



Scribbles

California Writers Club—Central Coast Writers Branch

centralcoastwriters.org

August 2017

Sunday, August 20

Members & Guests Summer BBQ

Whispering Pines Park on Pacific Street in Monterey; 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No General Meeting in August



Read all about the BBQ on page 4!

Tuesday, September 19

Laurie McLean

Tips for Thriving in Publishing Today

Literary Myth: If you don't have a literary agent, you aren't a real author. This is FALSE! Dynamic speaker and successful agent Laurie McLean of Fuse Literary will share insights from the trenches about the revolution going on in publishing and why is it no longer impossible to get published without an agent. Through self-publishing, crowdfunding, crowdsourcing, digital-first and other publishing initiatives, for the first time ever you can go it alone and make a living as an author. Is there a place for a literary agent in your future? Perhaps. Perhaps not. And perhaps literary agents are changing as much as the industry they work in. Laurie will candidly explain the ins, outs, pluses, and minuses of publishing in this new era and beyond.

Laurie McLean spent 20 years as the CEO of a multi-million dollar marketing agency and 8 years as an agent/senior agent at Larsen Pomada Literary Agents before co-founding Fuse Literary in 2013. At Fuse Lit Laurie specializes in adult genre fiction plus middle-grade and young adult children's books. Laurie is also the co-director of the San Francisco Writers Conference, in its fifteenth year, and co-founded two ePublishing companies: JoyrideBooks.com for romance, and Ambush Books for tween and teen books (acquired by Short Fuse Publishing in 2015). Find out more at FuseLiterary.com and AgentSavant.com, and on Twitter @FuseLiterary and @AgentSavant.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Announcements	5-6
CCW BBQ	4
CCW President's Letter	2
Contests and Conferences	9
If the Shoe Fits	10
Member Profile	7
Speaker Report	3
The Last Word	11
The Poetry Corner	8



Once in a Lifetime and No Regrets

On August the 21st, at about 10:15 a.m., I plan to be standing outside looking fabulous in my solar eclipse glasses. If the weather cooperates I'll watch the sun change from a glowing orb into a lovely crescent. Since our area isn't under the "band of totality" I won't see a full eclipse, but I'll grab at least a part of the experience. It will only happen once in my lifetime, after all.

In case you're wondering, a solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the earth and the sun, and "a total solar eclipse occurs when the disk of the moon appears to completely cover the disk of the sun in the sky... The moon orbits an average of 239,000 miles (385,000 kilometers) from Earth—just the right distance to seem the same size in the sky as the much larger sun. However, these heavenly bodies line up only about once every 18 months." (Source: <https://www.space.com/33797-total-solar-eclipse-2017-guide.html>)

Okay, so maybe I could see other eclipses during my lifetime, but this particular eclipse will only happen once. I like the idea of treating every experience as special. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." I'm sure you understand where good old Heraclitus was going with that statement—all experiences are unique, and people are always changing.

I know I look at things I've written in the past and think, "gosh, I'd write that differently now." But, isn't that wonderful?! We're offered these fantastic opportunities to reinvent ourselves—as people, as writers, as friends. The past can't be changed, but we can always move forward. For instance, I might well be the poster child for procrastination, but I try to remember that my books won't get written unless I write them. Every day I have a once in a lifetime chance to make that particular day the best it can be whether I'm in my office at work, writing, gardening, or spending time with family. The best we can ever hope for is no regrets.

I hope to see many of you as we make August the 20th the best it can be at our once-in-a-lifetime 2017 Annual CCW BBQ.

***Until we meet again, Happy Writing,
Laurie***



At the July meeting, our President welcomes the First Husband home from his 3-year east coast job.



Jordan Rosenfeld on Character

Fiction is a stylized version of reality, Jordan Rosenfeld said at CCW's July meeting. So while description is central to creating setting and character, leave out what's not important. In the setting, describe what the character notices or what s/he cares about; in dialogue, include only what enhances the reader's understanding of the character or moves the plot along.

Rosenfeld nudged writers away from direct description, encouraging them to use sensory images instead, or provide other evidence to show how a character is feeling. Readers discover how characters are feeling by watching them move through space, by experiencing their sensory stimulation, by listening to their dialogue, by hearing their interior monologue, and by seeing other characters react to them, Rosenfeld said.

She warned fiction writers away from using perceptual words such as *felt*, *realized*, *concluded*, or *decided*, suggesting writers leave more for the reader to discover: allow them to live inside the character's body, she said.

Consistency in point of view is important in order for a narrative to feel believable to a reader, Rosenfeld said. If you are writing in first person or third person limited and the reader experiences everything from one person's point of view, suddenly being able to see into another character's mind will feel strange and inauthentic. In the past literature was often written in the omniscient point of view, but that is less common now, Rosenfeld said. The omniscient point of view, where all the characters' views are accessible, can be useful for historical fiction or fantasy, but can also result in sloppy story telling, if the writer doesn't control this multiple point of view in a balanced way.

Rosenfeld has written three novels and several writing guides, including her most recent, *Writing the Intimate Character: Create Unique, Compelling Characters Through Mastery of Point of View*. She also offers editing services and can be contacted through her website <http://www.jordanrosenfeld.net>.



5-minute reader Nancy Swing



Speaker Jordan Rosenfeld



Patricia Hamilton with her granddaughter Grace

Photos by Clarissa Conn



August 20, 1:30 – 4:30, Whispering Pines Park, Pacific St., Monterey (between Martin/El Dorado and Lomita)

WHAT TO BRING

Yep, we're moving the annual CCW BBQ, including the popular Grilling Grices (Sam and Harold), to Whispering Pines! The park has covered picnic tables with seating for seventy and bathrooms nearby. You're welcomed to bring a cushion to soften your seat or a chair so you can sit with your feet in the grass. As usual, the BBQ is not intended as a potluck, but those desiring to bring a side dish or dessert may certainly do so. Bottled water will be provided. Those who would like to bring a bottle of wine or 6-pack of beer to share are encouraged to do so. If you'd like to donate a little toward defraying the Grice's cost for the fantastic spread they put on, our BBQ "kitty" will be hanging out near the grills.

RSVPs—IMPORTANT!

RSVP to Leslie Patiño by Sunday, August 13, lnpatino@comcast.net or (303)917-1266, so that the Grices know how many to plan for when purchasing meat and veggies. Due to space limitations, we ask that you not bring more than one guest per member. If you plan to bring a dish, in your RSVP please include what type (salad, dessert, etc.) Also, if you have a 6-ft. table you could bring for our buffet serving line, Leslie would love to know that, too.

PARKING

Parking in the park is limited to some 20 vehicles, so carpooling is encouraged. CCW raffle lady Cheri Love and her physical therapist husband Mark Young have generously offered 10 parking spaces at their office, Pacific Physical Therapy, 929 Pacific St., 0.25 miles, or a five-minute walk, to the park picnic area. There are another 5 spaces on Pacific St. between Pacific Physical Therapy and the park. Blue and white CCW signs will be posted at the park entrance and at Pacific Physical Therapy's parking area.

DIRECTIONS (Suggestion: **print and bring this page with you.)**

From Highway 1 northbound:

- Exit 399C, merge onto Soledad Drive
- Pass through the light at Munras
- Turn right on to Pacific Street
- In about a half mile, turn right at park entrance

From Highway 1 southbound:

- Exit 399B toward Monterey
- First light make a left on Soledad Drive
- In about a half mile, turn right at park entrance

From Monterey:

- Travel south on Pacific Avenue (away from Monterey, in the direction of Carmel)
- You CAN NOT TURN LEFT INTO THE PARK. You will need to go up to Alameda Dr. and come back.

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW member:

John Sanders



Member Congratulations!

Kymerlie Ingalls has released her third collection of personal essays, *43*. Themes include depression, loss, navigating midlife, and self-prophecy. Available at WriterOfTheStorm.com and RainfallPress.com.

Debra J. Smith (Deej) was at the Summer Festival at La Selva Beach on Saturday, July 29, selling and signing her fantasy series books, *Secrets Beyond Scymaria* (written as dj jameson smith). Also, Deej will have books on hand when she hosts the Clan Gunn tent at the Scottish Festival on August 5 and 6 at the Monterey Fairgrounds.



Membership Chair Maria Skyttä sends a reminder that membership renewals, \$45 payable by check or via PayPal on the website, are due by August 31.

Election of California Writers Club Officers and Awards Luncheon

At the CWC July meeting, the slate of officers was elected unanimously. You know the president: our own Joyce Krieg, who runs a tight ship at the state meetings! Vice-president is Donna McCrohan Rosenthal (East Sierra branch), Secretary is Elisabeth Tuck (Mount Diablo branch), and the Treasurer is Bill Baldwin (South Bay branch). The Ina Coolbrith Award went to Bob Isbill, a force at the local (High Desert branch) and at the state level, keeping the Central Board Forum going among many other things. The Jack London Awards were presented to members of several branches and our Laurie Sheehan was the honoree from CCW. The award is given for selfless acts of volunteerism.



CCW President Laurie Sheehan receives Jack London Award from State Board President Joyce Krieg



Presenter Joyce Krieg with honoree Laurie Sheehan and CB Rep hanger-on Lana Bryan

Announcements (continued)

Here are all the smiling Jack London honorees. Congratulations to everyone around the state!



In Memoriam

Although Bob Walch was not a member of CCW, many of you likely remember him as a long-time book reviewer for the *Monterey Herald* and later for Salinas' *The Californian*. A journalist for 40 years, Bob wrote countless articles and book reviews both here and around the country. Here is the [complete obituary](#).

Two Monthly Writerly Events: Networking Aloud and Curated Words

Networking Aloud is at Old Capitol Books (559 Tyler St, Monterey) every second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., coordinated by [Janice Locke](#). A featured writer shares for 15-20 minutes, then it's open mic with 5- to 7-minute time slots. On August 8 is Marie Boucher. She is passionate about language and culture, having taught students from over 60 different countries during her 20 years of teaching writing at Monterey Peninsula College and International Studies at the Middlebury Institute. Her students' resilience, perseverance, and integrity inspire her every day. Marie has published her poetry in the *Porter Gulch Review* and is currently working on a collection of poetry entitled *Heart Cracked Wide Open*.

Curated Words is a free event with a comfortable atmosphere. Provocative and/or beautiful literary presentations. Each writer has been chosen for the quality of their work and its unique contribution to an eclectic assemblage. Every last Thursday of the month at Juice N Java, 599 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove. 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Remember:



- 1) RSVP to Leslie Patiño by Sunday, August 13, lnpatino@comcast.net or (303) 917-1266, so that the Grillin' Grices can plan and buy meats and veggies!
- 2) Do print or tear out page 4 with the directions to Whispering Pines Park.



“It’s Just Who I Am”

Frankie Appling

A community organizer and child advocate, Frankie Appling has been a professional volunteer for more than sixty years. She taught pre-school and pre-kindergarten for seven years and, along with four other women, started the Central Coast affiliate of the California Association for the Education of Young Children. Frankie also ran the Child Abuse Prevention Council in Monterey County, helped develop the Kinship Center, and even provided financial support to jumpstart programs in need of funding.

Frankie’s devotion to helping others grew out of her own life experiences. Raised by abusive parents, she and her older brother endured a horrific childhood that ultimately instilled in her “the passion to change the plight of children who have no voice to speak for themselves,” and the compassion she “most likely would not have had if not for the hardships.” To help cope with an unbearable home life, Frankie wrote poetry while her brother wrote science fiction, reading and critiquing each other’s work along the way.

“No one ever took note that we were writers,” Frankie recalls, “or that we were alive, for that matter.”

A CCW member for five years now, Frankie continues to write poetry. She also writes cookbooks and “letters to God” and will tell you the Bible has made the most impact on her work. She’s a “prolific reader who collects old books and actually reads them,” but she doesn’t consider herself a great writer. “I’ve always written for myself,” she says. “It’s just who I am.”

With no set routine, Frankie writes “when God gives me something to say. I get the best ideas on walks out in nature, especially at the ocean and beach, to help me solve problems in life and in writing.” For aspiring writers, she advises, “Be a lifelong learner, a better listener than talker, and always write down your thoughts. Fall in love with words, and when you fall in love with people, write down your feelings and thoughts.”

Frankie and her late husband, Jim, were foster parents to two teen girls who were sexually abused by their stepfather and whom they raised to be productive, successful individuals. She has three children of her own and one granddaughter, and runs four real estate development and management companies she and her husband built up over fifty-two years.

“It’s our choice how we live,” she says. “I choose love, kindness, happiness, and joy. Don’t run from adversity. Embrace it, learn from it, get yourself up, and go again. We’re depending on you to be your own special self.”

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



Wisława Szymborska



Wisława Szymborska was born July 2, 1923 in Poland. Her life would take her through earth shattering events. As a child she attended Catholic schools. High School was difficult because she had to sneak in to attend the classes during the Nazi occupation to earn her diploma. She later attended Jagiellonian University and in 1948 married poet Adam Włodek. Szymborska worked as translator, essayist, and poet. She was witness to the atrocities of WWII living in Poland during the Nazi occupation. She lived through two horrific regimes, the Nazi and the Communist regimes. Szymborska saw first hand the degradation of oppression and totalitarianism. Her poetry seems to transcend this. It is insightful, fearless, and full of wit.

In the 1950's, Szymborska became a card carrying member of the Communist party. However the Communist party abused the honesty of her work. They said her work was morbid in the way she wrote about WWII. She was also criticized for not celebrating the triumph of the proletariat and Communist and Socialist ideology. They branded her as a seller of depravity because of her WWII writing, undermining her work.

In 1966 Szymborska rejected all forms of Communism. This was a very hard decision to make because of the political climate of the day. She was finally able to publish her books. Her book *Pytania Zadawane* totally rejects Communism and what Communism stands for. She joined the Kraków Underground Movement.

Szymborska writes with profound understanding, sensitivity, and wit. She uses ironic twists with surprise endings. An inspiration for generations of Poles, winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996 shot her to fame. She also won Kościelski Award, Goethe Prize (1991), Herder Prize (1995), the Nike Award, and The Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest order award (2011).

She spent most of her life in Kraków, where she died on February 1, 2012, having lived an unbelievable life, surviving two killing regimes and becoming famous for her poetry.

The Poetry Corner

By Nancy Jacobs



Utopia by Wisława Szymborska

Island where all becomes clear.

Solid ground beneath your feet.

The only roads are those that offer access.

Bushes bend beneath the weight of proofs.

The Tree of Valid Supposition grows here
with branches disentangled since time immemorial.

The Tree of Understanding, dazzlingly straight and simple,
sprouts by the spring called Now I Get It.

The thicker the woods, the vaster the vista:
the Valley of Obviously.

If any doubts arise, the wind dispels them instantly.

Echoes stir unsummoned
and eagerly explain all the secrets of the worlds.

On the right a cave where Meaning lies.

On the left the Lake of Deep Conviction.
Truth breaks from the bottom and bobs to the surface.

Unshakable Confidence towers over the valley.
Its peak offers an excellent view of the Essence of Things.

For all its charms, the island is uninhabited,
and the faint footprints scattered on its beaches
turn without exception to the sea.

As if all you can do here is leave
and plunge, never to return, into the depths.

Into unfathomable life.

From "A large number", 1976
Translated by S. Baranczak & C. Cavanagh
Copyright © Wisława Szymborska, S. Baranczak & C. Cavanagh

Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



CONTESTS

ScreenCraft 2017 Drama Feature Script Contest

Deadline: September 12, 2017

Entry Fee: \$69.00 per entry, \$129.00 for feedback, online entries only, unlimited entries.

Website: screencraft.org/drama

Awards: **1st Prize:** \$1000.00 plus phone intros with producers and industry execs., **2nd Prize:** \$500.00 and a page of feedback from one of the judges, **Top 3 Finalists:** ScreenCraft development notes plus free edition of Final Draft screenwriting software.

Submission requirements: See website for details

The George Dila Memorial Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: August 31, 2017

Entry Fee: \$5.00. Enter by Submittable online or by mail. See website for guidelines.

Website: thirdwednesday.org/flashcontest.html

Judge: Phillip Sterling, author of *In Which Brief Stories Are Told*.

Awards: **1st Prize:** \$150.00 **2nd Prize:** \$75.00 **3rd Prize:** \$25.00 along with a copy of the contest issue in which winners appear. All entries will be considered for regular publication.

Submission Requirements: See website. Open to previously unpublished stories under 1000 words including title, any subject.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Roxan McDonald, The Writer's Path Retreat: A *mindfulness and creative voice retreat*

A three-day retreat for beginning or advanced writers to engage in your authentic voice, begin, rejuvenate, or recommit to your writing practice. Expect extensive discussion about the craft of writing, plenty of time to generate new work from writing prompts, as well as sharing and feedback on participants' work.

Location: Gardener Ranch Retreat Center, 114 W. Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley, CA

Date: August 28-30, 2017

Fee: \$668.00-\$774.00, including lodging. Spaces open, call 1-831-298-7360 for full details and ask about the two-for-one price deal going on right now; mention Roxan McDonald's Facebook page.

Deadline: Registration open. **Website:** gardeneranch.com/programs

Cuesta College Central Coast Writer's Conference

Location: Cuesta College, Hwy 1, San Luis Obispo, CA

Date: September 28-30, 2017. Registration open.

Fee: \$225.00, lunches additional \$18.00 for Friday and Saturday. Special speaking event at Cal Poly (additional fee TBA), private critiques \$10.00 by appointment. Friday wine, dinner, and MOTH event at the Inn at Morro Bay (additional fee TBA). Lodging not included.

Website: cuesta.edu/communityprograms/writers-conference



Faith in Our Own Cause

Listening to Susan Sherman, our June speaker, I was reminded of the value of patience. The doubts she experienced, hoping that her book would be accepted and published, did not deter her from her diligence and enthusiasm for writing. She continued writing more and submitting her work.

Patience in the face of apparent lack of appreciation, and determination and belief in one's own value as a writer, are essential to success in our field of endeavor. There must be a time in every writer's life when we feel frustration, be it the lack of inspiration or of recognition. The words of Dante ring closer than we care to admit:

“Midway upon the journey of our life
I found myself within a forest dark,
for the straightforward pathway had been lost.”

We are indeed at a crucial point in our progress toward accomplishment.

But Susan kept on writing. Waiting to hear news (good news) about her submission, she did not languish in inactivity. She mentioned having several other pieces in the process of completion. She relished creating children's literature. Then it happened. One book was published; then another. Not abashed, she continues to write. And she has more stories hiding in a closet.

Yes, we too must forge ahead; continue into the apparently dismal writers' hell and express what we see and feel. We must journey through it without faltering, pressing on with faith that our efforts will be rewarded.

Of course, if our goal is to reach the paradise of publication, we need to make our work known, researching the publishers who might have an interest in our subject. Submit to specialized publishers, newspapers and magazines that carry our type of work. Submit to organizations that campaign for those very ideas and ideals that are revealed and regaled in our poems, stories, novels and articles. Good grief! We can check the front of our favorite books to see who prints the sort of things we love to read—the things we are prone to write. When it's finished and fit to read, let's get it out there in the public eye; if nowhere else, on the Internet. There are so many options!

Then we can start on another piece, and another, and keep on writing, if that is what we love to do. Susan's example stands before us. If we love to write, let's write and keep on writing. It's fun!

Or if it's not fun, just frustrating, then don't do it. Go fishing or take long walks if you prefer being alone. Or join a club or play bridge or Mahjong if you prefer social activities that require an active mind.

Or, if you don't care whether you are published or not, then just write for the sheer joy of getting your thoughts down on paper and expressing your feelings and ideas in the most eloquent possible manner. It's fun! It's delicious! Just do it! And enjoy.

**Be well,
and do good work,
Jonathan**

CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan



Shakespeare and Company

Our recent anniversary reminded me of Paris because my husband Bob (Whitsitt) and I spent our 35th there two years ago. Besides the sights and sounds, the food and wine, one of the highlights was a visit to Shakespeare and Company.

The history you might know is that Sylvia Beach, an American, opened the store/library and befriended a slew of up and coming authors of the Lost Generation: Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Pound, and Stein among others. Beach sold Lawrence's *Lady Chatterly's Lover* and published Joyce's *Ulysses*, both of which were banned in Britain and the United States. Her store closed during the German occupation in World War II, and although Hemingway claimed to have liberated it, it never reopened.

In 1951, George Whitman opened the Shakespeare and Company bookstore at 37 rue de la Bûcherie, across from Notre Dame. It is full of tiny rooms, piles of books, and a variety of oddities: a cat snoozing on an armchair, a desk with a typewriter and a broken chair, a small sink. Whitman named his daughter Sylvia Beach Whitman and she helped him run the shop until he died at age 98. She runs it still.

Bob found a book about Steinbeck and went to buy it. One clerk pointedly ignored him while the other clerk completed a transaction. When he turned to Bob, he said, "Oh, my father wrote this book." The first clerk smiled and said that she wanted Bob to meet the son, which is why she pretended to ignore him. The clerk autographed his father's book.

Outside Shakespeare and Company



Mosaic floor with inscription "Feed the Starving Writers"



shakespeareandcompany.com

Until next time,
-Lana

President	Laurie Sheehan
Vice President	Sharon Law Tucker
Secretary	Joyce Krieg
Treasurer	Clarissa Conn
Programs Chair	Dorothy Vriend
CCW Workshops	Sharon Law Tucker
Membership	Maria Skyttä
Publicity	Jason Warburg
Hospitality	Sarah Pruitt
Newsletter	Lana Bryan
Webmaster	Ken Jones
Writing Contests	Leslie Patiño
Assistant Webmaster	Kemberlee Shortland
Central Board Representative	Lana Bryan

Scribbles is the official monthly publication for members of Central Coast Writers, a branch of California Writers Club, a registered non-profit corporation. All material is copyright ©2017 by California Writers Club and may not be reproduced without permission. Opinions expressed under individual bylines do not necessarily represent an official position of, or endorsement by, Central Coast Writers or California Writers Club.

Scribbles is published by: Central Coast Writers,
Post Office Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Editorial Staff

Lana Bryan	Editor
Nancy Jacobs	Poetry Corner
Patricia Watson	Contests and Workshops
C. Jonathan Shoemaker	If the Shoe Fits
Michelle Smith	Member Profiles
Dorothy Vriend	Speaker Report
Leslie Patiño	Proofreader

CCW Website

centralcoastwriters.org

For anything *Scribbles* related:

Contact *Scribbles* editor Lana Bryan:

lane.bryan@writeteam.com

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 19

Laurie McLean

5:30 p.m.—CHECK-IN and DINNER

6:30 p.m.—MEETING

Point Pinos Grill

79 Asilomar Boulevard

Pacific Grove