



# Scribbles

California Writers Club—Central Coast Writers Branch

[centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

February 2018

## Tuesday, February 20

### Scott Thomas Anderson

**A Threat Past the Pages: The Future of Reading and Writing in the Digital Age**



Award-winning journalist **Scott Thomas Anderson** will explore how prose, poetry, and creativity will make or break the English language in the digital age. He will discuss the danger of our youngest generations learning linguistic impulses through hyper-abbreviated platforms like Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram. He'll consider what happens to the brain's ability to focus when we trade a book's imaginative doorway for the swamp of fragmented, multi-media distractions. He'll also look at the future of the written word if today's writers, poets, artists and teachers don't recognize a threat against it.

For more than a decade Anderson has worked as a crime, culture, and travel journalist, writing in the center of a media metamorphosis that continues to alter how Americans share their everyday experience

Scott is a staff writer for the *Sacramento News & Review*. His work has appeared in numerous publications including *Future Travel* and *The Irish Independent*, Dublin's largest daily newspaper. His nonfiction book, [Shadow People: How Meth-driven Crime is Eating at the Heart of Rural America](#), is an exploration of the nation's modern methamphetamine crisis. In 2015 his newest nonfiction book was released, [The Cutting Four-Piece: Crime and Tragedy in an Era of Prison Overcrowding](#). To learn more about Anderson, visit his website at [scottthomasanderson.com](http://scottthomasanderson.com).

## Coming on March 20

### C.S. Lakin

**Shoot Your Novel: Cinematic Secrets to Supercharge Your Story**

We live in an era where readers are used to the fast-paced, visual play-out of movies and TV stories. How can a writer utilize the techniques of screenwriting—specifically a variety of camera angles—to play out a story so the reader can “see” it and experience it as powerfully as a film? We'll explore terms like Zoom, Match Cut, Close Up, Pan, Pull Back, Establishing Shot, and others with examples from successful novels to show how it's done.

**C. S. Lakin** is a novelist, copy editor, and writing coach. She has penned twenty novels, including a relational drama, a seven-book fantasy series for adults, and a series of writing craft books called *The Writer's Toolbox Series*. She works professionally as a copyeditor and writing coach and guest blogs on top writing blogs, such as Writers' Digest and Grammarly, and teaches workshops around the U.S. Visit her website: [livewritethrive.com](http://livewritethrive.com).

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### Optimism

I'm always intrigued when things that seemingly have no association come together to illuminate an idea. For instance, in January two disparate things happened. First, John gave me a special issue *Time Magazine* with a theme: The Optimists. Second, we went to see Anne Lamott speak at the Sunset Center.

The short vignettes in the magazine were inspiring. Many were profound in their simplicity, and all had an uplifting message. Optimism flourished. I especially enjoyed Steven Pinker's\* piece on how we really should see the bright side of things. He says that "Irrational pessimism is... driven by a morbid interest in what can go wrong." And, he points out that "people rank tornadoes (which kill dozens of Americans a year) as more dangerous than asthma (which kills thousands), presumably because tornadoes make for better television."

Anne Lamott's talk was wonderful. She spoke about the diversity of her writing, and she pointed out that she seems to write just as she talks. Now when I read one of her books I'll hear her voice, I'll see her mannerisms, and I think I'll get even more from her written words. Here's the thing, though, she stood in front of her audience anything but overly polished. Wonderful, yes. Entertaining, absolutely. Profound, often. But, she also let herself get carried away in the telling of the tale. She forgot a few things, lost her place, she uummmm'd a bit, and had several long pauses. (Purposely? Who knows?) The point is, she did many of the things that each of us beats ourselves up over, but those so-called "mistakes" didn't seem to matter. None of that took away from her talk at all, and, in fact, it made her seem more human, more normal, more approachable. She just talked—as though everyone in the audience were friends. Her topics ranged from current politics, to women's marches, to addiction recovery, to writing. She was always honest, but she was able to keep every subject filled with hope. She was optimistic that there could be a positive outcome no matter what the circumstance. And, there's the common thread—optimism.

So, as we begin the second month of 2018 I hope each of you will find optimism. Maybe we can allow ourselves to be a bit less critical of ourselves and others. I'll leave you with another quote:

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."  
—Anne Frank, *Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex: A Collection of her Short Stories, Fables, and Lesser-Known Writings, Revised Edition*

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

\*Steven Pinker is a professor of Psychology at Harvard and the author of 10 books.

### Photography at Meetings

California Writers Club, Central Coast Writers Branch, provides this notice to inform our members and guests at our events that still photographs are often taken during meetings. These pictures are occasionally posted on our website and in this newsletter. If, for some reason, you don't want your likeness used, you must notify us in advance.

## How to Make Nonfiction Absorbing —Amy Ettinger



CCW members received a metaphorical treat as Amy Ettinger discussed both the path her book ([\*Sweet Spot: An Ice Cream Binge Across America\*](#)) traveled to publication and how she learned to make non-fiction an absorbing read.

Amy started by telling how ice cream smoothed the rough edges of her childhood—as the magical salve of Jamoca Almond Fudge put hardships into perspective—and emphasized an American historical connection, stating “the collective obsession with ice cream goes all the way back to George Washington.” Ms. Ettinger’s book sold on a proposal of two completed chapters and a vague outline for the rest, which generated the resultant pressure of a one-year deadline that included considerable travel and research.

Amy shared one feature that made her book not only appetizing for the publisher, but accessible to readers: *Sweet Spot* is essentially a character-driven tale. The challenge, therefore, became how to find characters to enliven a non-fiction work? In an age of convenience, old-timey nostalgia proved central to America’s obsession with ice cream, which empowered the artisan. Seeing an opportunity, Amy focused on the real-life characters who inhabit the world of ice-cream, and there she found a mother lode on the Rocky Road.

In Santa Cruz, Amy explored the agony of making a product—the perfect pistachio ice cream—that sells for less than it costs to make. At Penn State University she sat in on a 137-year old food science ice-cream program. In Milwaukee, Amy interviewed a legendary frozen custard impresario who took over the business from his father, who in turn had started making custard in 1942. In Brooklyn, she rode an ice-cream truck to observe first-hand the conflict between rival peddlers.

California also challenged Amy to reset her bounds of acceptable ice cream flavor combinations. Near West Petaluma, she witnessed prime water *buffala* milk used not to make mozzarella but instead exquisite gelato for high end restaurants. In Los Angeles, she interviewed an artisan maker’s homage to Dolley Madison’s passion for oyster ice cream. In San Francisco Amy sampled foie gras ice cream. If not the flavors, the depth of character development and details of human interest proved helpful and tasty additions to the book.

Ms. Ettinger’s talk also exposed two pieces of advice for non-fiction writers specifically, but all writers more generally. First, Amy urged us to expand our awareness of the narrative thread by emphasizing the voice used in its presentation. Amy used the same voice she’d use to entertain a group of friends at a party. I’ve never thought of voice quite that way before.

Second, Amy said she included both riveting characters AND well known craftsmen, such as Jerry Greenfield of Ben and Jerry’s. By including both types of characters, Amy appealed to both the art and the business of her craft.

One may read this book to learn about American making, selling, and craving ice cream, but along the way may end up learning a lot about America, as well as the craft of writing. Thank you Dorothy Vriend for finding yet another entertaining speaker who also helped us all see our common passion for writing, and in this case for ice cream, from a unique and fascinating viewpoint. I hope your month consists of more pistachio than oyster ice cream.



5-minute reader Brenda  
Musehl-Taylor



Speaker Amy Ettinger



Quilter Laurie Sheehan with  
quilt winner Dee Smith



Our Prez with  
Dick and Cindy Guthrie

# Announcements

## Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

Robin Jepsen  
Jeffrey C. Lewis



## Member Congratulations

On Saturday, February 10 at 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, [6825 Camino Arroyo](#) in Gilroy, will have a talk and book signing event to launch publication of *The Senior Sleuths: Dead in Bed* by mystery writer, **M. Glenda Rosen**. To celebrate Valentine's Day, B&N is offering a "Sweetheart Deal:" A chance to win one of five, ten-dollar B&N gift certificates with purchase of book. Level Best Books, in a three-book deal, is publishing the series with *Book Two: Dead in Seat 4A* expected to be released later in 2018 and *Book Three: Dead on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the Month* in 2019.

## Author of *Sharks of the World* at Pacific Grove Library

Jennifer Schmidt submits this event: Dr. Dave Ebert will speak at the Pacific Grove Library on February 22, 7:30 p.m. Author of *Sharks of the World*, he will be discussing the search for Lost Sharks. He is responsible for the discovery of several previously unknown species and is the Director of the Pacific Shark Research Center at Moss Landing. His "Field Guide to Sharks of the World" brochure will be available for purchase, as will his book. Suggested donation \$20.

## CCW August Barbecue

Whispering Pines Park is ours for the annual Member Barbecue on August 12 this year. Save the date!

## Deadline for Advertising Your Book

*The CWC Bulletin* is scheduled to come out mid-March of 2018. The deadline for individual advertising is February 28, 2018. You, as members, can purchase an ad that will reach almost 2,000 writers at a low, low price. Follow the directions on [calwriters.org](#).

## 2018 San Francisco Writers Conference

Thursday, February 15th through Sunday, February 18th at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. [Sfwriters.org](#) To volunteer in the conference's exhibition booth, contact Tim Jollymore from the Berkeley Branch at: [tim\\_jollymore@yahoo.com](mailto:tim_jollymore@yahoo.com).

## CCW Facebook Page

Did you know we have a Facebook page? Search for Central Coast Writers and there we are. You can use it for making recommendations, asking questions, or providing information to other members, or maybe for finding a ride-share to a literary event. Read a good book? Share it! (Note: You need a Facebook account to post on our page.)

## Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival

Nancy Jacobs (monthly contributor to "The Poetry Corner") wants us to know about this poetry festival: New Jersey Performing Arts Center & Newark Downtown Arts District will feature four days of poetry reading. Participants to be announced in April. Go to [DodgePoetry.org](#) to book rooms at early bird rates.

## Networking Aloud at Old Capitol Books

February 13, Networking Aloud at Old Capitol Books, 559 Tyler St., Monterey, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A monthly event (every second Tuesday) open to the public. Fifteen to twenty minutes from a featured reader followed by a literary open mic. Come early and sign up for a five-to-seven minute reading from any genre: prose, screenplay, poetry, essay, etc. This month's featured writer is Joanna Burrows of Santa Cruz, an artist and community organizer. Drawing from her own experiences of racism, she remains committed to empowering people of color and women to share their stories.

## CCW's Impact in Monterey County and Beyond Submitted by Leslie Patiño

Did you know that Central Coast Writers is involved with two annual teen writing contests?

On January 11, nineteen members wrapped up two weeks of scoring hundreds of works in 14 genres for the national Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Their commitment brought in a \$2000 honorarium for the club, which helps us fund great speakers for meeting and workshops, cover the venue costs for our August barbeque and December holiday party and more.

In spite of colds, flu, family emergencies and other surprises, this year's dedicated judges all made the Scholastic deadline. Dennis Hamilton even finished his panels and then spent more hours helping a fellow judge who had an unexpected complication.

Our thanks to the 2017 Scholastic judges: Clarissa Conn, Laura Curry, Harold Grice, Dennis Hamilton, Patricia Hamilton, Evelyn Helminen, Ken Holden, Ned Huston, Kelly Jensen, Victoria Johnson, Alka Joshi, DS Kane (Dave Spiselman), Liz Kendall, James Lake, Leslie Patiño, Sarah Pruitt, Maria Skyttä, Janet Tezak, and Jason Warburg.

Work for the CCW Short Story Contest for high school seniors and juniors in Monterey County began in November and will culminate with the winners attending our April meeting. Email and snail mail information about the contest has gone out to all Monterey County high schools and English teachers. During the month of February, seniors and juniors can enter a single short story based on this year's photo prompt by Pagrovian Brooks Leffler. In March, a CCW committee will judge entries over three rounds, finally selecting 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners and three Honorable Mentions.

This contest is the result of your generosity at monthly raffles. We are able to again offer a total of \$750 in prize money and, for the first time this year, three \$50-awards to one teacher chosen by each of the top contest winners.

Last year's winners hailed from Carmel High, Everett Alvarez, Stevenson, Pacific Grove High and Santa Catalina. If there's any doubt about the value of the contest, here's the reply from one upon learning of her win:



"I am completely overjoyed to receive this news! I'm very honored to be able to share my writing with such an amazing group of people. This is a really great accomplishment for me, and it has boosted my confidence in my writing and positively impacted my attitude towards it."—2017 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner *Bessie Nicolaides*, *Everett Alvarez High School*

For more information about the 2018 Short Story Contest, visit the club website, [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org). If you'd like to help judge either contest in the future, contact Leslie Patiño, [lnpatino@comcast.net](mailto:lnpatino@comcast.net).

### Online Member Profiles

Although we have 162 members, only 44 member profiles are on our [Central Coast Writers website](http://CentralCoastWriters.com). If you are not on it, add yours this month! Clarissa Conn is willing to take your photograph to use with the profile. Use the link "Add your profile" at the top of the [Member Profiles](#) page. Already have a profile? Sometimes life changes and your profile should, too. Use the link "[Update your information](#)" to submit your current profile.

## New CCW Workshop

# So you've published a book ... Now What?

Saturday, March 10th



Congratulations! Finishing a book-length manuscript and getting it up on Amazon is a huge accomplishment! But now...how do you get the word out so readers can actually find your book?

How does “the little guy” get reviews and media coverage if you’re not published by one of the big, traditional New York houses?

Find out at our upcoming workshop!

Central Coast Writers Presents  
**“HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR BOOK”**  
with PR expert Diane Hinds

- Targeting your audience
- Creating a key message
- Media releases: writing and distributing
- Affordable publicity and advertising

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 10:00 A.M. – NOON**

(doors open at 9:30 a.m.)

MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE in the  
SAM KARAS ROOM

(plenty of free parking)

\$30 MEMBERS

\$40 NON-MEMBERS



Diane Hinds has promoted some of the biggest names in the business—Aretha Franklin, Barry Manilow, Whitney Houston and the Four Tops. After a career in entertainment promotion, she became interested in book publicity when she realized how difficult it was for independent authors to get reviews and media attention for their work. Now she’s a highly sought-after presenter on the topic of book publicity, whose clients include best-selling mystery author Anne Perry. Diane is based in the UK and is making a rare West Coast tour, so don’t miss this opportunity to pick up valuable tips from one of the top experts in the field. This workshop is designed for self-published authors, but is sure to include advice we can all benefit from.

This workshop is designed for self-published authors, but is sure to include advice we can all benefit from. Don’t miss it, register early!

[Information Flyer and Mail-in Registration & Payment](#)

[Online Registration - Online Payment Option](#)



## “Proof of Existence” Erin McClure

Erin McClure’s writing has its origins in prehistoric times (sort of), extending back to the first grade when she wrote a story about a dinosaur. Today, her demanding and chaotic schedule makes finding time to write hard to come by for the single mother and full-time insurance agent who hails out of Carmel.

“I try to write every weekend and a little every night,” Erin says, “but life has a way of making plans more of a wish list than anything.”

When asked what inspired her to take up writing, Erin explains that her motivation emanates from a compulsion she’s never been able to fully understand. “Now that I’m older, I enjoy sharing my story ideas, but, primarily, I have an urge to get words onto paper that express the scenes that form in my mind—usually when I rather they wouldn’t, like ten in the morning, when I should only be thinking about work.”

Erin jots down ideas whenever they present themselves. When she’s ready to sit down and write, she locks herself in her room, plugs her ears, and wrestles with that compulsion.

“Thankfully, I do find time on weekends when there’s no one to bother me but my cat,” she says, “and [when] bouts of insomnia help make time for research.”

Erin’s genres are mysteries and thrillers, but she’s also written science fiction and fantasy which, she says, reflect her “unique love for world-building.” Though she’s had no formal writing education, she’s learned much about the craft by diving into it.

“If I had to give any tip—though, as an unpublished writer, I say this with a wry smile—it would be that [writers] shouldn’t be petrified of sharing their work even if it makes them sick doing it. Also, as silly as it might feel at times, reading books about how to enhance your writing is helpful.”

Erin joined CCW a little over a year ago and is impressed with the caliber and insightfulness of our guest speakers. “This club has meant a great deal to me,” she says. “I have the same aspirations of all writers—to one day complete something I’m eventually proud of and to get it published. I would like to think that when I die, a book will be my legacy that survives after I’m gone and, hopefully, after everyone who knew me is gone, so that somewhere in the world, there’s proof I existed.”

*Michelle Smith’s articles have been published in a variety of magazines. Her website is [theebonyquill.com](http://theebonyquill.com).*



# James Russell Lowell



## Poetry Corner

By Nancy Jacobs



February 22, 1819 brought James Russell Lowell into this world. His parents were Charles and Harriet Spence Lowell. He came from a long line of very successful people—judges, lawyers, business people—in the Cambridge, Massachusetts area. His love was poetry and literature. Shortly after he graduated from Harvard with a law degree, he published his first collection of poems inspired by Maria White. He married her in 1844. They had four children.

Lowell was a member of the Fireside Poets, often called “schoolroom poets” because of their adherence to conservative traditional forms with strict construction of rhyme and meter. They wrote about religion, morality, and politics. Teachers often used Lowell's work in the classroom. *The Vision of Sir Launfal*, an Arthurian subject, was a popular book in schools. Lowell was also a critic, editor, diplomat, and ardent abolitionist. He published in anti-slavery newspapers such as *The Anti Slavery Standard*. He was against the Mexican War. Lowell is unequaled in writing Pindaric odes and satiric verse.

Lowell's many poetry books include *Poems* (1844), *Poems: Second Series* (1848), and *A Fable for Critics* (1848). Tragedy struck in 1853 when his wife Maria and three of their four children became ill and died. Mired in grief, it was not until 1855 that he resumed his career by returning to Harvard to replace Longfellow as professor of modern languages and literature. In 1856 he traveled all over Europe. When he returned he taught at Harvard for the next twenty years. From Germany he brought back the habit of allowing students to read with him privately. This was a wonderful inspiration for students. Romance and marriage came into his life in 1857, when he married Frances Dunlop, the governess for his remaining child. Lowell was editor of *The Atlantic Monthly* for five years, and then editor of *The North American Review* for ten years.

Lowell had a short political career as well. He was appointed Minister to Spain in 1877 and served as Minister to England from 1880 to 1885. After his second wife died in 1885, he became a recluse, but continued to publish prose and poetry until his death on August 12, 1891 at age 72.

*The Bigelow Papers* (1848) is one of the finest political satires in American literature, a complex work with different personas. Lowell writes about the persona Hosea Bigelow, “I found myself in a strait between two perils...I was in danger of being carried away beyond the limit of my own opinions and...I feared the risk of seeming to vulgarize a sacred and deep conviction.” The difficulty with *The Bigelow Papers* is that it cannot be appreciated until the reader is familiar with what is being satirized and the time period of the satire.

Sadly, Lowell's work was never well received. When it was published, it was considered too difficult for readers. and today he is considered the battleground between North and South. He has been labeled a Victorian, conservative, academic, and often genteel.

Lowell was a master of writing odes. He was asked to write one for the graduation ceremonies at Harvard University, July 21, 1865. Writing this ode was quite an ordeal for Lowell. However, he came through with one of his very best.

### “Ode recited at commemoration of the living soldiers and dead soldiers of Harvard University” by James Russell Lowell

Our slender life runs rippling by, and glides  
Into the silent hollow of the past;  
What is there that abides  
To make the next age better for the last? (St. 3)

The little that we do  
Is but half-nobly true;  
With our laborious hiving  
What men call treasure, and the gods call dross,  
Life seems a jest of Fate's contriving,  
Only secure in every one's conniving,  
A long account of nothings paid with loss. (St. 3)

Nature, they say, doth dote,  
And cannot make a man  
Save on some worn-out plan,  
Repeating us by rote. (St. 5)

Here was a type of the true elder race,  
And one of Plutarch's men talked with us face to face. (St. 5)

They come transfigured back,  
Secure from change in their high-hearted ways,  
Beautiful evermore, and with the rays  
Of morn on their white Shields of Expectation! (St. 8)



### CONTESTS

#### **The Stella Kupferberg Memorial Short Story Prize**

**Deadline:** Midnight EST on March 1, 2018

**Entry Fee:** \$25.00 per story

**Website:** [writingclasses.com/contest/stella-kupferberg-memorial-short-story-prize-2018](http://writingclasses.com/contest/stella-kupferberg-memorial-short-story-prize-2018)

**Prize:** \$1000.00, a free 10-week, Gotham Writers course, and the winning work will be recorded live read by a celebrity on NPR's selected shorts.

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for full details. Work in any style or subject matter 750 words or less. All work must be previously unpublished, submitted electronically, multiple submission allowed.

#### **The Tusculum Review Chapbook Contest**

**Deadline:** March 1, 2018, snail mail only

**Entry Fee:** \$20.00 per manuscript, checks and money orders to *The Tusculum Review* accepted.

**Website:** [web.tusculum.edu/tusculumreview/contest](http://web.tusculum.edu/tusculumreview/contest)

**Prize:** \$1000.00 and publication in *The Tusculum Review*.

**Submission Guidelines:** Each Chapbook 20-30 pages, 1 poem per page. See website for full guidelines. Multiple submissions allowed with \$20.00 fee per submission. Individual poems may have previous publication, book as a whole should be previously unpublished.

#### **Mary McCarthy Prize In Short Fiction**

**Deadline:** January 1 to March 15, 2018

**Entry Fee:** \$29.00 **Judge:** SCIBA Award-winning author Aimee Bender

**Website:** [sarabandebooks.org/mccarthy](http://sarabandebooks.org/mccarthy)

**Prize:** \$2000.00 plus publication and a standard royalty publishing contract

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for details. Submit either electronically or by post. Enter collections of short stories, novellas, or a short novel. Each manuscript should be between 150-250 pages.

### WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

#### **San Francisco Writers Conference**

**Date:** President's Day Weekend, February 15-18, 2018

**Website:** [sfwriters.org](http://sfwriters.org). See website for full conference details and registration.

**Cost:** \$895.00 until February 1, 2018, Speed Dating with Agents \$75.00

**Location:** Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco, CA.

#### **Screenwriting Essentials for 2018**, sponsored by the Monterey Film Commission

**Date:** February 24, 2018

**Website:** [filmmonterey.org/event](http://filmmonterey.org/event)

**Register:** Screenwriting 2018.Eventbrite.com

**Location:** 460 Pierce St. Downtown Monterey, Irvine Auditorium at MIIS

**Cost:** \$30.00 regular admission, \$10.00 for students. Optional networking lunch \$15.00, requires pre-registration.

**Speaker:** Screenwriter/producer Madeline DiMaggio. One-on-one review/pitch sessions of screenplays available, requiring pre-registration.



## **“A Space in Time”** **—a totally different perspective**

There for a while, I got out of the habit of writing daily.

I used to review the following day’s schedule before retiring and set my alarm a half hour early to provide space for morning writing before beginning that day’s activities. I had a spare half hour to write before leaving the house.

While I was in the tub, an idea worth discussing would pop into my mind, or maybe a topic from the Cryptoquote would inspire me. I was then eager to put the half hour to good use.

I would imagine a friend who had strong feelings on the topic, and I was inspired to write a note to her/him (which I never sent) expounding an alternate view. In that way, I kept the opposing view fresh in my mind, so I didn’t just rant and show disrespect for others’ opinions.

If I noticed something related to the topic during the day, I jotted a short reminder to myself. If it turned out to be of some value, I often found myself returning to it the following morning; or possibly later in the same day while waiting to meet someone.

It all started with a relaxed half hour in the morning.

Now, once again, I am productively using that extra time, with my cup of coffee and soft music. No hurry—no worry; just relax and write.

Sometimes, in the middle of writing, I may become seduced off course by a thought that is somewhat related to the intended topic, but definitely does not pertain to the general purpose of the piece. If the new material strongly grabs my attention, I can start another sheet of paper or open a new document for the fresh ideas as they flow easily onto the page. Once I am satisfied, I record them for future consideration and get back to the original piece. Good—new topic to write about. Now, where was I ?

Oh! Time for a coffee refill. And look how sunny it is in the garden. I’ll grab a pad and pencil and kick back outside. I’ve got a little extra time to write today.

I really enjoy writing on a sheet of paper. Words flow more easily when I don’t have to stop to correct an auto-spell or cut and paste when I choose to switch the positions of two synonyms because they sound better this way and portray a clearer image, rather than how they first came out of the pen. Inserting a comma, or changing a bulky sentence to two short ones can be a lot easier in longhand.

If a distraction is irritating, I will move away from it—or change the station. I just deal with it, smile, and enjoy the flow of words. When it’s time to go, stopping is no big deal. When I come back to it, I can proofread, correct and continue. It’s fun!

**Be well, and enjoy!**  
**Jonathan**

## The Last Word

By Lana Bryan



### When was the last time...

When was the *last* time you did something for the *first* time?

This was a question that my helpmate Bob posed (via text message) to a group of women meeting for relaxation, laughter, and drinking on the Oregon Coast. Each of us had to ponder that one for a while.

"I retired!"

"I climbed a silk and hung from a trapeze!"

"We put together a puzzle and then colored it."

"I published a cookbook at the age of 58!"

"I bought a car that I had been thinking about since 2009, a Fiat Spider, finally available in the U.S. in 2017."

"I poured wine for tasting at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for a wine festival weekend."

"I went on a Mt. Rainier hiking and camping trip and took a glacial lake dip. Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!"

So, how about you? When was the *last* time you did something for the *first* time? Was it writing related? Travel related? Food related?

If you went to a country you'd not been to before, congratulations!

If you wrote every day for a week (pick your own time period), good for you!

If you braved going to a critique group for the first time, bravo!

If you tried eating bugs, better you than me!

So, in 2018, make a note when you do something for the first time. (Breaking bones counts, but don't try it.)

Because of my broken ankle, I'll have lots of items to tell my friends when we meet again in June for our annual retreat: mastering a wheelchair, for example, or being treated with lasers and electrical stimulation. Learning to walk—oh wait, I did that once before.

Smiling until next time,  
Lana

## CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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](http://centralcoastwriters.org)

### For anything *Scribbles* related:

Contact *Scribbles* editor Lana Bryan:

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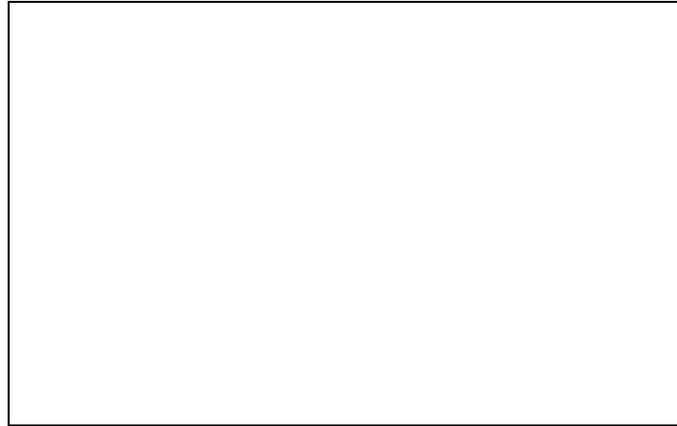
### Not yet a member of CCW?

You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:

[centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)



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



**Tuesday, February 20**  
**Scott Thomas Anderson:**

**"A Threat Past the Pages:**

**The Future of Reading and Writing in the Digital Age"**

**5:30 p.m.—CHECK-IN and DINNER**

**6:30 p.m.—MEETING Point Pinos Grill**

**79 Asilomar Boulevard Pacific Grove**