



THE LITERARY STAGE™

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2021 SCHEDULE OF LITERARY STAGE "EVENTS WITHIN THE EVENT"

Writers Helping Writers: The Art of Mentoring

Sponsored by the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the California Writers Club (CWC)

Tuesday, May 11	11:59pm	ALL LITERARY ARTS ENTRIES DUE
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:		
Saturday, June 5		"Carry the Light" Celebration: Virtual Workshop on Sparking Creativity
Sunday, June 6		Annual Writers Mini-Conference, Including Virtual Panel on Craft and Select Readings
Friday, June 11		Virtual Poetry Night
Saturday, June 12		Virtual Writers Block Party: Gather with fellow writers to channel your inner storyteller and summon the muse.
Sunday, June 13	8pm - 10pm	Prize Ribbons and Rosettes Released
Monday, June 14	8am - 12pm	Prize Ribbons and Rosettes Released

OUR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA WRITERS AND THE SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR

The San Francisco Peninsula Writers is the only California Writers Club branch in the state offering a celebration of all things writing in conjunction with the San Mateo County Fair. Now entering our 13th year, we've conducted hundreds of free "events within the event" on our Literary Stage: workshops, panels, author presentations, one-act plays, interviews, poetry readings, musical groups, and individual song and dance performances. For 2021, we're making these events virtual!

Members volunteer by participating onstage, promoting events, assisting during the Fair, and setting up displays. Additionally, CWC SF Peninsula Writers sponsors three contests.

We share the Literary Stage with other CWC branches and local writing organizations, which has built our reputation as event promoters with our "mini conferences." Our theme is the CWC motto "Writers Helping Writers," with an emphasis on mentoring. It is a perfect fit with members who volunteer their talents to encourage aspiring writers and in the process, share their passion for the written word.

For information on all of our free events and so much more, please visit

<http://sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts.com>

FINE ARTS GALLERIA-LITERARY ARTS

Section 1

CONTEST RULES

All [state rules](#) and [local rules](#) apply.

1. All amateur and professional work will be accepted regardless of residence. Since the Fair has no geographical limits, we can accept entries from around the world but the Fair will refuse an entry if it is not in English.
2. American system of judging will be used unless otherwise noted.
3. **COST: \$10 PER ENTRY**
NOTE: Entrants 16 or older are eligible to compete in any division even if there is no specific Young Adult class. There is no limit on the number of entries or prizes received per person; however, there can be no more than two awards paid in each class per person.
4. **OUR DEADLINE:** Be aware that unlike other Fair departments, the Literary Arts Department does not accept mail-in entry forms and our contest deadline is **11:59pm, May 11th**.
5. **LITERARY ENTRIES** must be contestant's original work, written in English and open to themes and genres appropriate for the general population. Per state Fair rules, no foul language, gratuitous sex, or violence.
6. **WE DO NOT OFFER CONTESTS FOR CHILDREN. MINIMUM CONTESTANT AGE IS 16:** No underage submissions (except scholarship entrants). **NOTE: Entrants under 16 will be disqualified (no refunds) and also ineligible to enter the Youth Dept. literary contests.** Age is determined by having had a birthday on or before January 1.
7. **HOW TO ENTER:** Enter online at www.sanmateocountyfair.com, pay the entry fee, and upload your entry with title when prompted; no submission will be accepted without registration AND payment. If you have difficulties, email literary@smceec.co **BEFORE** the May 11th deadline; emails received after the deadline cannot be honored. Upload each entry separately after you complete the online registration. **NOTE:** Be patient, it takes time to upload a document so don't assume it's done until you see the final finish notice for each submission. You can register your entry and then upload the document later as long as the title remains the same and all uploads are completed by 11:59pm on May 11th. **Note: You cannot change your entry's title once it has been submitted online.**
8. **DIVISION RULES:** Make sure your submission is entered in the correct contest or it will be disqualified as state rules forbid switching entries to different divisions. For example, don't enter a memoir into the essay contest.
9. **FORMAT RULES:** Entries must be **uploaded as a PDF or Microsoft XPS** document with the following stipulations: written in Times New Roman font, 12-point, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and approximately 300-325 words per page formatting. Entries must have correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
IMPORTANT: INCLUDE WORD COUNT BELOW TITLE.
10. **DISQUALIFICATION RULES:** Submissions will be disqualified with **no refunds given** if name appears anywhere on entry; word count is not clearly marked under the title of entry; word counts are over the specified word count limit; contestant is under the minimum age of 16; contestant enters entry into wrong division; title does not match uploaded entry title; entry is uploaded not in **PDF or Microsoft XPS format**; or if entry was previously entered into any San Mateo County Fair Literary contests regardless if it won a prize or not.
Five score points will be deducted for each of the following: If title does not appear at the top, center of first page; use of profanity; or the inclusion of cover pages or explanations, synopses, prologues, illustrations (except for the Stories for Children contest), or photos. Be aware it's often a close race so any points deducted for entry errors could mean the difference between winning or not. Pieces that won other literary contests, have been published online or in print are acceptable. You can update a submission after it's registered as long as the title is the same. The office will gladly help resolve problems but can't always solve last-minute errors before the deadline. No refunds will be given for any contestant entry errors.
11. **RELEASE:** Author retains all rights to their work; however, the author agrees that all Literary Arts entries may be displayed in the Fine Arts gallery; Best of Show winners will be highlighted on posters with entrant's name, title, and brief excerpt; and any/all entries may be used for publicity purposes at the sole discretion of the Fair management.
12. **MATERIAL:** Submissions are printed and displayed in the Literary Department: all printed material will be recycled.
13. **PRIZE RIBBONS:** Per State Fair rules, RIBBONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING REMOVED FROM DISPLAYS DURING THE FAIR; **ribbons must be picked up on Sunday, June 13 between 8pm-10pm or Monday, June 14 between 8am - 10am** (no parking or entry fee required).
14. The Fair reserves the right to remove any exhibit that is not in the best interest of the Fair or entered in violation of its rules and regulations.
15. No advertising material will be allowed in the Literary Arts Department without approval of its Director.
16. **MULTIPLE CONTEST SUBMISSIONS:** Exhibitors may not enter the same story in more than one category or class.

Go to <https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts> to download the online Literary Arts Guidebook for the complete list of contest rules and events information.



Section 2

JUDGING CRITERIA



IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA WRITERS
BRANCH OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB (CWC)

www.cwc-peninsula.org



THE SANCTIONING PROGRAM was developed for the 2017 Fair as an official CWC “sanctioned” show. The purpose of sanctioning the contests and the Literary Stage events through an organization like the California Writers Club is to create or expand community partnerships. Sanctioning raises awareness of both organizations and increases the number of participants and entries. It calls attention to the literary contests held each year; sets a standard for more comprehensive contest guidelines by which entries are judged; and regulates the continuity of qualified judges, among other benefits. The rules for the division contests are determined by the CWC, as the sanctioning body of the competition.

CONTEST RULES AND JUDGING CRITERIA The Fair continues to oversee the manner in which literary contests are judged fairly; all contests are judged blind, with no names attached to the submissions. The CWC has developed specific templates for judges to follow and uphold the highest standards of impartiality and confidentiality. These templates can be used by other county fairs to partner with local CWC branches.

SPONSORS AND JUDGING Private sponsors judge some contests and provide their own awards, while the Fair sets division contests and prize monies. The CWC’s Fair Committee oversees the judging process of these contests; judges will not submit to Fair contests.

DIVISION CONTESTS JUDGED BY THE CWC

- 1) Essay
- 2) Memoir
- 3) Poetry
- 4) CWC Writer of the Year
- 5) Short Story

JUDGING TEMPLATES Two templates, each designed to meet the criteria of specific contests, are used. Refer to the online guidebook for complete rules and information.

- 1) Poetry
- 2) Story

Section 3

AWARDS



BEST OF SHOW AWARDS

Sponsored by the San Mateo County Arts Commission

Winners will receive a gift certificate from our friends at University Art in addition to their award money



BEST OF SHOW: ESSAY

Award Offered: Rosette, \$150, & \$150 gift certificate

BEST OF SHOW: MEMOIR

Award Offered: Rosette, \$150, & \$150 gift certificate

BEST OF SHOW: POETRY

Award Offered: Rosette, \$150, & \$150 gift certificate

BEST OF SHOW: SHORT STORY

Award Offered: Rosette, \$150, & \$150 gift certificate

Judges may refrain from awarding a Best of Show Award in areas where there are not enough entries to warrant a winner

LITERARY EXHIBITOR OF THE YEAR

Award Offered: Plaque & \$150 to the winning writer.

One award is given per year to the top overall exhibitor in the Literary Arts department based upon cumulative awards won. Winners of this award are not eligible for the next two years. Judges reserve the right to not grant the award in any

given year. Honorable Mention Awards are not given the same consideration as a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in the ribbon counts and will be used only at the judges’ discretion as numerical tiebreakers for this award.

FINE ARTS GALLERIA-LITERARY ARTS



Section 4

CREATIVE NONFICTION CONTESTS

DIVISION 325 – ESSAY

AWARDS OFFERED

1 st Place	\$100	Rosette
2 nd Place	\$50	Rosette
3 rd Place	\$25	Rosette

ELIGIBILITY: Word count 400 words min to 1,000 words max.

SPECIAL NOTE: Essays should reflect the writer's expertise and knowledge of the essay form. No memoirs in this category. Choose the class that best fits your subject but a judge may switch classes at his/her discretion. Either class may address the optional theme of Carry the Light. Themes for both classes can revolve around travel, culture and arts, diversity, coming of age, hobbies, personal interests, etc. Show both sides of a political theme without ranting.

Persuasive Essay develops an argument or opinion around a theme or specific idea and incorporates a structured, persuasive point of view. It uses facts and concrete information (not personal opinion) to support the idea and answer questions what, how, and why. A clear argument is essential. By the end of the essay, the reader should know what the author thinks about the topic and why. Examples of persuasive essays can be found on the op-ed page of many newspapers.

Personal Essay (also known as narrative essay) tells a story, written from contemporary context, about a real-life experience. Focusing on an event, the personal essay builds toward drawing a conclusion or making a personal statement. At the core of the personal essay is the supposition that there is a certain unity to the human experience. Usually written in first person, but dialogue shows more than one side of the story.

RULES:

Essays may be written in first, second, or third person; some dialogue may be included if applicable, but no fiction is allowed in this category. Work should not read like a standard fiction piece or a memoir that focuses on the writer's personal life because it will be disqualified as state rules forbid switching entries to different divisions. You may incorporate the optional theme "CARRY THE LIGHT" into either Persuasive Essay or Personal Essay.

CLASS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Persuasive Essay Young Adult age 16-25 years | 4. Personal Essay Young Adult age 16-25 years |
| 2. Persuasive Essay Adult age 26-54 years | 5. Personal Essay Adult age 26-54 years |
| 3. Persuasive Essay Senior age 55 years and older | 6. Personal Essay Senior age 55 years and older |

DIVISION 326 – MEMOIR CONTEST

AWARDS OFFERED

1 st Place	\$100	Rosette
2 nd Place	\$50	Rosette
3 rd Place	\$25	Rosette

ELIGIBILITY: Word count 750 words min to 1,500 words max.

SPECIAL NOTE: Definition of a memoir from about.com: "A first person form of [creative nonfiction](#) recounting the writer's memory or experience(s) from his or her life," (Personal Memoir) or experiences and impressions of common topics (Lifestyle Memoir) that show how he or she was affected, and comes to an understanding or lesson learned.

RULES:

1. This first person narrative needs a cohesive beginning, middle, and ending; and can include dialogue but it should not read like a standard fiction piece or a persuasive point-of-view essay.
2. Excerpt from a longer piece is acceptable if the story stands on its own; no prologue, synopsis, or epilogue allowed.
3. Memoirs must be entered in one of the two following classes—Personal Memoir or Lifestyle Memoir, and may address the optional theme of Carry the Light. Choose the class that best fits your story, but a judge may switch classes at his/her discretion.
 - **Personal Memoir** is a narrative depicting personal experiences. Focusing on an individual rather than on an event, a short memoir will cover one specific "slice" of the author's life. Memoir is based on memory, reflections from the perspective of "today." Memoir gives readers a lot to think about, but does not attempt to directly relate to them. Tends to be more one-sided than a personal essay.

- **Lifestyle Memoir** can address general topics the writer experiences or observes from his/her point of view, such as the world at large, business/career, politics, technology, sustainability, the Internet, travel, food, sports, humor, literature, entertainment, current events, etc.

4. You may incorporate the optional theme “CARRY THE LIGHT” into either Personal or Lifestyle Memoir.

CLASS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Personal Memoir Young Adult age 16-25 years | 4. Lifestyle Memoir Young Adult age 16-25 years |
| 2. Personal Memoir Adult age 26-54 years | 5. Lifestyle Memoir Adult age 26-54 years |
| 3. Personal Memoir Senior age 55 years and older | 6. Lifestyle Memoir Senior age 55 years and older |

Section 5 FICTION CONTESTS

DIVISION 330 - IN THE SPIRIT OF NOVELMANIA: MY TICKET TO CRAZY TOWN **FIRST PERSON NARRATIVE FICTION CONTEST**

*Sponsored by the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the California Writers Club (CWC)
in honor of Bardi Rosman Koodrin*

Author of Novelmania: My Ticket to Crazy Town

www.amazon.com/Novelmania-My-Ticket-Crazy-Town

AWARDS OFFERED

1 st Place	\$100	Rosette
2 nd Place	\$50	Rosette
3 rd Place	\$25	Rosette

ELIGIBILITY: Word count 2,000 words min to 4,000 words max. Submit a first-person narrative short story or chapter one of your unpublished or self-published novel written in any genre except for children (under age 16). All themes; comedic or serious approach. Edit your submission if necessary for word count limitation.

RULES:

1. No synopsis or prologue.
2. *Novelmania* is a fast-paced screwball comedy told in first person immediate by an unreliable narrator. Your story can be dramatic or comedic with any theme or plot but only your narrator should have a POV; pay attention to tense.
3. Novel chapter or short story may be written in any of these genres: Mystery, Suspense, Thriller, Historical, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Speculative Fiction, or YA Young Adult age level 16 years and above. Romance is allowed but sexually explicit material will be disqualified with no refund; no children’s stories.

CLASS:

1. In the Spirit of *Novelmania: My Ticket to Crazy Town* First Person Narrative Fiction

DIVISION 332 - “THE ENGINE WOMAN’S LIGHT” **DIVERSE CHARACTERS NOVEL CHAPTER, ANY GENRE** *Sponsored by Laurel Anne Hill, author of “The Engine Woman’s Light” (Sand Hill Review Press), www.laurelannahill.com*

AWARD OFFERED

1st Place	\$150	Rosette
2nd Place	\$100	Rosette
3rd Place	\$50	Rosette

ELIGIBILITY: Submit chapter one (**limited to 4,000 words maximum and must have a title on it or it will be subject to disqualification**) of your unpublished novel of any genre. (NO SYNOPSIS OR PROLOGUE.) The opening chapter must include at least one diverse character (based on race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity) who is either a point-of-view character or a significant supporting character. **Any manuscripts displaying the author’s name will be subject to disqualification.**

CLASS:

1. “The Engine Woman’s Light” Diverse Characters Novel Chapter

DIVISION 333 - SHORT STORY

AWARDS OFFERED

1 st Place	\$100	Rosette
2 nd Place	\$50	Rosette
3 rd Place	\$25	Rosette

ELIGIBILITY: Word count 1,000 words min to 2,000 words max. Stories should reflect the writer's expertise and knowledge of the fiction genre.

RULES:

1. No narrative essays or memoirs in this category.
2. Stories must be entered in one of the following classes – General Fiction; Science Fiction/Fantasy; Mystery/Thriller; Western (up to modern day) and/or Historical; and Humorous. Choose the class that best fits the story, but judges may switch classes at his/her discretion.
3. May be written in first person but must read as fiction with plot and character development or it will be disqualified, as state rules forbid moving entries to the memoir contest.
4. You may incorporate the optional theme “CARRY THE LIGHT.”
5. No flash fiction accepted in this division.

CLASS:

1. General Fiction—Young Adult age 16-25 years
2. General Fiction—Adult age 26-54 years
3. General Fiction—Senior 55 years plus
4. Science Fiction/Fantasy—Young Adult age 16-25 years
5. Science Fiction/Fantasy—Adult age 26-54 years
6. Science Fiction/Fantasy—Senior 55 years plus
7. Mystery/Thriller—Young Adult age 16-25 years
8. Mystery/Thriller—Adult age 26-54 years
9. Mystery/Thriller—Senior 55 years plus
10. Western (up to modern day) and/or Historical—Young Adult age 16-25 years
11. Western (up to modern day) and/or Historical—Adult age 26-54 years
12. Western (up to modern day) and/or Historical —Senior 55 years plus
13. Humorous—Young Adult age 16-25 years
14. Humorous—Adult age 26-54 years
15. Humorous—Senior 55 years plus

DIVISION 334 – CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB WRITER OF THE YEAR SHORT STORY CONTEST

Sponsored by the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the California Writers Club (CWC) www.cwc-peninsula.org

AWARD OFFERED

1st Place Rosette & One (1) year free membership and monthly meetings (\$165 value) in the San Francisco Peninsula Chapter of the California Writers Club (CWC) to run from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

ELIGIBILITY: Word count 1,000 words min to 2,000 word max. Open to all short stories written for adults; no essays or poetry.

MULTIPLE CONTEST ENTRY: Work may be also submitted to the Division 333 Short Story contest if applicable (separate entry fee applies).

CLASS:

1. San Francisco Peninsula Writers Club: Writer of the Year

DIVISION 335 - POETRY

AWARDS OFFERED

1 st Place	\$100	Rosette
2 nd Place	\$50	Rosette
3 rd Place	\$25	Rosette

ELIGIBILITY: Exhibitors may enter a poem in “free form” (meaning it follows no established poem format) or the “structured” (meaning it follows an established poem format) class. Some examples of “structured” form poems include the sonnet, villanelle, sestina, haiku, tanka, limerick, rondel, rondeau, pantoum, etc.

RULES:

1. Any style form or subject accepted.
2. **Do not choose a form that exceeds 40 lines.**
3. May be double or single-spaced.
4. You may also incorporate the optional theme “CARRY THE LIGHT: THE QUALITY OF ONE’S DREAM WILL DETERMINE ITS POWER” into either free form or structured poems.
5. Exhibitors may not enter the same poem in more than one category or class.
6. Judges reserve the right to switch poems to more appropriate classes.

CLASS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Free form poem – Young Adult age 16-25 years | 4. Structured poem – Young Adult age 16-25 years |
| 2. Free form poem – Adult age 26-54 years | 5. Structured poem – Adult age 26-54 years |
| 3. Free form poem – Senior 55 years plus | 6. Structured poem – Senior 55 years plus |

DIVISION 336 – THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE: SHORT STORY, ESSAY, MONOLOGUE CONTEST

Sponsored by Teresa Jade LeYung - Author / Manuscript Consultant / Platform-Building Coach www.TeresaJadeLeYung.com

AWARDS OFFERED

1st Place	\$100	Rosette
2nd Place	\$50	Rosette
3rd Place	\$25	Rosette

This contest is to honor immigrants who experience themes of language barriers, poverty, stigmas, and injustice.

ELIGIBILITY: **Word count 1,500 word max unpublished short story, essay, or monologue (no synopsis or prologue).**

RULES:

Your entry could be a firsthand account or a retelling of someone else's experience. Show how the protagonist goes about pursuing what she/he wants while confronting antagonists (persons or circumstances); use authentic details and sensory details to show the protagonist's life in the new country (front story). Foreshadow the core theme in the first paragraph. Focus on "immigrant" experience. Tell your story through scenes, not summaries.

CLASS:

1. Immigrant Experience

DIVISION 337 - STORIES FOR CHILDREN CONTEST

Sponsored by the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, San Francisco South Chapter

AWARDS OFFERED

1 st Place	Rosette and 1-year free membership to SCBWI
2 nd Place	Rosette
3 rd Place	Rosette

RULES:

1. Children’s stories (picture books to YA) written by contestants aged 16 years or older.
2. 1,000 words max. (can be an entire picture book story or 1,000 words of the first chapter of a novel or chapter book).
3. Entries will be judged on: character(s), plot, writing quality, and ability to engage the reader.
4. No synopsis or prologue.
5. Your children's piece may be written in a genre form such as Literary, Mystery, Suspense, Thriller, Historical, Fantasy, Science Fiction, or Speculative Fiction. No political themes. Young adult stories can have romantic elements or subplots but romance should not be the focus. Sexually explicit material will be disqualified with no refund.

CLASS:

1. Stories for Children

DIVISION 338 – “EVE YOUNG VISCONTI LAWS OF LIFE” PERSONAL REFLECTIVE ESSAY

Sponsored by Ron Visconti in memory of Eve Young Visconti, a former member of the CWC

AWARDS OFFERED

1st Place \$250 Rosette
2nd Place \$150 Rosette
3rd Place \$75 Rosette

ELIGIBILITY

Submit a personal essay of up to 2,000 words **reflecting on your experience around a key event or turning point in your life** that changed or affected you.

RULES:

Tell a story about a real-life experience that focuses on an event and builds toward drawing a conclusion or making a personal statement that has universal relevance. Usually written in first person, but dialogue shows more than one side of the story. **No fiction** is allowed in this category. Work should not read like a standard fiction piece or personal memoir.

CLASS:

1. “Eve Young Visconti Laws of Life” Personal Reflective Essay

Section 6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OUR CARRY THE LIGHT THEME pertains to the writer or someone the writer meets who acts as a beacon of light to others not by convincing them of their need to follow, but rather, by showing people the way to reach their own goals and aspirations, such as stepping up in the community, assisting others, or daring to dream about creating something new. We encourage contestants to consider this theme but it is not mandatory, nor will it add extra points to the contest judging template.

AUTHOR ARCHIVE

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all literary contestants; there is no charge for this option.

Following our theme of *Writers Helping Writers*, we will provide all contest entrants the option of being published online in our Literary Arts Author Archive webpage, to be permanently archived per year. We will publish online each entrant’s submission regardless of a win, and can include your optional bio (75 words or less) and headshot, plus website and blog links.

RULES:

1. You must indicate during registration if you want to be published on our online page.
2. You must upload your bio, headshot, and web links by the deadline of 11:59pm on-May 11th in order to be included.
3. Entrants aged 16-18 must provide parental permission in order to be published on our online Literary Arts webpage.

THE LITERARY STAGE

THE CWC/FAIR PARTNERSHIP The San Mateo County Fair (SMCF) and the SF Peninsula Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club (CWC), joined forces in 2009 with the idea of giving writers a presence and a voice.

THE LITERARY STAGE was created to give writers a voice in the Fine Arts Galleria in Expo Hall. Members of the local CWC have volunteered their time and talents to facilitate over 150 free professional level workshops, author presentations, contest winners’ panels and open mic readings, critiques, one-act plays, interviews, contestant readings, anthology autograph parties, the “Rejection Generator,” and annual Author Book Fairs. These events launched our signature slogan of “events within the event.” While the SF Peninsula branch sponsors the Literary Stage, it is open to other organizations and individuals to utilize for their own literary projects. The Event Schedule will be posted on our literary arts web page.

All details at <https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/literary-arts>