



Scribbles

California Writers Club—Central Coast Writers Branch
centralcoastwriters.org
December 2016

Holiday Party Saturday, December 10, 2016 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. 1217 Portola Road, Pebble Beach

December 10 is the CCW annual members-only (plus one guest) holiday potluck and BYOB at a private home in Pebble Beach. Bill Minor will once again be on hand at the keyboards to entertain. Your invitation, with directions and map, was mailed to you!



Please remember to limit food to non-drippy, non-staining options, and beverages to clear liquids (no dark sodas, red wine, coffee, dark sauces). Small price to pay for a great venue. See your November 15 email from Laurie or your mailed invitation (hand-delivered at the recent meeting) for all the details. RSVP to Laurie erudite@mac.com, or call 831-324-0376 and leave a message, by December 5th.

Coming Tuesday, January 17

Patrice Vecchione

Developing the Still, Small Voice Within: Learning to Listen

How do we clear away the detritus of our lives and all that calls for our attention in order to listen to what most calls to us to be written? Patrice will discuss the link between inspiration and intuition, the myth of writer's block, and the good, the bad and the beauty of the internal critic.

Patrice Vecchione is the author of two nonfiction books including, most recently, from Simon & Schuster, [Step into Nature: Nurturing Imagination and Spirit in Everyday Life](#). She is also the author of two collections of poetry and the editor of several anthologies. In addition, she leads writing and poetry workshops on California's central coast and performs a one-woman multi-media show, *Women Dressed and Undressed: Women, Aging and Identity*.

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CCW President's Letter

By Laurie Sheehan

Be Merry

December? Really, already? How does that happen? I'm still confused by the fact that it's 2016, and, well, we're almost to the end of that.

In case you wondered about my November: I spent a harried month with writing, family, and time-sharing work. Days at the Naval Postgraduate School (always crazy); November is National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo for short (1667 words a day will almost get you a whole novel in one month); my husband, John, headed back to Newport to teach the next term (sad face); and I hosted Thanksgiving at my house for local family and friends. Almost a full week of no quiet time for Laurie. Whew. I'm exhausted just thinking about it.

Will December provide a respite? In many ways, I hope NOT! I enjoy my job, I'm looking forward to continuing to carve out time for writing, and John will be home for the holidays. Yay! There is much to do, most of it fun. Except the dreaded bane of my holiday existence—shopping (insert organ music, flash of lightning, and clap of thunder here). I will, once again, try to exercise my choice to “shop small and local.” Our area has many lovely, privately owned shops with small tokens of the season—art and books come to mind. And, seriously, if I thought I could get away with it, everyone I know would get a needy puppy or kitten as a holiday gift.

Oh, one more thing to add to my list: our fantastic CCW Holiday Party! If you've sent me an RSVP, thank you! If you haven't, let me know if you'll be attending. Members may bring a guest. I'll be making name tags, so make sure I know who will be joining us on Saturday, December 10th.

Remember, the Book Lover's Lap Quilt (right) will be raffled at the holiday party. Tickets are \$10, and you don't need to be present to win.

More information on the party and the quilt were in my November 15 email. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Until we meet again, Happy Writing!

Laurie





Horwitz: Messy, Method and Polished Drafts

Based on more than fifteen years experience as an editor, Stuart Horwitz has come up with his own approach to narrative structure, as outlined in his [Book Architecture](#) trilogy. He came to November's meeting with a host of practical suggestions on how to bring a book to completion in three drafts.

The first draft is about letting inspiration flow, and not worrying too much about organization, he said. What is important here is making the time to write—and Horwitz also suggests counting your words to provide a production goal. Why? Because “you can't simultaneously create and know the value of what you're writing,” he said.

Also key in the first draft is to keep the work moving along. Horwitz referred to the biblical story of Lot's wife, who turned to look back at the city she was fleeing from as disaster struck, against the commands of rescuing angels. She was turned into a pillar of salt. In order not to get stuck in one place, Horwitz cautioned, don't go back to edit what you wrote yesterday—just continue writing your story at this stage.

Consistency of theme is something to be tackled in the second draft, Horwitz said. Thoughtful analysis of the first draft may show that your theme has evolved from its original conception. Draft fatigue occurs if you don't recognize this, but keep trying to make it conform to something you have moved on from. Also important to recognize at this point is that while you're working to tighten the structure and the language, “not everything needs to change.” You don't want to rob a scene of crisp and fresh language by overworking it, he said.

The third draft is when you give your work a final polish and when you line up readers—Horwitz recommends three to seven. Because they are doing something important for you, Horwitz suggests doing something for them in return. As for the polishing, go where the material calls—you don't have to go through the book from beginning to end. Horwitz suggests writing a punch list of things you want to get done, doing them and moving on. “Remember, nothing is going to be perfect,” Horwitz said. “The point is not to go through life writing the same book all the time.”



Table captain Dick Guthrie tells a funny story



5-minute reader Carol Marquart



Speaker Stuart Horwitz



Joyce and Leslie with giant \$1,000 check from Scholastic

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW member:
Elizabeth de la Vega



In Memoriam



Barbara Truax

All of us in CWC-land were saddened and shocked to hear the news of the sudden death of Barbara Truax on October 31. “Barb” was a loyal and dedicated volunteer from the Marin branch who served several terms as CWC president in the early 2000s. She was the leading light in the legislative resolution declaring the third week in October as California Writers Week. Be sure to read Dave LaRoche’s tribute to Barbara Truax in the latest *CWC Bulletin*.

Longtime CCW members will remember Barb as the president of California Writers Club who met with a handful of local writers interested in forming a CWC branch here on the peninsula. This informal meeting in a motel room near Asilomar back in 2002 has become part of our club’s legend and lore, as it led directly to our chartering as the 14th CWC branch in July of 2002. [Submitted by Joyce Krieg]

Helping the Next Generation and Earning \$2K

By Joyce Krieg, CCW Secretary and CWC President

When California Writers Club President Joyce Krieg received an email in October from the Alliance for Young Writers and Artists requesting that the club provide volunteer judges for the Scholastic Writing Awards and offering an honorarium of \$2,000 to each CWC branch that participates, her eyes just about popped out of her head. She immediately spread the word to all 21 branches of this potential to help the next generation of writers and earn an impressive amount of money. Our Central Coast Writers executive committee immediately got behind the project, with Leslie Patiño offering to act as site coordinator.

As usual, our members have risen to the challenge. We’ve received a tremendous response to the call for volunteers put out by CCW President Laurie Sheehan in her November *Scribbles* column and in the reminder email that she sent before the November general meeting, and those of you who attended the November meeting were witness to the arm-twisting performed by Joyce Krieg and Leslie Patiño. Thank you to everyone who volunteered! Leslie will be sending out information about the judging process and an invitation to the “adjudication parties” she’s planning to hold at her home in early January, so if you signed up, watch your email. If you’d like to volunteer as a backup judge, contact Leslie at lnpatino@comcast.net.

As you can well imagine, a windfall of \$2,000 will give our treasury a tremendous lift, allowing us to continue to bring in high quality speakers for our monthly meetings, and to schedule workshops at reasonable cost to our members.

Announcements (continued)



Joyce Krieg makes like Publishers Clearing House with a giant check in the amount of \$1,000, to motivate members to volunteer to judge the Scholastic Writing Awards at the November meeting. Yes, we've also received a normal-size check which Treasurer Clarissa Conn has already deposited into our checking account. We'll receive the other \$1,000 when we finish the judging process.

2016-2017 Steinbeck Young Authors Coach Request

The National Steinbeck Center invites you to join us as a one-day Volunteer Writing Coach for the [2016-2017 Steinbeck Young Authors Program](#). The Program is an opportunity for middle school students to explore the excitement of writing and to enhance their writing skills by reading and discussing John Steinbeck's "The Red Pony." It's a chance to emphasize the importance of good writing skills and also show students that their community cares about them and their writing!

Volunteer as a writing coach for the 2016-2017 Steinbeck Young Authors Day of Writing. Students attend one of the two days of writing in order for volunteers and staff to focus on students and their writing. Writing coaches can select either Day of Writing or both Days of Writing: Monday, March 6, 2017, or Wednesday, March 8, 2017 (each from 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

As a writing coach, you would commit about three hours to:

- Attend the Volunteer Writing Coach training.
- Meet one-on-one with your assigned student, have lunch with them, and discuss the student's essay.
- Complete an evaluation form to help with ongoing development of the Steinbeck Young Authors Program.

This year we need 100 to 120 coaches! We hope you can share some of your time and talent with us! For a participation form, contact Marci Bracco Cain at marci@chatterboxpublicrelations.com.

Seeking Baseball-themed Scripts

Award- and festival-winning playwright and poet Jerry-Mac Johnston is looking for short (1 to 20 minutes) baseball-themed plays to accompany his play, *Dugout Memories*, to make a complete evening of baseball-themed plays. As of now, no deadline is set. There are no restrictions on content, except for the baseball theme. Contact Jerry-Mac Johnston with questions or submissions. Submit hard copies to 1438 S. Arcadia, Springfield, MO 65804, or email attachments to wurdriter@gmail.com. Jerry-Mac is a member of the Springfield (MO) Writer's Guild. springfieldwritersguild.org.



“Dancing in the Clouds”

Lynsey Howell

Lynsey Howell joined CCW less than a year ago, but she’s been journaling and writing poetry and short stories most of her life. Her current genre is children’s picture books, and in April, Lynsey raised seventy-five hundred dollars with a Kickstarter campaign to self-publish her first book, [Finding Amelia](#).

“A story about a female pilot who goes flying with her dog, Zulu,” *Finding Amelia* is based on “the oldest and sweetest airport dog” Lynsey met in Florida while preparing to earn her multi-engine seaplane rating.

“He was a character!” she remembers of the 2009 encounter. “He lay out in front of the desk like a mascot, and I wove him into a story that was already in my head about the time I went to an airshow in Watsonville, CA, and flew in an old Travel Air 4000 biplane out along the Pacific Ocean. The rest is magical!”

Lynsey graduated with a B.S. in airway science management from Kansas State University and has been flying planes for sixteen years.

“When I was in the second grade, an Army helicopter landed on our sports field,” she recalls. “I was mesmerized and spent the next ten years drawing helicopters and dreaming about dancing in the clouds. When it was finally time to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up, nothing else came to mind but being a pilot.”

Lynsey met her husband, also a pilot, while performing her dream job of flying seaplanes in the Caribbean. With several years of navigating a variety of aircraft under her belt, she’s accumulated many stories and sees writing as a necessary outlet “to get all those extra words out of [her] head.” But as a mom to a one-year-old daughter, finding time to write means an early start to her day, or giving up nap time.

It seems natural that Lynsey desires to be a travel writer. Her motto, “Write what’s in your heart, not your head,” is manifest in her thoughts about being a woman pilot.

“I have a certain relationship with my aircraft,” she says. “I listen to the sound of my airplane, and I can hear when the engine is running rough. I can feel when the props are out of sync, and I proudly clean the oil off the engine cowling. I become one with this beastly machine, because I am, oh, so touchy feely. [And] I can finesse a landing so smooth, you’ll think we’re still flying.”

Lynsey’s website is located at girlsgoflying.com.

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



Leonard Cohen



Multi-talented and an inspiration to all creative people, Leonard Cohen for six decades wrote poetry and many famous lyrics for songs. Born in a Jewish family on September 21, 1934, in Westmount, Canada, he was encouraged by his family to pursue his dreams. He did so with great gusto, including Jewish theology.

The year 1951 found Cohen at Montreal's McGill University where he studied writing, which became his number one priority. He graduated in 1955 and in 1956 McGill University published [Let Us Compare Mythologies](#). The book received wonderful reviews, but was not a best seller. He attended Columbia University for postgraduate work and then returned to Canada.

Cohen became known for his poetic lyrics, iconic songs, and baritone voice in the 1960's, a time when his talent really flowered. Leonard liked women and, hoping to attract them, he took up the guitar. He had many romances and relationships, some with famous women, including Janis Joplin. He formed the group called The Buckskin Boys, and was influenced by the poets Federico Lorca and Jack Kerouac.

He developed a love for poetry and enjoyed a number of successes. His book [The Spice-Box of Earth](#) was published and met with both literary and commercial success. The royalties from this book combined with a small inheritance allowed Cohen to live in Hydra, Greece, where he did a lot of writing. Some of the books that he wrote during this time include [Flowers for Hitler](#) (1964), [Parasites of Heaven](#) (1966), [The Favourite Game](#) (1963), and [Beautiful Losers](#) (1966).



Critics often compared him to James Joyce. However, some criticized him for being overtly sexual. It was at this time that he decided to leave writing because he felt that he could not support himself as a writer.

Cohen loved to frequent bars, night spots, and diners, where he found inspiration for his poems and songs. In 1972 Leonard began a family with his girlfriend Suzanne Elrod. They had two children together, a boy and a girl.

Cohen is well known for the song "Hallelujah." Other songs that became popular are "Bird on the Wire," "Like a Drunk in a Midnight Choir," and "I Have Tried in My Way to Be Free."

This is what the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in 2008, had to say about Leonard Cohen. "For six decades, Leonard Cohen revealed his soul to the world through poetry and song—his deep and timeless humanity touching our very core. Simply brilliant. His music and words will resonate forever."

Leonard Cohen died November 7, 2016.

[Ed. note: Sylvie Simmons, author [I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen](#) spoke to CCW in May, 2016.]

Bird on a Wire

Like a bird on the wire
Like a drunk in a midnight choir
I have tried in my way to be free
Like a worm on a hook
Like a knight from some old fashioned book
I have saved all my ribbons for thee
If I, if I have been unkind
I hope that you can just let it go by
If I, if I have been untrue
I hope you know it was never to you

Like a baby, stillborn
Like a beast with his horn
I have torn everyone who reached out for me
But I swear by this song
And by all that I have done wrong
I will make it all up to thee
I saw a beggar leaning on his wooden crutch
He said to me, you must not ask for so much
And a pretty woman leaning in her darkened door
She cried to me, hey, why not ask for more?

Oh like a bird on the wire
Like a drunk in a midnight choir I have tried in my way
to be free

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Tribute for Leonard

Leonard Cohen
if you died today
I would kneel on your grave

Decades ago, when I was still a virgin
you undressed me
with your song

Imagine having tea and oranges
in the afternoon by the river

I followed you to Rotterdam
Bicycled through villages
to sit in your church

The pretty girls
never far away
I kept my distance then

Saw you in Oakland
a few months ago
half a lifetime gone by

Spent an evening
“just on the other side of intimacy”
as you described it

You so elegant
words sharp and smooth
as your double breasted suit

Mafia hat against your heart
You won me over

“Forget your perfect offering,” you said
“there is a crack in everything —
that’s how the light gets in”

You who have known defeat
and come back
singing with angels

By Dorothy Vriend (CCW member), Berkeley, Sept. 20, 2009

Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



CONTESTS

AUTHORS.Me Romance Me Novel Writing Contest

Deadline: December 15, 2016

Entry Fee: Free

Website: authors.me/romance-contest

Judges: Marissa Sangiacomo (Macmillan Publishers), Lexi Small (Hachette Book Group), Katherine Pelz (Penguin Random House). Winners will be announced February 14, 2017.

Prizes: 1st prize: \$200.00, featured submission to Partner Publishers and Agents, Query consultation, and publication of 1st chapter on [Romance Junkies](#); 2nd Prize: \$100.00, featured submission to Partner Publishers and Agents, Query consultation; 3rd Prize: \$50.00 and featured submission to Partner Publishers and Agents.

Submissions: Open call to writers of a Romance Novel for Y/A or adult audiences. Novel must be a minimum 40,000 word entry. Story must be driven by a romantic relationship with an optimistic satisfying ending. Entries can be a 30-page sample of full manuscript. All entries must use the Authors.me platform; no mail or email entries accepted.

Quinzaine Poetry Contest

Deadline: December 14, 2016, 11:59 EST

Entry Fee: \$9.95

Website: fanstory.com/contestdetails.jsp?id=103452

Judge: Fanstory Submission Review Committee

Prizes: \$100.00 delivered by PayPal, or a Visa or Amazon gift card. Feedback given for submissions.

Submissions: See website for guidelines. A quinzaine is a poem with three lines containing fifteen syllables; no rhymes. There are seven syllables in the first line, five in the second line, and three in the third line (7/5/3). The first line makes a statement. The next two lines ask a question relating to that statement.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Genre-LA, Speculative Fiction Creative Writing Conference

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Los Angeles West Side, Culver City, CA

Date: January 27-29, 2017

Details and Contact: wcrwriters.com/genrela/aboutregistration.html

In-depth conference for Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Steampunk, Cyberpunk, Military S.F., Paranormal Romance, Supernatural, Alternate History, Epic Fantasy, Space Opera, or Superhero Story. Work with experienced bestselling authors, agents, publishers, editors, and speakers.

Deadline/Cost: Open now. Prices vary by dates and events purchased, \$149.00 to \$449.00. Food and lodging not included. Complete Gold Package \$499.00 through December 31, 2016.

Roxanne McDonald Writing in Freedom Day Long Writing Retreat

Location: Freedom, CA

Date: January 28, 2017

Details: One day supportive writing workshop, email Roxanne McDonald (roxanmcdonaldconsulting@gmail.com).

Deadline/Cost: Open now. \$125.00

Carmel Thursday Writer's Group with Roxanne McDonald 3:00-6:00 p.m., Thursdays

Date: Begins Thursday, January 26, 2017. Contact roxanmcdonaldconsulting@gmail.com for list of prices and dates.



Let It Flow

Electric power travels through the wire
only when power is given out
at the other end.
When I do not give,
what power do I have?

In December, people make plans to sit together and watch Ebenezer Scrooge or Disney's Uncle Scrooge as the misers decide to stop hoarding all they have and share something with others.

We really don't need a special time or reason to share what we have. The propane heater we took on camping trips in the past and the clothes we haven't worn for years can be much appreciated by the homeless.

We learn what fun it is to share at an early age. Writers have ideas to share with others. It would be a shame to allow these gems to go unsaid. So why not use our power to share?

I know that there is power going to the lamp, but the power doesn't flow until I turn on the switch. Yes, it's there; just not being used. The same is true of a stagnant pond that used to be next to the tool shed. After I had cut a channel for the water to flow to a dry part of the yard, not only did plants grow in that area, but fresh plants started popping up where the pond was.

Isn't the same true of writing?

I once had a small group of teenage students who were convinced they could not write. I said, "Take twenty minutes and write about anything. Keep the pencil moving. Write 'and...and...and' until you think of more to say."

After twenty minutes, I said "Okay, pass them in."

One of them said, "Kin I read mine to the class?" Other hands went up and one blurted out, "I'm next."

Kids who had felt powerless no longer felt incompetent and stagnant in that regard. Like the pond, it had started to flow. And it felt good.

Someone once told me, "Jonathan, you will sit through a conversation without saying a word, but once you open your mouth we can't shut you up!" It's like a pen I haven't used for a while. Once I get it going, it just continues to flow.

Is it possible for us to become cold, stagnant and blocked if we don't allow it to flow?

And doesn't it feel good to let it pour forth freely?

The more we pour forth our original ideas, the faster fresh inspiration flows into us, and the more fluid we become expressing things in various ways. If I stop writing to get a cup of coffee and then something occurs to me, I have to sit right back down and record it. I can't stop when I'm on a roll!

Things need to be shared.

We have the power. We can do it!

If not we, then who? If not now, when?

Tempus fugit. Carpe Diem.

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

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan



The Jos. Boston & Co. Store

Aren't we all thinking "How could it be December already?" Whether you love the holiday season or look upon it with dread, it's here. Some of us feel the responsibility of making the holidays merry and bright for all. Some of us have put all, or most, of that behind us and just wish for some quiet time with family or friends.

I volunteer once a month at the Jos. Boston & Co. store, also called [Casa del Oro](#), at 210 Olivier Street, off of Pacific Street.

A 4-hour stint at the shop yields great rewards, as visitors from all over the world find their way from Fisherman's Wharf to explore Old Monterey.



The store opened in 1849 selling necessities and sundries to locals and miners, who would bring their gold dust for assaying and storage in the store's safe. The store closed in 1862 and was bought by David Jacks, who owned the property for 50 years. The adobe was home to his son Will Jacks for a while. Now, it's a store once again. The [Historic Garden League](#) stocks Victorian linens, knick knacks, tea pots, and dozens of books and fun, old-fashioned items for children.

I'm thinking of it now because it is dressed in its holiday finery and ready for your visit. A great time to go is during Christmas in the Adobes, an event that is over two evenings: December 9 and 10, from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tickets are pre-sold here: parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26922.

If not then, do drop by on a Thursday through Sunday, from 11:00 to 3:00. Bring visiting family and friends to see an unusual building and souvenirs from a different time.

Happy holidays to all!

**Until next time,
-Lana**

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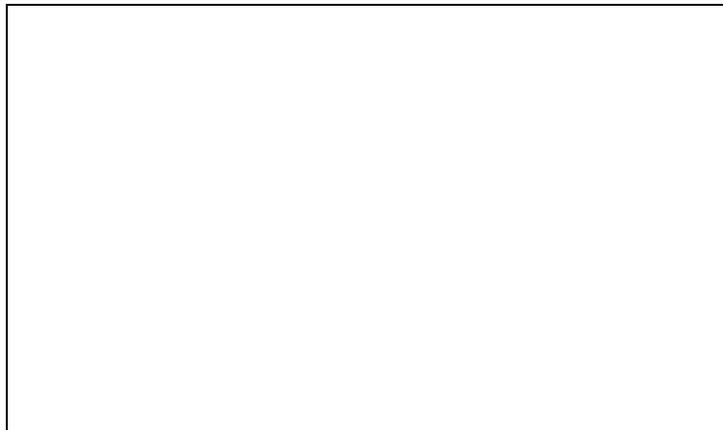
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Not yet a member of CCW?

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



California Writers Club
Central Coast Writers Branch
Post Office Box 997
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Saturday, December 10

Holiday Party

1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Details Inside