



Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch

centralcoastwriters.org

August 2016

Sunday, August 7

The CCW Annual Summer BBQ and Picnic!

Members-only event (member plus one guest)

1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of

Leslie and Hugo Patiño

903 Jefferson Street

Monterey

RSVP by August 1; details on page 3



Coming on September 20

Lindsay Hatton, author of *Monterey Bay*

Lindsay Hatton is a graduate of Williams College. She holds an MFA from the Creative Writing Program at New York University. She currently resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but was born and raised in Monterey, California, where she spent many fascinating and formative summers working behind the scenes at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Her debut novel, *Monterey Bay*, takes the reader back to the Monterey and Cannery Row of 1940 with her teenage protagonist, Margot Fiske, drawing from the lore of that heady time and her own teenage experiences.

Lindsay has been touring the country this summer talking about her life in Monterey and her experience of completing and publishing her first novel.

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Some words about august

In 8 BCE the Roman Senate gathered to celebrate Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor. I wonder how much debate went into the proper gift to bring to that party? In the end, they decided on naming a whole month in his honor; "Sextilis" was changed to "Augustus." I imagine he was pleased with their token. Today we just call it August—maybe "Augustus" sounded a wee bit pretentious?

I am one month into my second term as your president. I'll admit that I almost didn't accept the nomination to remain for another year. My life is busy, and I wondered if I had the time to devote to the club—it's important to me to put the proper amount of effort into the things I promise I'll do. What finally tipped me to "yes" was the fact that each of the other members of the Executive Committee said they would stay too.

What does any of this have to do with Augustus Caesar, you ask? Good question. The adjective august, is defined as "being marked by majestic dignity or grandeur, having a formal and impressive quality"—assets to strive for. If any of those lauded attributes can be assigned to our club, they are owed to those dignified and impressive club members who work so diligently behind the scenes to assure our club's success.

What better month to thank the following people for keeping our club as august as possible.

Our VP is **Sharon Law Tucker** who jumped in with both feet and is adding so much to how we can continue to be a vital and strong group.

What would we do without **Joyce Krieg**, our secretary and Central Board Representative? She's a past president of our club, the current VP of the California Writers Club, she's been nominated to be their next President, and still she dedicates an enormous amount of time for our group. [See update on page 3. -Ed.]

If you attend any of our general meetings you'll know **Clarissa Conn** as the "woman behind the camera." So many of our great photos for *Scribbles* come from her. What you might not know is that she has a superhero, hidden identity – Green Eyeshade Girl is the watchdog of our finances. She swooped in, calculator in hand. She keeps CCW Budget Town safe for us all.

What would our general meetings be without the fabulous featured guests? **Dorothy Vriend** continues to reach out and convince these impressive and important people to speak to us about myriad topics. Without Dorothy you'd all be stuck with just me talking at these meetings. I think we all owe Dorothy for saving us from that fate!

If you're reading this letter you have **Lana Bryan** to thank. She's the kindly cajoler of newsletter submissions who shoehorns an impressive amount of material into 12 pages.

And, **Leslie Patiño**, what can I say? Past newsletter editor, current Chair of Publicity and our High School Senior Writing Contest – she almost always is the first to say "let me help." She invites us to use her lovely home and yard for our summer BBQ (August 7th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., by the way), and she has a hand in almost everything we do as a club.

The first person you usually encounter when you enter a monthly meeting is **Sarah Pruitt**, our Hospitality Chair. Sarah is ever ready to listen to members and direct them properly for whatever they seek. **Debra J. "Deej" Smith** joins her at the check-in table, and you'd be hard pressed to find two wider or brighter smiles of greeting.

Cheri Love is in charge of our raffle. She makes sure there are prizes, she sells the tickets, and she assures that the process runs like a well-oiled machine. Our Writing Contest uses no club money; it is fully funded by the raffle. Cheri is also a past CCW President.

There are innumerable others. I'm beholden to everyone that writes a monthly column for our newsletter (please check out each article!), as well as **Heather Lazare** who currently picks up hard-copy newsletters at the printer and gets them in the mail (Heather will take maternity leave from this task for a while, so if you'd like to fill in please let me know), and to **Trish Watson** who sends a personal email to each and every guest that attends one of our general meetings (correlation not proving causation, but membership has sure jumped since she volunteered for this task). Many hands make light work, and we're still looking for a few others to join our merry band. If you're interested please let me know. And, in case anyone is wondering, yes, we might have a secret handshake, but we don't wear funny hats.

Thank you for sticking with me through this longer than normal president's letter. I feel it's important to pay the proper respect to the august behavior I see modeled in every interaction I have with my writing family. I hope to see you at the CCW BBQ on Sunday, August 7th. Look for more information in this newsletter, and remember to RSVP. It's so handy for us to have a head-count!

Until we meet again, happy writing!
Laurie

CCW's Annual BBQ

CCW's annual members-only BBQ is on **Sunday, August 7** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The brilliant grilling duo of Harold and Sam Grice will again cook up a fabulous feast. Leslie and Hugo Patiño's lovely home (903 Jefferson in Monterey) is once more our venue. All the food and bottled water will be provided. Alcohol and soft drinks are BYOB. Chairs are also BYOC (bring your own chair). If you do bring a dish and serving utensil, please remember to take them home with you when you depart. Note that this event is only for members plus one guest. Also, to help defer the cost of meats for the grill, a jar will be available for a suggested \$10 donation.

Thank you for your **RSVP by August 1st** to Lana Bryan (лана.bryan@writeteam.com), so that the Grice Grill Team will know how much meat to buy. About 40 of you already have done so. If you have not, and even if August 1st is past, RSVP anyway!



California Writers Club New President

It's official! As Laurie mentioned, Joyce Krieg was the nominee for president of the California Writers Club and on Sunday, July 24, she was unanimously elected by the CWC Central Board. She has served on the Central Board in various capacities for 10 years and is clearly well respected. We wish Joyce the best in her new role as she wields the gavel! Huzzah!

CCW Volunteer Needed for Newsletter Mailing

Starting in September, we need a volunteer to mail the newsletters to members who request snail mail versions. Heather Lazare has been doing this for a year or so and needs to take a break; let's call it family leave! New baby coming in November! The job entails picking up the printed copies from Copy King in Monterey, then addressing, stamping, and mailing them. We can provide the mailing list and you will be reimbursed for postage. Anyone out there willing to take this on? If so, contact *Scribbles* editor Lana at лана.bryan@writeteam.com. Thank you!



The Search for an Agent — Chelsea Hindman

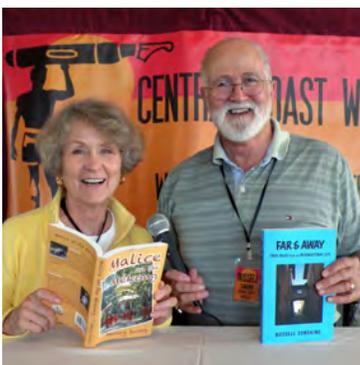
Knowing your own work—identifying genre, audience and comparable titles—will help when discussing it with a literary agent, July speaker Chelsea Lindman of Greenburger Associates said. She also suggested discussing your work with colleagues to learn what pitch excites.

When it comes to searching for that agent, Publisher’s Marketplace is a good place to start; the acknowledgements page of a comparable title can also yield good results, Lindman said. Once you’ve got a list of 10 to 15 agents you think might be a good fit, it’s time to write your query letter. Lindman characterized the query letter as an introduction to a potential business partner, the interview handshake. You need to give the right impression and exhibit confidence.

A query letter should include title, genre, and word count as well as two or three comparable titles published within the last couple of years. It should explain the essence of the work and include an author biography.

Agents have to read through a high volume of work quickly. They are looking for something they are interested in, something that can sell, and an author they can work with. So when you write your query, look for a way to stand out without being gimmicky. Also be sure to follow the requirements set out by each agent, Lindman said. Not doing so could mean instant rejection; your letter may never be read.

Agents are looking to represent you, not just your work. So approach the relationship with that in mind, Lindman said. “Play up everything you can bring to the table as an author. Show you are there to be a serious business partner.”



Five-minute Readers Nancy Swing
and Russell Sunshine



Speaker Chelsea Hindman
Photographs by Clarissa Conn



New Member Dennis Hamilton

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

**Susanna Denes Dennis Hamilton Daian Hennington
Linda Carey Kunnath Glenn Schnepf Teri C. Tomkins**



Member Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Dick Guthrie** and **Marina Romani**, both of whom had works accepted for publication in the *CWC Literary Review*. All members should have received a copy of this publication in the mail.

T.C. Zmak's debut novel *Dark Surf* just received its 6th award—an Honorable Mention in the General Fiction category of the 2016 Hollywood Book Festival. More at darksurf.com/books.

Members **Nancy Swing** and **Russell Sunshine** will read from their books and have a dialog with guests at Old Capitol Books, 559 Tyler Street, Monterey from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on August 20th. Russell wrote *Far & Away: True Tales from an International Life* and Nancy wrote *Malice on the Mekong*.

An Interview with Kurt Vonnegut Jr., a Staged Reading written and directed by **Carol Marquart** will be presented at The Cherry Center for the Arts, 4th and Guadalupe, Carmel. Meet 84-year-old Kurt Vonnegut Jr., as he gets a call from an old flame from his teaching days. The show stars Rollie and Jeanne Dick and runs August 12 to 21, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:00 p.m. Tickets: \$20.00 brownpapertickets.com.

CCW Workshop: Social Media Marketing for Writers

Saturday, October 15, 2016. Registration starts at 8:30; workshop is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cost is \$40 for members, \$60 for non-members. [Sign up early!](#)

You probably have several social media accounts to promote your work, but chances are you may not know what to do with them. What social media sites should you be on? What should you post? When? How often? Should you pay for Facebook ads? And how does your website fit in? Does it matter how many people like your page? And is social media different for fiction writers, non-fiction writers, and poets? In this workshop, you'll find out the answers to these questions and much, much more. At the end of the session, you'll have the beginnings of a workable social media marketing plan that's specific to you and your work as well as the confidence to put it into play.

Shelly King is the author of *The Moment of Everything* (Hachette/Grand Central Publishing) as well as many short stories. Before she became a full-time novelist, she worked for a large high-tech company as a social media strategist and information architect. As a writer, she continues to use the strategies and concepts she learned in high tech to promote her work.

This workshop will fill up fast. A sign-up form to mail in is on our CCW website: centralcoastwriters.org/images/misc/ccw-october-social-media-workshop-info.pdf

Writing Reminder

Ongoing "let's get together and just write" gathering Tuesday mornings 9:30-11 a.m. at Crema, 481 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Free and open to writers of all levels and interests. No critiquing, no sharing, just an opportunity to devote time to our writing with other like-minded creative individuals.

Announcements continued

Networking Aloud: A Writers Open Mike

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (2nd Tuesday of each month)

Where: OLD CAPITOL BOOKS – 559 Tyler St., Monterey, CA 93940

Submitted monthly by Pat Hanson

A “love offering\$” monthly event open to the public. Come early & sign up for a five- to seven-minute reading from any genre: prose, screenplay, poetry & essay that follows 15 minutes from a featured published reader. Only applause, no critique allowed.

On August 9, **Eboni Ardell** will read from her fantasy novel [The Fourth Piece](#) (48fourteen Publishing). She spent her childhood obsessed with anything science fiction, fantastic, paranormal or just plain weird. She now specializes in young adult fiction.

September 13 features one of our long-time readers to share his beautiful book [Lo! Jacaranda](#) (Trafford Publishing), illustrated with scintillating paintings done by the author **Father Harry Freiermuth** and his mother. Jacaranda is a young, Spanish-Gypsy woman in 1760s Spain, born and raised as the daughter of a wealthy ranchero owner. Her gypsy heritage is revealed before her wedding and the Spanish Inquisition condemns her to be burnt at the stake. Get this page-turner to follow the twists and turns of a fascinating work by 90-year-old CCW member, Father Harry.

Questions or to be featured in the future: Pat Hanson [831-601-9195](tel:831-601-9195) or co-emcee Janice Rocke [831-521-0375](tel:831-521-0375).

Annual 4th of July Parade a Hit!

The parade on July 4th was a good time for all. CCW had a terrific turnout. A million thanks to Leslie and Hugh Patiño for providing parking and shuttling. Your editor’s first parade since high school (!) was terrific. The small town vibe was alive and well. In addition to Joyce Krieg’s great signs, Gary Parker carried “First Edition,” his daughter carried “Plot,” and his grandson carried “Subplot.” Hilarious! Join us next year!



Palettes & Quills 5th Biennial Poetry Chapbook Competition

The Poetry Chapbook Competition is open to all writers. For details, go to palettesandquills.simplesite.com. Prize: A \$200 cash award plus 50 copies of the published book. Deadline: September 1, 2016.



“No More Deadlines”

Robert Whitsitt

While Bob Whitsitt’s educational and employment histories are rooted in science and math, he’s also dabbled in writing and has demonstrated that being a “techie” is not incongruous with being a literary type.

“I gather I’m one of the rare people who likes literature [as well as science and math],” says Bob, who joined CCW about a year ago. “I never saw a contradiction between them.”

An avid reader since childhood, Bob recalls that he wrote a few stories throughout high school and college. But after earning a B.S. in education with a major and minor in mathematics, he worked as a technical writer for Texas Instruments and other technology companies. In addition to publishing calculator and computer manuals, he co-wrote a book about the first shipped version of Windows (1.03) with his wife, *Scribbles* editor Lana Bryan.

Around the age of fifty, Bob, who mostly writes science fiction, took time off from work and wrote a novel that “never went anywhere.” His short story titled “Old Man,” a tale about a one hundred fifty-year-old man who contemplates being “rejuvenated,” was published in an anthology. But when it comes to his writing schedule, Bob admits to a lack of discipline.

“I goof off as much as possible, and then, at the last minute, work on it,” he says. “That’s pretty much how I’ve lived my life.”

Having “never held a job longer than six years,” Bob came across a fortuitous opportunity in late 2000 when he and Lana were unemployed. “Lana and I are the luckiest people you’ve ever met,” he says. A then little-known company named Google was “willing to hire relatively old people. We were in the right place at the right time.”

Now “happily retired” and a self-employed Web site designer, Bob posts writings for a quarterly online literary magazine, *Amarillo Bay*, which he and a friend launched in 1999. “We don’t publish our own work, so it’s not a vanity press,” he says of the more than seven hundred fifty works of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry published at amarillobay.org.

As for what inspires Bob to write, it’s as mundane as wanting to write things he would like to read. As for his future aspirations, he adds, “I want to have finished the novel I’ve been thinking about for the last year and a half. [But] now that I don’t have any deadlines (except *Amarillo Bay*), I get very little done.”

Michelle Smith’s articles have been published in a variety of magazines. Her website is thebonyquill.com.



Billy Collins



According to Bruce Weber of *The New York Times*, Billy Collins is the most popular poet in America.

Born William James “Billy” Collins, March 22, 1941 in New York, New York, he was destined for fame in the literary world. In 1990 he was awarded the Guggenheim for Creative Arts US and Canada. Among other honors bestowed on him is Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003. He was also chosen as the New York State Poet from 2004 through 2006. He received the Mark Twain Prize for Humor in Poetry as well.

One of Collins’ quotes is: “When I write, I’m not trying to be funny. It’s the way I look at the world.” John Updike says that this quality helps to define his attraction to readers and explains his popularity. Updike goes on to say that he writes lovely poems, limpid, gently and consistently startling, more serious than they seem, they describe all the worlds that are and were and some others besides.

Collins’ first collection of poems is called *Pokerface*, published in 1977, which has sold well over 200,000 copies. His poetry has so much warmth and humor that people love to read it. He connects with the reader in a direct fashion by beginning with a domestic scene to create familiarity. “Nightclub” showcases laughter in a shared experience. *The Best Cigarette*, a collection of 34 poems published in 1997, became a bestseller. This book also exists as a recording, in Collins’ own voice. This is a poet well worth reading—or listening to.

He was educated at the University of California and Riverside College of the Holy Cross. Collins teaches an MFA program at Stony Brook Southampton and is married to Diane Olbright. His favorite poetry saying, voiced by a former student, is “Poetry is harder than writing.”



The Best Cigarette By Billy Collins

There are many that I miss
having sent my last one out a car window
sparking along the road one night, years ago.

The heralded one, of course:
after sex, the two glowing tips
now the lights of a single ship;
at the end of a long dinner
with more wine to come
and a smoke ring coasting into the chandelier;
or on a white beach,
holding one with fingers still wet from a swim.

How bittersweet these punctuations
of flame and gesture;
but the best were on those mornings
when I would have a little something going
in the typewriter,
the sun bright in the windows,
maybe some Berlioz on in the background.
I would go into the kitchen for coffee
and on the way back to the page,
curled in its roller,
I would light one up and feel
its dry rush mix with the dark taste of coffee.

Then I would be my own locomotive,
trailing behind me as I returned to work
little puffs of smoke,
indicators of progress,
signs of industry and thought,
the signal that told the nineteenth century
it was moving forward.
That was the best cigarette,
when I would steam into the study
full of vaporous hope
and stand there,
the big headlamp of my face
pointed down at all the words in parallel lines.

Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



CONTESTS

NewBbay SciFi Contest

Deadline: Regular Deadline August 15, 2016, 23:59:59 PST

Entry Fee: Free.

Website: newbbay.com

Submission Requirements: Entries must be previously unpublished in any form and be submitted according to guidelines along with a submission petition through the NewBbay website platform. Entrants must agree to platform agreement and entry requirements. Entrants will give up 50% ownership of work to NewBbay. Entrants may enter up to two works in contest.

Awards: Contest features \$5000.00 prize pool to be split among winning entries.

1st Place: \$2400.00, 2nd Place: \$1200.00, 3rd Place: \$600.00, 4th Place \$500.00, 5th Place \$300.00

CulturalWeekly.com—Jack Grapes Poetry Prize

Deadline: August 31, 2016, Midnight PST

Entry Fee: \$3.00 for up to three unpublished poems.

Website: culturalweekly.com/jack-grapes-poetry-prize-poetry-contest-open-submissions

Awards: 1st Place: \$250.00, 2nd Place: \$150.00, 3rd Place: \$100.00. Three finalists will be awarded \$50.00 each.

All prizes include publication in Cultural Weekly. Entrants may submit up to 3 previously unpublished poems.

Work that has appeared in any book, magazine or edited website is considered published. Sole exception: If posted only on the author's blog or social media site, and author takes it down and leaves it down, it will be considered unpublished. No simultaneous submissions accepted.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Annual San Francisco Writing for Change Conference: San Francisco Writer's Conference

Location: First Unitarian Universalist Center at 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary), San Francisco, CA

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Open to both fiction and nonfiction authors.

Fee: \$199.00 by credit card or check. Cancellations must be submitted in writing. A \$50.00 cancellation fee will be applied to all cancellations. Go to website for addresses and payment links.

Website: sfwritingforchange.org

Meet with publishers and agents focused promoting work focused on important ideas for the future.

Keynote: Susan Griffin author of *Wrestling with the Angels of Democracy* and *Chorus of Stones*

Conference Theme: Writing to Make A Difference

Deadline: Limited to 100 entrants, authors who want their work to inspire change in the world.

Social Media Marketing with Shelly King (A CCW Workshop),

Date: Saturday. October 15, 2016, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doors open 8:30 a.m.

Location: Sam Karas Room, Monterey Peninsula College, next to library, plenty of free parking

Fee: CCW Members - \$40.00, Non-members - \$60.00

Payment: Pay in advance by check payable to CCW Branch of CWC.

Mail to: CCW Social Media Workshop, P.O. Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950



**“Fairy tales can come true
It can happen to you, if you’re young at heart.”**

(Carolyn Leigh and Johnny Richards)

Have you noticed that as we develop we learn positive and negative examples from what we experience with others and from what we read? We open ourselves to some new ideas and harden ourselves to others. Some lessons make permanent impressions on us. Hopefully we can carry our childhood dreams and aspirations into our adult lives. Even situations in movies and popular songs can validate and strengthen our decisions.

Milwaukee, WI, 1952. My classmates sat aghast as I strode to the front of the room toward the man with the cruel gleam in his eye and the wooden instrument of “discipline” in his hand. As I thrust my open palm toward him, waiting for the stinging blow, words from the movie theme of “High Noon” passed through my mind: “I do not know what fate awaits me. I only know I must be brave. For I must face the man who hates me.” Then I thought of my sister, highly respected by her adoring primary students in the very same school. *“Yes! I’m gonna be a teacher like Charlyn someday, and replace teachers like him!”*

The pain and the song faded into my pre-teen memories, but the negative and positive role models and the decision resulting from those lyrics remained in my subconscious beyond my wilder teen years and into my career choice. I spent thirty-two rewarding and fruitful years living up to that decision, despite obstacles I encountered along the way.

Pacific Grove, 2016. “Hey, Mister. Do you mind if I park my truck here? I just ran out of gas. Okay if I leave it here while I go to the station and back?”

“How will you get there? It’s a long walk. Here, take my car. I’m not leaving for over an hour.”

“Gosh, you don’t mind?”

“You would do the same for me, wouldn’t you?”

“Sure! Thanks. I’m Jonathan.”

“I’m Harry. Now get going!”

Experiences like this one are examples of respecting our neighbor; showing respect for other people’s needs, opinions, and ideas. I also think of it as a form of self respect; actually living up to one’s own standards and principles. Many children’s stories, adventures for teens and pre-teens, and dramas show the value of self respect, personal commitment, and considerate regard for others.

I only hope that my efforts and my words affect others in a positive way; by my example to my students, and by the values revealed in the conversations and actions of characters who populate my written work.

We all affect others in one way or another by what we do or say. We give our readers a feeling that their dreams can come true by showing them the fulfillment of our protagonists’ aspirations. As writers, we have the opportunity to reach out to readers that we have never met—or not.

**Be well,
and do good.**

Jonathan

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

The Galápagos, 3



Santa Cruz Island

Continuing our cruise through the Galápagos Islands (see the [June](#) and [July Scribbles](#)), we anchored off Santa Cruz Island, home of giant tortoises and of land and marine iguanas. Tortoises were hunted for centuries, almost to extinction, and taken from the island onto ships for food. Since they can survive without food or water for two years, it made sense in the days prior to refrigeration. Luckily, with conservation efforts, their numbers are growing again.

In the Tortoise Rearing Center, part of the Nature Conservancy, we watched saddle-back tortoises plod around large pens and witnessed an interesting show of dominance. One tortoise was munching on sugar cane when another approached. The second one raised his head above the first, extending his long neck far out of the shell. The first one did the same until it became a game of whose head can go higher. Tortoise #2 was the winner and #1 hustled away, leaving his sugar cane for the taller and mightier.



In the Santa Cruz Island Highlands, domed tortoises roam in the wild Tortoise Preserve, making pilgrimages from the wet grasslands to the

sea and back again. They lurch along, munching available grasses and herbs and eyeing visitors warily.

We visited a farm in the Highlands, where residents grow coffee and sugar cane, from which they make candies and brew a potent alcoholic drink. We enjoyed samples of all three!

More Galápagos stories next month.

Lana

CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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CCW Website

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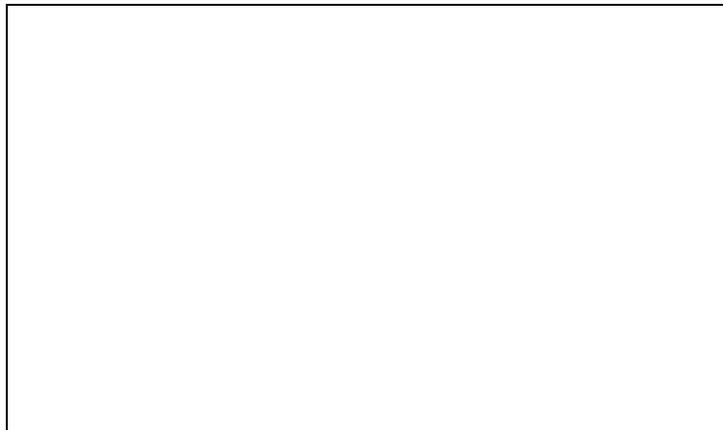
Contact *Scribbles* editor Lana Bryan:
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Not yet a member of CCW?

You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:
centralcoastwriters.org



California Writers Club
Central Coast Writers Branch
Post Office Box 997
Pacific Grove, CA 93950



September 20

Lindsay Hatton

Author of *Monterey Bay*

5:30 p.m. - CHECK-IN and DINNER

6:30 p.m. - MEETING

Point Pinos Grill

79 Asilomar Boulevard

Pacific Grove