



# THE PENINSULA WRITER

## Drafting Toward Perfection

Literary Breakfast, 10 a.m. - noon, Saturday, April 21

Even under contract with a publisher, your manuscript needs to be ready for the press. In-house editors juggle several books at once and the responsibility is solely with the writer.



How do you know when your manuscript is ready, or if you should call in a freelance editor for help? Writer and book midwife **Sal Glynn** will talk about the need for successive drafts, what to look for in each round of revision, and how to make room for the reader. He will also cover how to make research inform a story instead of being buried under detail, and the use and abuse of adjectives.

Sal Glynn is the author of *The Dog Walked Down the Street: An Outspoken Guide for Writers Who Want to Publish*, published in 2006 by Cypress House. Former managing editor of Ten Speed Press, he has edited and otherwise produced more than 300 books of fiction, humor, self-help, cookery, management, and social issues for publishers on both coasts. Sal has also been on the faculty at the Big Sur Fiction Writer's Workshop and the Mendocino Coast Writer's Conference.

**FEE:** Breakfast & speakers cost \$15 for CWC members and \$18 for nonmembers. Make checks payable to CWC and mail to: George Jansen, Reservations Chair, 2657 Warwick Place, Hayward, CA 94542. (You may also pay at the door.) **RSVP by April 19 by calling (650) 615-8331.**

**LOCATION:** Hobe's Restaurant, 1101 Shoreway Rd., Belmont  
**Board members will meet at 9 a.m.**

## OPEN MIKE NIGHT

Wed., April 18  
7:30 p.m.

Twelve writers read for 10 minutes each, a great opportunity for authors to get exposure and practice public speaking skills.

For details, contact MC Jim Hanna at [jim@willwriteforfood.org](mailto:jim@willwriteforfood.org)

**Where:** Borders Books, San Mateo

## JACK LONDON CONFERENCE

Missed it? Read about it on **Page 2.**

## JLC WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

The winners are... **Page 3.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**A Successful Conference**

Dear members,  
You know you are doing something right when a project gets better every time you do it.

Tory Hartmann and Elliotte Mao, leaders of a great conference team, pulled off a fantastic Jack London Writers Conference last month.



We had 290 paid attendees. All the speakers, editors, publishers, and agents showed up. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. We put on the best deal in town in terms of a writer's conference. Our Jack London Conference improves every time in terms of workshops, attendance,

organization, and satisfaction. This year topped them all.

It all goes to the conference chairs and the team of people that work hard to make it happen. When you are part of a team, you get more than you give, every time. I still connect to the professional contacts I made in 2004 when Kevin Ferguson put on the Jack London Conference. He recruited me to work on the raffle. It was the first time I had ever done anything like that, and I had no clue what I was doing. You know what? It didn't matter. I asked some questions, and just went to town. I actually began having a lot of fun, and then really brought in some great raffle prizes. I was hooked. At the conference, I ended up doing more that day than I expected because my help was needed. It was the best thing that happened. I met editors, agents, writers -- people I never would have met had I not been part of the team. It is still paying off. Thank you, Kevin.

My position is that each year the conference is better than the year before - that's what's supposed to happen. If we are smart, we take what we did right, and use that again. We also pay attention to what can be improved, and try not to make the same mistakes again. We make new ones.

No matter what, something will be overlooked. As long as it isn't critical to the event, we make note of it for next year.

One of the mechanics that has allowed us to build on our success is a detailed "pass down" file. This is a book with all the details of what went into creating our conference. Timetables, finances, hotel negotiations, building the schedule, each and every detail, plus the ever critical evaluation forms.

Get ready. We are going to be discussing next JLC. If you are smart, you will board this train.

Geri Spieler

### **SPRUCE UP THAT RESUME: JOIN THE CWC BOARD**

At the June CWC literary breakfast, we will be electing new board members. Hopping on board is a great way to spiff up that resume, which literary agents like to see when reading query letters. If you want to run or nominate someone, email your suggestion to the Nominating Committee: George Jansen, [georgejansen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:georgejansen@sbcglobal.net) or Chris Wachlin, [cwachlin@hotmail.com](mailto:cwachlin@hotmail.com).

The following new board positions will take effect in the fall:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| • President | Vice President |
| • Treasurer | Secretary      |

**JACK LONDON CONTEST WINNERS**

Congratulations to the following winners in the Jack London Writers Contest.

**Poetry:** Karen Church-Terhune (1<sup>st</sup> Place); Michael Cooper (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Robert J. Miller (3<sup>rd</sup>). **Non-Fiction:** Kara Jane Rollins (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Jing Li (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Anny Cleven (3<sup>rd</sup> Place). **Short Story:** Jocelyn Paige Kelly (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Toni Martin (2<sup>nd</sup> Place); Suzanna Quintana (3<sup>rd</sup>) **Novel:** Theresa Donovan Brown (1<sup>st</sup> Place), Vanitha Sankaran and Emily Jiang (Runners-Up).

**COLLAGE & JOURNALING MENTORING WORKSHOP**

**April 21, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

Guest Mentor Mary E. Knippel will lead a fun, playful collage-making and writing exercise following our monthly breakfast. Journal writing is an empowering path to self-discovery and change. It's a record for you, about you. By creating a visual image before we write the words to our stories, we tap into a part of our unconscious selves. Our Journal pages offer a safe place to explore while strengthening the body and mind connection.

Mary E. Knippel began writing in her journal at age 11. Since her first by-line appeared in the Adams High School Tiger Tales, her work has appeared in Minnesota, Colorado and California. She writes for CoastViews Magazine and is writing a memoir about motherhood. Mary empowers breast cancer survivors to use creativity as a healing tool.

**Reservations:**

The group is open to 10 individuals with a passionate interest in writing. To register, email mentoring co-chair Joyce Robins at [joycelenny@hotmail.com](mailto:joycelenny@hotmail.com). Priority is given to members of the SF/Peninsula branch. Non-members can attend one group mentoring session per year

**Where:** Hobee's Restaurant, 1101 Shoreway Rd., Belmont (near Marine World Pkwy and Hghwy 101)

**IOTA PUBLISHING WRITING CONTEST**

Iota Publishing, a new commercial publisher in Irvine, is sponsoring a writing contest for thriller, suspense, sci-fi novelists. The winner will receive \$1000 and a contract to publish their novel.

Applicants with completed manuscripts can submit them online at [www.IotaPublishing.com/IotaWritingContestLink.asp](http://www.IotaPublishing.com/IotaWritingContestLink.asp). The competition is open through April 2 and requires a \$10 entrance fee. More details can be found on the website at [www.IotaPublishing.com](http://www.IotaPublishing.com).

**MARTHA ALDERSON WRITING WORKSHOP**

**7 Essential Elements To Writing Scenes  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat., April 21**

Come at plot from the scene level and see your story in an entirely new light. Deepen and expand your piece. Leave inspired and ready to carry on what you started. Time to develop a Scene Tracker for your individual project. Lunch and a private consultation on your project are included.

**Where:** Los Gatos

**Plot Development Workshop**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat., April 28

Not only will you learn about action, character and thematic plot, and how to apply the universal structure of story to your unique project, you will have the opportunity to practice using your scenes to create a plot-line for your latest project. Plot Planner for your individual project, lunch and a private consultation are included.

**For fees and registration details, go to:**

[www.blockbusterplots.com/plotplanner.html](http://www.blockbusterplots.com/plotplanner.html)

Sign up for both workshops - the April 21st Scene Tracker Workshop and the April 28th Plot Planner Workshop - for \$250 and receive a free Scene Tracker Template CD.

**MAGAZINE WRITING COURSE**

7 - 9:30 p.m. Sundays,  
April 23-June 18  
Berkeley

South bay CWC member Martha Engber will be teaching a magazine-writing course called "Making Tracks: Magazine Writing for Those Ready to Roll." The course is through The Writing Salon (1250 Addison St.) in Berkeley. For details, go to:

[www.writingsalons.com/classes/?cat=4](http://www.writingsalons.com/classes/?cat=4)

**GOT NEWS?**

Deadlines

If you hook up with an agent or publisher, or are doing a literary reading or workshop this fall, let us know. Deadline to submit to the Peninsula Writer for the May issue is **Friday, April 20**. Send info. to

[newsletter@sfpeninsulawriters.com](mailto:newsletter@sfpeninsulawriters.com). Put in subject heading: "Hey Kev! Got News 4 U."

**CWC- SF/PENINSULA BRANCH**

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