak, some days I couldn't be sure you heard. Yet I hung on your every word, your whispers, your sighs. The knot in your ties was always crooked, but you wanted no help to fix it. I remember the distant look in your eyes when you looked into the mirror, the distant look of having thoughts no one else can share.

I never asked you for your thoughts, only for one moment of peace and that we could just walk together, and laugh or even cry.

But you never said what thoughts you had; never told me you were scared. I knew.

Within this interlude, rain never fell. Once you said to me you were bound to go to hell—you laughed. I laughed too, because you were so good that just wasn't true.

We didn't have too many moments of laughter; ours were mostly quiet moments. Then one day you came to me and said, "It's over. Now we must part." I knew you felt the pain that I felt then, the pain that was there from the start. Our bond was broken. There was no use in crying. There was only strength in that we had been trying—even though we failed.

We failed to make our journey's end. But there was good in how far we'd come. No way to travel farther; not together, anyway.

The need had come to you, the need to go. I could see it in your eyes even though you never said what thoughts you had; never told me you were scared. I knew.

Yes, I really knew—because all the time, I was scared too.  
—WT

## Rules for Teachers

State of Ohio, 1872

Teachers each day will fill lamps, trim the wicks, and clean chimneys. Each day teachers will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.

Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they attend church regularly.

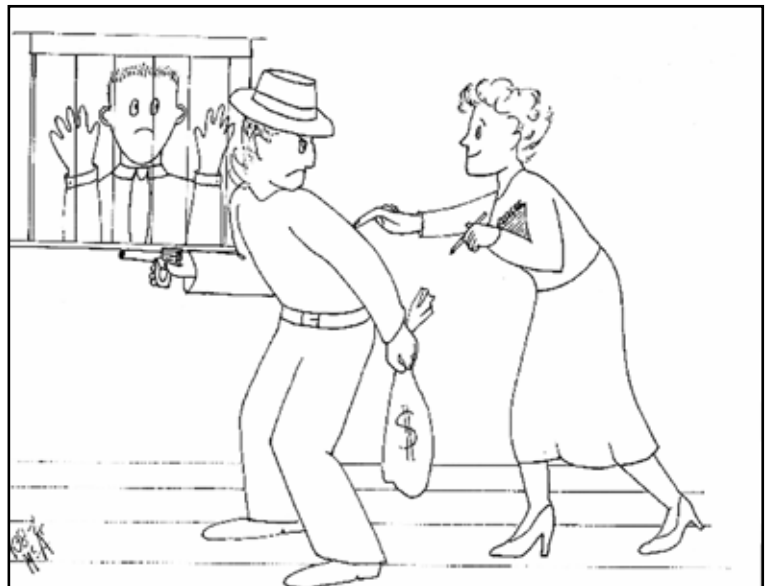
Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honesty.

The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay providing the Board of Education approves.

Every teacher must lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society. —WT

## Off the Shelf by Edie Matthews and Madeline McEwen



*"Can I take notes? I'm a thriller writer."*

# March Terse on Verse

by Pat Bustamante



## March Along

March is good, March is fine,  
Spring has sprung and that's a sign!  
Thirty-one days to reach your goal.  
Don't dither about it  
But write out a bit  
Everything's under control.

– Pat Bustamante

At our January meeting there was a suggestion to set up personal deadlines or milestones for your writing project, a march to just here, then to there, in other words. And I'm in favor. My problem seems to be, the rest of the universe often refuses to concede to my demands for "me" time!

I can plan increments of write-time but I cannot plan when I have the flu, or the next earthquake, or when the car breaks down. Darn! I love being in control. So today is the day for a bit of optimism to offset my natural gloom. I also recently "started small" (new novel in the works) with cards carrying one or two sentences or summarized ideas, or proposing a critical scene. My deck of cards will pull together the good stuff, an antidote to the days my own prose starts to bore me. Sometimes just that minute to scribble an idea carries me through an unplanned – or ruined – day.

My mentor of long ago told me, "Write a poem every day." Two lines or twenty, I stick to that advice, unless I really do catch a nasty flu – then I spend time trying to stay unconscious. You can create a daily poem if you lower standards a bit. Then, even years later, you can recycle that poem, and maybe win a prize in a contest!

My poems vary between prayers and praise to the world I inhabit; there is always something to be in awe of, or that you wish to change, or just poke fun at. I also suggest: ask yourself tough questions, then write down answers on those little lined cards. Every volcano started as a tiny burp underground. So start something, and good luck! – WT

## A Lifelong Confidence

A lifelong confidence helps you achieve your desire  
And think, despite obstacles, and any kind of fire  
It is a self-assurance of your integrity of calmness  
It could look like forever, confidence but firmness  
Let nothing block you, go for that self-satisfaction  
Regardless if it is a lifelong project or a resolution  
Stay with it, lifelong confidence in a thing is great  
Sometimes it is a life long; it is not even a debate

It's good to have a lifelong confidence in a person  
A thing, as an organization when you like, that one  
When anything is lifelong it's called this, enduring  
Which means everlasting, never out it's remarkable  
But, let not any lifelong thing become a hindrance  
Do it; never let anything become an encumbrance  
And lifelong, in a person, or people, is commitment  
We now show willingness, 'cause of an agreement

– Clarence L. Hammonds

## Weekly Poem Prompt

Look for a weekly poem prompt at the following website:  
[www.ericagoss.com/index.php?page=poems](http://www.ericagoss.com/index.php?page=poems)

## Comfortable Lover

Comfortable Lover  
Always there  
Always aware  
Of everything  
I needed

Comfortable Lover  
Gentle and kind  
It almost seemed  
You could  
Read my mind

Comfortable Lover  
You stayed and stayed  
We played and we laughed  
and we loved  
and we laid  
Then came darkness  
You went away  
Where are  
You today  
Comfortable Lover?

– Karen Hartley



## I Want – #22

I want my fat  
to just melt away

I want a  
pet hummingbird

I want  
the Giants to win

I want groceries bought  
and put in cupboards

I want to have  
no fears

I want flowers  
bordering the patio

I want to quit Facebook  
without agonizing symptoms

I want cucumber snack food  
in a bag, no salt

I want a nimble mind  
and compassionate heart

I want love to  
be easy

I want  
you back home

– Richard A. Burns

# Backup Your Files

by Casey Wilson,

East Sierra Branch CWC

Sometimes troubles come in bunches.

A few weeks ago my laptop was stolen in a home burglary. With it went more than a decade of work, except that all my working files – manuscripts, photos, research; altogether about 30 gigabytes of data – were on an external hard drive that the thieves overlooked.

When I bought a new computer to replace the stolen one, all I had to do was plug the external hard drive into a USB port and I was back in business. Sounds like an excellent plan for backing up years and gigabytes of work, eh?

Read on.

A couple days ago, that external hard drive crashed! I spent several hours over the past couple days attempting to troubleshoot and retrieve those gigabytes without success. That little box contained copies of magazine and

newspaper articles I've published since 1992, more than 2,000 digital images, the manuscript for my published book on computer technology, years of back issues of the CWC Bulletin and other newsletters, manuscripts for two novels I'd been working on along with outlines for a few more, and uncountable hours of research material.

That little black gadget plugged into the USB port is now nothing more than a paperweight.

For several years, a decade or more, I have preached the absolute necessity of backing up files. One entire chapter of my computer technology book is devoted to the subject. Obvious now, keeping those working files on the external hard drive was NOT adequate backup. It wasn't backup at all.

Real protection is *offsite* backup: storing that precious data in another location altogether. It might not be just burglars. An acquaintance of mine, call her Judy

M., came home one day to find her house had burned down. Where were her computer and files?

A decade ago, offsite backup meant recording your files on tapes or discs and finding someplace to stash them. Restoring was laborious, tedious, often frustrating.

Today much more elegant solutions exist. You can find a list of ten popular online backup solutions at: <http://online-data-backup-review.toptenreviews.com/>. I subscribed to one of these starting a few years ago. Each night the program wakes up, scans my computer for new files or changes to old ones and backs them up without any prompting from me.

As I am sitting at my computer writing this, LEDs on my DSL modem are flashing furiously away while it is restoring all those precious, to me anyway, files that might have been lost forever.

What are your files worth to you? **WT**

## Barnes&Noble closings

As reported in Dan Poynter's February 15 newsletter, Barnes & Noble Inc. expects to close as many as a third of its retail stores over the next decade. "In 10 years, we'll have 450 to 500 stores," said Mitchell Klipper, chief executive of Barnes & Noble's retail group. The company operated 689 retail stores as of January 23, along with a separate chain of 674 college stores.

Also, Dennis Johnson reported in January that chain bookstores could be history in *The Slow Death of Barnes & Noble* at [www.mhpbooks.com](http://www.mhpbooks.com). Maybe you've noticed that there seem to be a lot of Barnes & Noble superstores closing lately? Not just stores in remote locations, but in some of the nation's largest metropolitan shopping areas. And that's just in the last 30 days or so. What had been a slow shrinkage as leases ran out – a store here, a store there – turned into an avalanche after Thanksgiving. Stores that should have been well-stocked for the holidays were instead out of inventory and passing time until the end of the year. **WT**

Get someone else to blow your horn  
and the sound will carry twice as far.  
– Will Rogers

## Largest prime yet

by Marjorie Bicknell Johnson

The largest prime number yet has been discovered – and it's 17,425,170 digits long. The new prime number – the 48th known Mersenne prime – crushes the last one discovered in 2008, which was a paltry 12,978,189 digits long.

The number, 1 less than 2 raised to the 57,885,161, was discovered by University of Central Missouri mathematician Curtis Cooper as part of a giant network of volunteer computers devoted to finding primes, similar to projects like SETI@Home, which downloads and analyzes radio telescope data in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). The network, called the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search (GIMPS) harnesses about 360,000 processors operating at 150 trillion calculations per second. This is the third Mersenne prime number discovered by Cooper; he was interviewed on National Public Radio (NPR) on February 5, 2013.

"It's analogous to climbing Mt. Everest," said George Woltman, the Florida-based computer scientist who created GIMPS. "People enjoy the challenge of

the discovery of finding something that's never been known before."

Curtis Cooper is the editor of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, a journal reporting new results, research proposals, and challenging problems dealing with the Fibonacci sequence and related mathematics. SBW member Marjorie Bicknell Johnson helped to found *The Fibonacci Quarterly* in 1963.

The Fibonacci numbers 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ..., have generated much interest over the last hundred years. They first appeared as the solution to a problem posed in the *Liber Abaci*, written in 1202 by Leonardo Pisano "Fibonacci." If Fibonacci numbers intrigue you, Ron Knott has created a website for you to explore at [www.mcs.surrey.ac.uk/Personal/R.Knott/Fibonacci/fib.html](http://www.mcs.surrey.ac.uk/Personal/R.Knott/Fibonacci/fib.html)

Mersenne primes have been known since antiquity. Euclid's *Elements*, as well as laying out the plane geometry many of us studied in high school, shows that perfect numbers are related to them. A perfect number is the sum of all of its proper divisors, such as  $6 = 1 + 2 + 3$  and  $28 = 1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14$ . A perfect number has the form  $2^{p-1}(2^p - 1)$  where  $p$  is a prime and  $(2^p - 1)$  is a Mersenne prime. **– WT**

# Contests

## More Writing Contests

*Poets & Writers* lists more writing contests than any other source, and all of the contests listed in their database at [pw.org/grants](http://pw.org/grants) have been carefully reviewed and benefit writers.

While you're perusing the listings, please take a look at the entry for *Tusculum Review's* annual literary prizes, which offer \$1,000 and publication to winners in poetry and fiction.

An extensive list of contests appears on [preditorsandeditors.com](http://preditorsandeditors.com) and on [writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions](http://writersdigest.com/competitions/writing-competitions). —WT

**To win, you first must enter.**

## Contest for sports writers

Whether you're a player or a fan, or the kid who counted the minutes till gym class was over, sports can bring out the best and the worst in human nature. Sports can reinforce bullying and social dominance, or offer personal empowerment to an underdog. Yet stories and essays about sports are too often dismissed as "genre writing". This contest aims to bridge the gap between the worlds of physical culture and literary culture. For advice from the contest judge, go to our website

[http://winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp\\_guidelines.php#.URxur2cr-GRM](http://winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp_guidelines.php#.URxur2cr-GRM)

**What to Submit:** An entry is one story or essay on a sports-related theme. Entries should be original and unpublished, up to 6,000 words. Multiple submissions accepted.

**Prizes:** Categories, fiction and essay. Each category, first Prize, \$1,000 cash; five honorable mentions, \$100 cash each. All winners of cash prizes will be announced in our email newsletter and published on [WinningWriters.com](http://WinningWriters.com), which receives over one million page views per year.

**How to submit:** \$15 per entry. We welcome online submissions with payment by credit or debit card. We also accept email submissions when paid via PayPal.

**Deadline:** May 31, 2013. —WT

## CWC Sacramento Branch 2013 Nonfiction Contest

Here's an old fashioned, printed-on-paper writing contest, open to any member of the California Writers Club.

**Category and Subject:** Personal Essay: The Most Influential Person in my Life. Length: 750 words or less.

**Awards:** First: \$100; Second: \$50; Third: \$25; and publication in our newsletter.

**Entry Fees:** \$10.00 per entry, payable by check. Writers may submit multiple entries; entries must be original and unpublished.

**Submissions:** Three copies of each submission must be mailed with payment to CWC Non-fiction Writing Contest, Liz Allenby, Contest Chair, 5408 Stanmore Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758. If you have questions please email Liz at [LizAllenby@appearancesdeceive.com](mailto:LizAllenby@appearancesdeceive.com)

**Manuscript preparation:** Name must NOT appear on manuscript, only on cover sheet. Entries must be typewritten, double-spaced in 12-point Times Roman font, on one side of paper only, using standard 1" margin. **Deadline:** Postmarked by March 30, 2013. —WT

## Query/synopsis contest

by *Molli Nickell*

Writers want to become published authors. Unfortunately, many of them become stuck while trying to craft an effective query, synopsis, and manuscript first page to showcase their work.

My FREE monthly writing contests for the query, synopsis, or first page help writers release fears about making the mental shift from "telling" to "selling." Contest participants follow writing prompts and gain confidence as they practice writing these three marketing documents.

Winner of each monthly contest receives a FREE 60-minute consultation with me, Molli Nickell, a former publisher and *Time-Life* editor, and their winning document is posted on my website. Honorable mentions also receive free critique comments.

Entry forms are available now at [www.getpublishednow.biz](http://www.getpublishednow.biz). —WT

## 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

## Prizes for WT Challenge

Winners of the *WritersTalk* Challenge for the submittal period February 16 through July 15 will be announced at the SBW meeting in August. Work published in *WT* is entered automatically into the *WT* Challenge competition.

This is an ongoing contest; keep submitting your creative work. —WT

## Flash Fiction Contest

*WriterAdvice* seeks flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction running 750 words or less. Submit to 8th *WriterAdvice* Flash Prose Contest by April 18, 2013. First place, \$200; second, \$100; third, \$50. Details at [writeradvice.com/](http://writeradvice.com/) —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](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com) and we will add your listing to our directory of experts.

### Astronomy, History of Astronomy

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

### Banking

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

### Character Development

ArLyne Diamond, Ph.D.

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

### Counseling/John Steinbeck

Dr. Audry L. Lynch

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

### Engineering: Mechanical, Aero, Aerospace

Jerry Mulenburg

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

### Growing Great Characters from the Ground Up

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

### Internal Medicine/Addiction

#### Disorder/Psychology

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

### Marketing and Management

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

### Mathematics/Fibonacci Sequence

Marjorie Johnson

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

### Teaching and the Arts

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

### Telecommunications Technology

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

### Television Production

Woody Horn 408-266-7040

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

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

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## Want more?

Listings for contests, conferences and workshops commonly appear in *Writers Digest* and *The Writer*. Check their websites and also the websites of other CWC Branches listed above.

Please send information on other conferences and workshops to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com). – WT

## CWC Around the Bay

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

**Berkeley:** 1:30 third Sundays, Oakland Public Library Main Branch. [cwc-berkeley.com](http://cwc-berkeley.com)

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

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

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

**Mount Diablo:** 11:30 second Saturdays, Hungry Hunter, 3201 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. [mtdiablowriters.org](http://mtdiablowriters.org)

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

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

**Sacramento:** 11:00 third Saturdays, Tokyo Buffet, 7217 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights. [cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://cwcsacramentowriters.org)

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

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## Contests, Workshops, and Conferences

### Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition

Entries are now being received for the 21st annual Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition (state and national laureate awards) for American poets age 50 and older. Deadline June 30, 2013. For rules, download from [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org) or send #10 SASE to SPL 2013, P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821. – WT

### Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop, Summer 2013

The eleventh Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop will take place July 15-19 in the exquisite Oregon coast town of Oceanside. The instructors are at the top of their game, with well over a hundred books between them, many with prestigious awards. For information visit: [www.occbww.com](http://www.occbww.com). – WT

### CSUMB Summer Arts July Writing Workshops

July 1-14: The Triple-Threat Writer: TV, Play, Screenplay; July 15-28: Memoir Writing: From Personal to Cultural; July 15-28: Writing Fantasy for Children and Teens.

More information: [csusummerarts.org](http://csusummerarts.org)

### Writing for Life Workshops

*Writing intensives with*

- James Scott Bell, June 28-30
- Davis Bunn, Sept. 14-15
- Michael Hauge, Oct. 19-20

For information go to

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

### Ongoing Critique Groups Our Voices

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

#### Valley Writers

Meets at Valley Village Retirement Center in Santa Clara, Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Contact: Marjorie Johnson at [marjoriej358@comcast.net](mailto:marjoriej358@comcast.net)

#### Emperor's Mystery Circle

Meets at Emperor Norton's, 7508 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose, 1:30 p.m., first Mondays. Mystery genre. Contact Pam Oliver-Lyons, [polpap@prodigy.net](mailto:polpap@prodigy.net)

#### Your Critique Group

For consideration, send information to [newsletter@southbaywriters.com](mailto:newsletter@southbaywriters.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 2013</b>					1 7:30P Open mic Barnes & Noble Almaden, San Jose	2
3	4	5 7:30p SBW Board meeting	6	7	8	9 WT Editors' Powwow 10:30 A
10	12	12	13 6:00P Regular Dinner Meeting, Harry's Hofbrau	14	15 7:30P Open mic Wil- low Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave	16 Deadline <i>WritersTalk</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
<b>Future Flashes</b>						
	April 2 SBW Board meets	April 5 and 19 Open mics	April 10 Reg. Dinner Meeting	Saturday July 20 CWC picnic at Joaquin Miller Park Oakland		

### South Bay Writers Open Mic

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

Note third Friday location: Willow Glen Library, 1157 Minnesota Ave, San Jose

Contact Bill Baldwin (408) 730-9622 or email [WABaldwin@aol.com](mailto:WABaldwin@aol.com)

**Note:** Come to a South Bay Writers dinner meeting to look for others who may want to form a critique group. Contact Networking Chair Elena Martina at [networking@southbaywriters.com](mailto:networking@southbaywriters.com).

### CWC bags: Only \$10 each



Offered during our monthly meetings. Collect yours before supplies run out!

### Your ad could go here

\$7 per column inch for SBW members

\$10 per inch for nonmembers

### Members Books

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

### South Bay Writers Anthology



\$10

At the meeting or on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

### Poetry Readings

#### Poets@Play

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

#### Poetry Center San Jose

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

Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dennis Noren at [norcamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:norcamp@sbcglobal.net) or go to [www.poetrycentersanjose.org/calendar.html](http://www.poetrycentersanjose.org/calendar.html)



### Stay Informed

Read the Constant Contact notices in your email to receive meeting and event announcements. If you are not receiving those announcements, send your name and email address to [webmaster@southbaywriters.com](mailto:webmaster@southbaywriters.com)



**California Writers Club**  
South Bay Branch  
P.O. Box 3254  
Santa Clara, CA 95055  
[www.southbaywriters.com](http://www.southbaywriters.com)

## MAIL TO

Address Correction Requested

**South Bay Writers**  
**March Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**6 p.m. Wednesday, March 13**

Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

**SPEAKER: Bonnie Lee, EA**  
**Taxpertise**  
**Taxes for Writers**  
**Are you sure that's legal?**

*WritersTalk* deadline is always  
the 16th of the month.

Regular dinner meetings are  
second Wednesdays 6 – 9 pm



### **Harry's Hofbrau**

From Highway 280, take Saratoga Avenue North.  
Harry's is on your right near Stevens Creek Blvd.