



# Scribbles

California Writers Club—Central Coast Writers Branch

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

January 2017

## 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, *Words Dressed and Undressed: Women, Aging and Identity*.

## Coming on February 21

### Cornelia Read

#### Transforming Real People into Fictional Characters. . .

Cornelia Read, a witty novelist with a unique narrative voice, will talk about creating authentic characters. She will discuss transforming characters you know into something that can work on the page, especially in a mystery plot. Much of the material in her Madeline Dare novels is based on her own life experiences and people she has known.

Before embarking on her series, most of Read’s day jobs were gigs at small newspapers around the country, including *The Oyster Bay Guardian*, *The Syracuse New Times*, and *The Boulder Weekly*. Cornelia won the 2008 Shamus Award for best private investigator short story, “Hungry Enough,” published in the anthology *A Hell of a Woman*.

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## CCW President's Letter By Laurie Sheehan

### *If Not Now, When?*

A new year is a good time to take stock of, well, most everything. An assessment of the choices one has made over the past year—or longer. A private, personal, progress report of actions and deeds.

Several years ago I changed the way I look at “New Year’s Resolutions.” Instead of those oft too specific, too grand, and, ultimately, too overwhelming to keep promises, I now opt simply for words. After all, words are, ostensibly, something we writers do well.

It started with **Grace**, one of my grandmother’s favorite words, and ideals. She believed that most problems could be eliminated entirely, or at the very least, faced square-shouldered, chin held high, if only one chooses to live their life with Grace. Then, I added **Kindness**. Those two words stick with me each year, because, really, what situation wouldn’t benefit from a liberal dose? **Patience** should spring naturally from grace and kindness, but I’m adding it to the list anyway. I’ve found that recently I need the reminder. And, this year I’m trying something new. I’m adding a phrase. Here it is—ready? “***If Not Now, When?***”.

It’s a phrase that I’d like to apply rather liberally. I tend to put off doing the fun stuff. I tell myself that there are too many obligations, and that I don’t have the time to dedicate to assure things are done as well as possible—no time to make sure I end up with a masterpiece. But, seriously, I am the grand master of procrastination. The spice cabinet is never so alphabetized and cross-referenced as when I’m meant to be writing.

In last year’s January letter I noted one of my favorite Italian phrases: *Il meglio è nemico del bene*. It means “the best is enemy of the good.” I need to tell myself that it’s okay not to create a masterpiece. I just need to finish.

So, this is my year of Grace, Kindness, Patience, and Getting Stuff Done. Because, If Not Now, When?

Here’s to 2017—a clean slate, a new beginning, an empty page. My wish for you is that you’ll each be able to make it exactly what you want it to be.

Happy New Year!

***Until we meet again, happy writing! Laurie***

### **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.

If you are a new or returning member, Clarissa Conn is willing to take your photograph to use with the profile you can submit on “Member’s List & Profiles” on our [Central Coast Writers website](#). Add yours this month! 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.

# Holiday Party

December 10 dawned chilly and rainy, but you couldn't tell that by the photos taken at the holiday party!



Sarah Pruitt welcomes guests



Stephanie Taylor and Alana Myles



Bill Minor plays for the festivities



Harold Grice



Brenda Musehl-Taylor



Cindy Guthrie



Clarissa Conn and Peter Hoss



D.S. Kane and Andrea Brown



Deanna Ross



Deborah Smith



Mary Kay and Dennis Hamilton



Holiday Desserts!



Erin, Olivia, Kim, and Gary



Gayle Lubeck and Jim Ribera



Glenn and Daian Hennington



Illia Thompson and friend Herman



Jack Erickson and his wife



Joyce Krieg



Ken Holden and Maria Skytta



Laurie Sheehan and Janet Tezak



Laurie, Sarah, and Sarah



Holiday Entrees



Michael Schlamp and Clarissa Conn



Olivia Morgan



John and Patricia Reed



Sarah Pruitt



Sharon Law Tucker



Hosts Jean Hurd and Doug Borregaard

Many thanks to our hosts Jean and Doug Hurd for opening their lovely home to us, and to Sharon Law Tucker for making the arrangements. And to everyone who made this party happen, not least of whom is Laurie Sheehan.

And a big shout out to Bill Minor who set the holiday tone with his music. Who won the raffle of Laurie's lap quilt? Lucky Harold Grice!



Happy New Year!

# Announcements

## Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

**Melanie Bishop**      **Julie Hanks**  
**Evelyn Helminen**      **Glenn McGovern**      **Dee Takemoto**



## Member Congratulations!

An interview with member **Laureen Diephof** was in a November *Monterey County Weekly* about her year bumming around Europe and North Africa and the book *Walking Over the Earth* that she is writing about her experiences. Here's the [article](#).

In the *Monterey County Weekly's* 101-word short story contest, member **Deanna Ross** had two stories published as honorable mention. Her stories are "Spinning World" and "Now and Then." Congratulations, Deanna!

Our CWC president **Joyce Krieg** was interviewed on the "The How The Why" podcast on October 30. You can listen [here](#).

## CCW's Writing Judges By Leslie Patiño

Thanks to the many CCW members who have volunteered to help judge two high school writing contests over the next three months. Between January 7 and 20, 18 jurors (with 5 back-up jurors in the wings if needed) will adjudicate submissions in the national Scholastic Writing Awards. Their efforts will bring in \$2000 for CCW.

On January 10, check the [CCW website](#) for information on the kickoff of our own Short Story Contest for Monterey County Seniors and Juniors. (Teaser: we think we've come up with a pretty unique photo prompt that will beg teens to tell the story behind that cart!) You can help spread the word by sharing the website link and information with students, teachers, parents and anyone else who might encourage seniors and juniors to submit a story. Like last year, online entries will be accepted February 1-28. Judging will take place in March and the top three winners will be recognized at our April general meeting.

## SPECIAL OFFER for CCW members!

Your Own Custom WordPress Author Website! It includes:

Up to six pages of content # Social media links # Book Buy Buttons # Calendar and Blog

Your Cost: hosting fee of \$10/month or \$25/quarter or \$80/year. *\$295 setup fee waived for CCW members!*

Our company ([WordsandWriters.com](#)) will provide the hosting, security, and backups. You provide the content for your site, and we'll personalize and complete it for you!

See examples of CCW members' sites: Patricia Hamilton: [parkplacepublications.com](#), [keepersofourculture.com/](#) and Harold Grice: [californiacountryboy.com/](#)

Contact Joe Jacobson for more info: [info@wordsandwriters.com](mailto:info@wordsandwriters.com), 941-587-4530.

[Ed. note: Joe is the son of CCW member Mariel Lyons.]

## Advertise in the California Writers Club Bulletin

Want to increase your visibility? Sell your service? Promote your book? Increase speaker engagements? Pump up your web traffic?

Each issue of *The Bulletin*—published three times a year—reaches close to 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 21 branches throughout the state. AND it is published also on the CWC [calwriters.org](#) website! The deadline for the March issue is February 28. Now we are accepting writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices. Five tiers of ads are offered in various sizes and in prices from \$35 to \$90. (Watch our brief [video](#) for examples.)

For complete details, see [calwriters.org/advertising-in-the-bulletin](#).



### “Words Work”

#### Elizabeth Kendall

Elizabeth Kendall’s inspiration to write extends as far back as she can remember, back to her early love of books, an inspiration that melded with a “natural inclination to process the world that surrounds us”—an awakening that proved to be a therapeutic form of artistic expression.

“It took me some time to recognize and learn that the stories I told and wrote as a child would continue into adulthood,” Elizabeth says, “that there was a definition to that interest.”

When she was nineteen, Elizabeth’s passion for writing intensified with her participation in college creative writing courses, writing festivals, and other like-minded communities. In pursuit of a B.A. in journalism with a minor in creative writing from Saint Michael’s College in Vermont, she spent her junior year studying English literature and creative writing at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

Elizabeth’s fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and observational pieces are largely reflective in nature. “The most natural pieces for me to write are short bursts on nature and living mindfully,” she says. A CCW member since July, she’s had a poem and pieces of journalism published as well as a short piece on faith (The Crux Literary Journal), and her fiction piece based on the dangers faced by women working in garment factories was published in Circa: A Journal of Historical Fiction.

As Director of Annual Giving at the Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, Elizabeth describes her writing schedule as erratic. Yet she finds time to write a weekly blog ([livehowyoulovetolive.blogspot.com](http://livehowyoulovetolive.blogspot.com)) and managed to complete NaNoWriMo, November’s fifty thousand-word novel writing challenge.

“I can’t say I wrote a novel, but I did write fifty thousand words,” she says. “Writing a little under two thousand words every day was wonderful and reminded me to get back on a writing schedule and to stick to it.”

When Elizabeth’s motivation falls short, she finds encouragement in the work of other authors. Paraphrasing a passage from Elizabeth Gilbert’s book *Big Magic*, she subscribes to the tenet that artists should practice art solely for themselves and not allow their doubts or successes as an artist to define them.

“I see all writers and artists having a responsibility to do what they can to create a better place for all of us, particularly women writers,” Elizabeth says. “I see hope in more inclusion and new voices and stories in the century unfolding before us. More simply, I’m inspired by knowing that if one wants to change society and our world, words work.”

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



## Johnny Cash



The first recorded name of Cash is that of Roger Cash found in the Registrum de Dunfermelyn registered during the reign of King David 1 of Scotland during the period 1124-1153. The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens is set in Dunfermline 150 years later. Like his ancestors, Johnny Cash also wrote ballads, such as "The Dogs Are In the Woods." Here is his "California Poem."

*There's trouble on the mountain / and the valley's full of smoke /  
There's crying on the mountain / and again the same heart broke.  
The lights are on past midnight / the curtains closed all day /  
There's trouble on the mountain / the valley people say.*

Johnny Cash was born February 26, 1932, in Kingsland, Arkansas, to poor sharecroppers. He recalled that he almost died of starvation. His mother taught him music. In 1955 he signed with Sun Records, where he had a string of hits, after which he left for Columbia Records. He became addicted to amphetamines and barbiturates, causing his marriage to fail and his career to waver. Then he met and married June Carter. A spiritual woman, she helped him with his addiction. Cash's "Five Feet and Rising" is based on a real event in the cotton fields of Arkansas. Despite his personal problems, he is considered one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century.

Poetry was a creative outlet for Johnny Cash. Much of his writing reflects the poverty of the Great Depression, plus the major WWII experiences, the Cold War, Korea, and Vietnam. He used the iconography of the Bible in his work, such as the story of Job. He also used a cowboy theme in such works as "Spirit Rider" and "Hey Baby Wake Up!" A favorite method was to use tag phrases at the end of each verse. Consider Slumgullion: "*Don't drink long at any fountain, You'll be turned into Slumgullion.*"

*Forever Words*, a recent book about Cash, features a collection of his newly discovered poems as well as facsimile reproductions of his handwritten pages. The book was edited by Pulitzer Prize-winning Paul Muldoon and contains "Don't Make a Movie About Me," which shows how he felt about celebrity.



He died in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 12, 2003. His beloved wife June died before him.

### Don't Make a Movie About Me By Johnny Cash

If anybody made a movie out of my life  
I wouldn't like it, but I'd watch it twice  
If they halfway tried to do it right  
There'd be forty screen writers workin' day and nite.

They'd need a research team from Uncle Sam  
And go from David Allen Coe to Billy Graham  
It would run ten days in the final cut  
And that would mean leaving out the gossip smut.

And I do request for my children's sake  
Don't ever let 'em do a new re-make  
The thing I'm sayin' is, don't you see,  
Don't make a movie 'bout me  
Even for T.V.  
Don't make a movie 'bout me.

Don't let 'em drag old Hickory Lake  
For my telephones and bottles and roller skates  
Down forty feet in the Cumberland mud  
There's a rusty old gun that once shed blood  
Out a hundred yards from my lakeside house  
Weighted down with a rock is a skirt and blouse  
A dozen pair of boots that made a dozen corns  
Trombones, trumpets, harmonicas and horns  
And the tapes that I threw from the lakeside door  
Silverstein, and Kristofferson from years before  
Everything has a story that should be let be  
So don't make a movie 'bout me.

If they're hot on a book called Man in Black  
Tell 'em I've got the rights and won't give back  
If you don't know my tune you can't get it right  
I don't talk about me in . . . Man in White.

Continue reading the complete poem:

[poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/91763](http://poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/91763)

## Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



### CONTESTS to Kick Off 2017

#### **Stacy Doris Memorial Poetry Award**

**Deadline:** January 15, 2017

**Website:** [14hills.net/stacy-doris-mpa](http://14hills.net/stacy-doris-mpa)

**Submission Guidelines:** Submissions only through Submittable, visit website for guidelines, poem minimum 3 pages, maximum 10 pages, 1 poem per author. The Stacy Doris Memorial Poetry Award will be given to a long poem (minimum 3 pages) with a truly inventive spirit. See website for full guidelines.

**Prizes:** \$500.00 plus the Stacy Doris Memorial Poetry Award. Publication in the Summer 2017 issue of *Fourteen Hills*.

#### **2017 Nelson Algren Literary Awards**

**Deadline:** January 31, 2017 11:59 P.M. CT, online submissions only, open to U.S. residents over 18 years of age only.

**Entry Fee:** Free, sponsored by the Chicago Tribune Company, LLC

**Website:** [chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/books/ct-2017-nelson-algren-literary-awards-official-rules-20161201-story.html](http://chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/books/ct-2017-nelson-algren-literary-awards-official-rules-20161201-story.html)

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for full guidelines, unpublished stories of 8,000 words maximum.

**Prizes:** **Grand Prize:** \$3500.00, **4 Finalist Prizes:** \$1000.00, **5 Runner-up Prizes:** \$500.00.

#### **San Francisco Writers Conference Writing Contests**

**Deadline:** All entries must be received by January 13, 2017, 5 p.m. PST

**Entry Fee:** \$35.00 for attendees of the conference only

**Submission Guidelines:** Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction including memoir, Children's/YA books, 1500-word maximum, self-published or unpublished work only. Submissions by snail mail or uploaded to [SFWriters.org/contest-registration](http://SFWriters.org/contest-registration). See website for details: [sfwriters.org/2017-writing-contest-overview](http://sfwriters.org/2017-writing-contest-overview).

**Prizes:** **Grand Prize:** \$250 and a 15-minute in-person meeting at the conference or a 15-minute scheduled telephone call with a literary agent who represents work like yours. First place winners in each category will receive \$100.

#### **The Masters Review Short Story Award for New Writers**

**Deadline:** January 15, 2017

**Entry Fee:** \$20

**Prizes:** \$2000 and publication to the first place story, \$200 and \$100 for second and third place, and agency review to any honorable mentions. For details: [mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/](http://mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/).

#### **39 Signs of Hope Short Story Submissions**

**Deadline:** January 31, 2017. No entry fee.

Catch Our Drift Productions is accepting submissions for a compilation of short stories about HOPE, 1,000 to 2,000 words. More information at [catchourdrift.ca/39-signs-of-hope](http://catchourdrift.ca/39-signs-of-hope).

### WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

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

**Location:** Mark Hopkins Hotel San Francisco, CA, \$229 per night rate for attendees while available.

**Date:** February 16-19, 2017, President's Day Weekend

**Deadline & Cost:** \$725 up to January 1, then cost increases. \$60.00 extra for optional speed dating agent sessions.

**Website:** [sfwriters.org/](http://sfwriters.org/) The conference offers breakout sessions, mixers, networking, awards, editorial feedback, writing contests, open mics, and pre- and post-conference classes. See website for details.



## If the Shoe Fits...Revisited

By C. Jonathan Shoemaker

One of our fellow writers asked me to reprint the New Year message I wrote to the club in January, 2004. So here it is, with a bold new title:

### Why Not?

At the age of sixty-four,  
suddenly, I realize  
that I am not immortal.

Not that I feel any older,  
or that I'm afraid to die.  
It's just that there is much to do.  
Time is slipping, slipping by.

I have poetry to publish,  
need to put the book in print,  
need to get my things in order,  
need to finish all the things  
that I have left  
Undone.

How long have you been sitting on that wonderful idea that you meant to share with the world? Do you really intend to finish it and get it published this month? This year? Or is it not that important to you? Really, someone else will no doubt have the same idea as yours and will share it with the world in some magazine, or maybe even in a book.

So there. It really isn't necessary for you to go to all that bother and work to put your thoughts in print. You don't have to be the one to do it.

It has been fun, sitting down and writing a few pages now and again. It feels pleasing to tell your kin and dearest friends, "Oh, it's coming along," when they ask about your writing project. Then you tell them a few new ideas that are going into your short story, novel, or documentary. They say, "What a good idea!" "How clever!" or "I wish I had thought of that."

Then you feel good. And feeling good is good enough?

Ah, but no. Not good enough. The creative urge drives you on. You must write. You must create. The tendency to procrastinate must not prevail.

But there is something—a missing element. It is the secret factor necessary in the formula. Some call it time management (hey, this isn't a job), others call it self-control (oh, come on, Mom).

DRIVE! That's the word (cool word)! It is *drive* that gets us up an hour early in the morning. That is why we spend at least an hour every day putting words on paper, bringing us closer, word by paragraph by page to the actual completion of what we claim to be doing.

And if we do it, we are writers. And if not, what are we?

**Be well, and have a positive New Year,  
Jonathan**

## The Last Word

By Lana Bryan



### If Not Now, When?

Eight weeks ago, we came *this close* to having our first female U.S. President. We likely will have one, but who? And when? Maybe Elizabeth Warren. Maybe a woman that is under the radar now. And, all things being equal, maybe it will be a woman that many folks won't want in the White House.

Speaking of "equal," remember the Equal Rights Amendment? I marched for that one in 1972. Still have the t-shirt. Funny that it doesn't fit me anymore, but I refuse to throw it out or clean the silver with it. Did you know that the first Equal Rights Amendment was proposed in 1923 right after the 19th Amendment passed, giving the rest of the citizenry the right to vote?

Congress did pass the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972, but the required number of states to ratify it fell short. By the 1982 extended deadline, the ERA had been ratified by only 35 states, three states short of the 38 required to amend the Constitution. The ERA has been introduced into every Congress since the deadline. We tend to forget that people are still working getting the ERA passed.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg said:

"If I could choose an amendment to add to the Constitution, it would be the Equal Rights Amendment. I think we have achieved that through legislation, but legislation can be repealed, it can be altered.

"So I would like my granddaughters, when they pick up the Constitution, to see that notion—that women and men are persons of equal stature—I'd like them to see that is a basic principle of our society."

I wish you all equally a purposeful, fulfilling, and fun-filled New Year!

**Until next time,  
-Lana**

## CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## CCW Website

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

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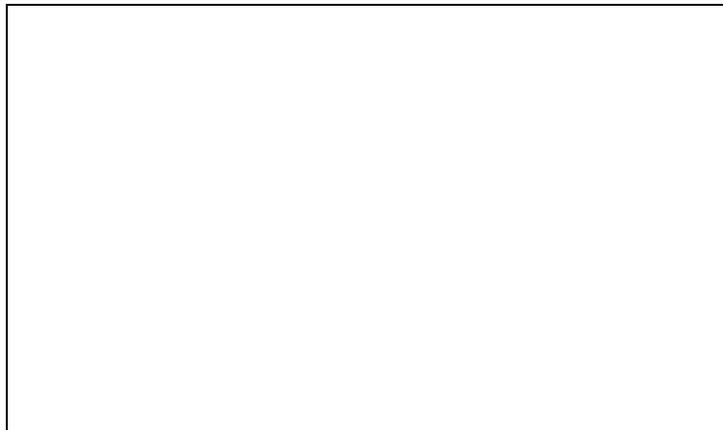
Contact **Scribbles** editor Lana Bryan:  
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## Not yet a member of CCW?

You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:  
[centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)



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



**January 17**  
**Author Patrice Vecchione**  
**5:30 p.m.—CHECK-IN and DINNER**  
**6:30 p.m.—MEETING**  
**Point Pinos Grill**  
**79 Asilomar Boulevard**  
**Pacific Grove**