



# Scribbles

California Writers Club - Central Coast Writers Branch  
[www.centralcoastwriters.org](http://www.centralcoastwriters.org)  
July 2013

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**CCW's ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1-3 pm**

**See "The BOOK STOPS Here!" on  
page 2 for details.**



*July 16 - 5:30 dinner, 6:30 meeting*  
*Point Pinos Grill, 79 Asilomar Ave, Pacific Grove*  
***Coming in July, Andrea Brown,***  
***Literary Agent***

**Andrea Brown**, president of the Andrea Brown Literary Agency, Inc., will discuss what writers should know about finding and choosing an agent at our July 16 meeting. She will also cover "Indie" versus traditional publishing and highlight what's unique about the juvenile market. Founded in New York in 1981, hers was the first literary agency to represent both children's book authors and illustrators. Prior to opening her own firm, Andrea was an editor at Alfred A. Knopf, and worked in the editorial departments of Random House and Dell. In 1990, she moved her literary agency to Northern California. Her literary agency has sold over 2,000 books to just about every publisher, from toddler board books to serious, award-winning young adult books.



## *The BOOK STOPS here!*

By Vanessa Smith, MD



I'm so very happy to serving as the president of Central Coast Writers this year. So many people have contributed to making this the thriving branch of the California Writers' Club it has become, from our founders and series of Executive Committees, to each one of our members. I would especially like to thank Cheri Love and Joyce Krieg, my two past presidents, as well as Leslie Patiño, who without fanfare or fuss, puts together our awesome newsletter. Take a bow, ladies!

We're in a good place as a group. From the few surveys I've seen so far, our members are pretty happy with our venue, our speakers, our newsletter, and the job the Executive Committee is doing. Financially, we are stable, and able to meet the expenses we incur, but we do need to start thinking about ways to increase our revenue. We've put together a dynamite Executive Committee for the coming twelve months, not only with the four members you voted in during our last meeting but also with Cheri staying on as Membership Chair, Joyce continuing to be our representative to the State Board (and the Chair of NorCal, as I mentioned in my last article), Judi Marquart remaining on as the single-most charming Hospitality Chair any group could have, Leslie continuing to slave away at Scribbles, Laurie Sheehan bringing in record numbers of guests as Publicity Chair, and Dorothy Vriend blazing forth as our Program Chair. Dorothy has speakers lined up through the end of 2013, an amazing feat, and she's looking forward to the help of her new Co-Chair, Dawn Henderson. Last, but never least, Ken Jones continues on as our Webmaster, with Kemberlee Shortland as Assistant Webmaster. Ken's creative energy has become focused on photography of late, with outstanding results, but he still keeps our website up-to-date and looking great..

During my year as President, I hope to bring back our annual Writing Contest which I understand was not only intellectually but also financially rewarding for CCW. By doing this, we will increase the awareness of CCW in the community and perhaps even have the revenue to work on continuing to fulfill the philanthropic portion of our charter. We are one of the few branches that does not charge guests for attending our meetings, which is great, but by now I think we can do more to extend ourselves to the community.

Finally, I can't wait to meet all of you at our Summer Barbecue on August 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 until 3. Like the Holiday Party, it will be at Leslie Patiño lovely home, at 903 Jefferson Street in Monterey. Harold Grice and his son Sam will grill steaks and chicken. Canapés, chips, and salads would be appreciated. CCW will provide soft drinks, but BYOB. We'll have 3-4-minutes readings after lunch, so BYO book, too!





## *Prolific Author Tells Her Story*

*By Dorothy Vfriend*

Children's author Alison Jackson came to our June meeting with an armful of published books--many of them picture books that were a take-off of traditional children's songs or verses; others novels for young readers.

She made being an author look easy, but said for all her (twelve) published books, she also has unpublished manuscripts hidden away in a closet.

A librarian for thirty years, Jackson was already working with kids before she began to write. Her first offering was for boys looking to read something sports-oriented and funny. That led to *My Brother The Star*, published in 1990. Two sequels followed soon after.

*I know an old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie* was generated during story-telling sessions with children. On impulse one day, she typed up the story as she had been telling it and sent it to her editor. It took about fifteen minutes to type and send the manuscript. To Jackson's surprise, it became one of her most popular titles, selling more than 10,000 copies worldwide. She credited the illustrator for creating a back story in pictures that added to its allure.

Jackson recommends the *Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators* ([www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org)) as a great resource for authors. The organization has a big annual conference as well as some mini-conferences throughout the year, she said.

Writing a take-off of an old folk song or fairy tale that has no known author (that includes Mother Goose and the Brothers Grimm) is considered fair game, Jackson said. Several of her picture books were generated that way. But what she really loves to do is write novels. Jackson's most recent work includes two novels for middle graders published by Henry Holt: *Eggs Over Evie* was published in 2010 and *When the Wind Blew* will be published in 2014.

Jackson highlighted changes in publishing by recounting a 1987 conversation with a Dutton editor. The editor called to say she would work with her on a manuscript, even though she could offer no guarantee the book would be published. Now, Jackson said, an interested editor has to take your book to a committee and have other editors read it; she also has to write a report describing comparable works and predicting sales figures. Editors will no longer look at unsolicited manuscripts, and when they take one on, they want to be confident it will sell.

Jackson does not have an agent, but she doesn't necessarily recommend that approach.

"Sometimes an agent can get you a better royalty rate and a better advance, also better electronic rights, which are a big deal now," Jackson said.



## A great turnout and plenty of sunshine at our June 18<sup>th</sup> CCW Meeting

Below:

- 1) Vanessa Smith, new president, makes announcements
- 2) Don Dugdale reads from his novel, *We May Choose*
- 3) Guest speaker Alison Jackson talks about her children's books



## July is CCW Membership Renewal Month...Have You Renewed Yet?

Renewal packets were snail-mailed in early June. If you did not receive one, contact membership chair, Cheri Love: [clovewriter@pacbell.net](mailto:clovewriter@pacbell.net) or (831) 656-1220. If you DID receive one and haven't renewed, get cracking!



Your dues allow us to offer things like the summer picnic, the winter holiday party, and monthly meetings with guest speakers.

## Looking for a Critique Group?

CCW encourages participation in these groups which meet at Juice & Java, 599 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove. For more information, contact Harold Grice at [ookayy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ookayy@sbcglobal.net)

**Poetry:** The Saturday before the CCW monthly meeting, 9:30 to 11'ish

**Prose:** The Saturday after the CCW monthly meeting, 9:30 to 11'ish

# Announcements

From the state level



California Writers Club <b>Picnic &amp; LitCake!</b>		Saturday, July 20 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland
	Food 'n' Fun Open Mic Literary Cake- Decorating Contest Details & Directions: <a href="http://www.calwriters.org">www.calwriters.org</a>	

## Attention Self-Published Authors

The **Dailey Swan Alliance** program is a project to bring together self-published authors and retail outlets looking to promote these authors, their books and literacy.

We are searching out self-published authors who would like more visibility. We will place their books throughout our programs reach with a focus on regionality. Likewise, we will be locating retailers who wish to hold author events.

If the author's title is selected, the Dailey Swan Book/café program takes it on consignment and places it with retailers. Authors will be compensated monthly for any books sold.

This program will launch in mid-June in Northern California, Nevada, Washington, and Texas. For more information on titles and contracts email: [casey@daileyswanpublishing.com](mailto:casey@daileyswanpublishing.com)

## Writers' Open Mike

Thursday, July 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

East Village Coffee Lounge, 498 Washington Street, Monterey, 93940

Featuring CCW member Don Dugdale and his novel *We May Choose*

Come early and sign up for a 5-7 minute reading in any genre.

For more information contact Pat Hanson at [phanson@scumb.edu](mailto:phanson@scumb.edu) or 601-9195.



## MEMBER PROFILE

# Up For the Challenge

Jeanne Olin

By Michelle Smith



November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), a month-long, free-for-all word-crunching adventure in which writers take on the challenge to write a novel in just 30 days. This past fall, newbie CCW member Jeanne Olin embraced that challenge.

Jeanne, who tends to write in spurts, astutely realized that she would have to rev up her writing schedule in order to complete a novel in 30 days. "I knew if I were to win, I needed to sit down and write [without making] any excuses," Jeanne says. "I had to write 50,000 words, and I wanted them to create a story for my readers. I did that, and now I have *Dear Jude*."

The completion in November of *Dear Jude*, which is set amidst the romantic era and fast-paced reality of 1960s San Francisco, portrays the coming of age of a young woman undeterred by fear and earned Jeanne a spot in NaNoWriMo's winner's circle.

While she's been a CCW member for only a year and a half, Jeanne is already entrenched in the local writing community and has attended critique sessions at Pacific Grove's Juice and Java where CCW members gather in a user-friendly environment on the Saturdays that follow our monthly meetings. Cajoled by fellow member Wanda Sue Parrott, Jeanne was plied with valuable information that led to her decision to join our organization.

Like many of our members, Jeanne, who enjoys writing romantic adventure, found inspiration to write at an early age in the form of positive feedback from her third grade teacher. "She told me that I painted a picture with my words," she recalls. "I became inspired!"

Before pursuing a career in writing, Jeanne practiced Dependency Law and worked on behalf of both parents and "children who enter the system through no fault of their own." While she "loved" being an attorney, Jeanne says that her law practice, from which she retired a little less than two years ago, was quite challenging at times.

But Jeanne's most unusual job, about which she declines further elaboration, was selling ads for the *Guzzlers' Gazette* in St. Louis. "That's another story," she jests.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Jeanne has already written the outline of her next novel during a recent sailing through the Panama Canal. The story, inspired by a magician's onboard performance, will feature a murder that takes place on a cruise ship wherein the victim is a magician.

*Dear Jude* is slated for publication in the near future.



*Michelle Smith's articles have been published in a variety of magazines. Her website is <http://theebonyquill.com>.*

# The Poetry Corner

By Nancy Jacobs

## Memories



(Editor's Note: Nancy recently shared this poem with me, and I asked if we could print it in *Scribbles*.)

I was raised on a coastal California ranch that was my first love. When we moved I grieved. As a child I was a dreamer. I remember sleeping in the hay food bin located at the front of the horse's stall. Many dreams were dreamed in that stall! There was so much freedom. It was a rich childhood, rich in being close to the earth. I wrote this poem about one of my many ranch experiences.

ranch house nestled  
rolling hills  
lone pine tree  
like a sentinel

stands  
artichoke fields  
surround  
barn, hay, horses

sparkling days, moody days  
rainbow colors  
pelicans, hawks, rabbits, deer  
so alive, vibrant

twilight becomes night  
full moon gently  
floats into starry  
blue velvet sky

night comes alive  
faint sounds  
rustling, bushes swaying  
crunching, searching

dawn approaches  
gentle creeping light  
lights  
night disappears

child awake  
wood burning stove  
releases  
mouth watering  
smells

child devours breakfast  
eager to  
start the day  
descends stairs

lonely child  
plays  
in wild grass  
wildflowers

few toys  
lots of nature  
explore  
ready to ride horse

father calls  
"jump into red  
pick-up truck"  
travel to town

pick up supplies  
child waits  
in truck  
sound of music

drifting  
drifts towards child  
from Charlie Bella's  
red convertible stops

child struck by  
sparkling silver jewelry  
belt, pin earrings  
red convertible

dark-haired beauty  
handsome cowboy  
opens car door  
couple floats

Charlie Bella's  
door opens  
so curious child  
follows, climbs stairs

sees juke box  
music playing  
Tangerine  
couple begin dancing

child mesmerized  
squash blossom necklace,  
silver belt buckle  
enchant shimmering

cowboy  
eagle design on boots  
turquoise ring  
stunning two tone shirt

child entranced  
"Lets go"  
shatters the trance  
time to go home.

*Your Poetry Editor,  
Nancy Jacobs*

# CONTESTS AND WORKSHOPS

By Diana Paul

Best of luck and share your contest experiences with *Scribbles!*



## CONTESTS and RESIDENCIES:

### 1) Reuben Rose Poetry Competition

**Deadline:** September 30, 2013

**Website:** <http://www.voicesisrael.com/reubenrosecompetition.htm>

**Entry fee:** Voices Israel members: US\$5.00 for one poem, \$10 for 3 poems, \$15 for 6 poems. Non-members: US\$6.00 for one poem, \$12 for 3 poems, \$18 for 6 poems.

First prize \$500, second prize \$150, and third prize \$50. Prizewinners and all honorable mentions will be published in the Voices Israel 2014 Poetry Anthology. Challenging, humorous and/or curious poetry is welcome. Poems should be unpublished, no more than 40 lines, including stanza breaks but not including title.

### 2) California Writers Club-Empire Branch

**Deadline:** August 15

**Website:** <http://www.angelfire.com/amiga/iecwc/>

**Email address:** [speech\\_diva@hotmail.com](mailto:speech_diva@hotmail.com) (Theresa Mirci-Smith)

**Entry Fee:** \$15 per submission (fiction, non-fiction, poetry)

The contest is open to anyone, and there are cash prizes. The theme--which must be touched upon-- "The truest wisdom."

## WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

### 1) Writing From Your Soul

August 3, 2013 9:00-12:00 noon

**Susan Scott**, Author and National Speaker, **CCW Member**

Private home in Monterey

Scott's inspired and creative short exercises bring out the best in your writing--all created in a loving, safe, environment.

To register and for more information, call [831-646-9111](tel:831-646-9111)

Fee: \$40 in advance or \$55 at the door.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

## 2) "10 Things Your Freelance Editor May Not Have Told You--But Should

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, \$175

Tanya Egan Gibson

Website: [www.tanyaegangibson.com](http://www.tanyaegangibson.com)

One-day workshop in which participants bring in a draft of a short story or a chapter of a novel-in-progress and examining it with an editorial eye.

The workshop (5-10 participants) will be held in Tanya Egan's home in Terra Linda included in the price of the workshop is lunch (from Comforts) and a 30-minute follow-up edit.

## 3) 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Coast Writers' Conference

Friday and Saturday, September 20-21, 2013 at Cuesta College,  
San Luis Obispo, California.

For more information visit: <http://academic.cuesta.edu/pim/pr/2008pr/PDF/o8-43writersconference.pdf>

## LITERARY SUBMISSIONS

### Babbling Creek Review--new publication!

**Deadline:** mid-August

**website:** BabblingCreekReview.com

Babbling Creek Review is a new online literary journal. Currently working on website, and 1st edition is scheduled to come out mid August 2013. Short story, flash fiction, novellas, and novel excerpts. Check out website for submission guidelines.

### **Loaning Amazon E-books—Yes You Can (Sometimes)!**

If you buy e-books on Amazon and aren't aware of this feature, it's a nifty one. On the Amazon website, go to the book's page (in Kindle Store). Under Product Details, check the "Lending" feature. If it's enabled, you can click on it and Amazon walks you through the next steps.

There are limitations:

- You don't have the book on your device for the 2 weeks it's with the other person.
- A book can be loaned only one time.
- Unfortunately, many books are not lending-enabled.

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## IF THE SHOE FITS . . .

by Jonathan Shoemaker

### *Something for Everyone*



"Two roads diverged in a woods and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." (Robert Frost, 1920)

The rest of the kids had bicycles. I ran my own route on foot to the agreed upon destination, often arriving before they did. Or, I would notice something far more interesting *en route* and would choose the alternate activity. That memory struck me the other day when a former school administrator smiled and said that he had chosen me because I "thought outside the box. Were you that way as a kid?"

Well, Miss Sauer told the third grade class that the only way an 8 can be written was by writing an S and closing it with a diagonal line. She never noticed that I met the challenge by starting it with a backwards S on all my papers. – or did she?

My whole life seems to have been guided by my tendency to travel down the alternate path, whether it was as a result of necessity or choice. Each decision I've made in life guided me toward my present blessed existence. Had I stayed in Milwaukee, rather than joining the Army, I might very well have ended up as a farmer in Kansas. Really! – with a different family and much different lifestyle. Each decision I made; each quirk of happenstance brought me to where I am now.

And so it is when I develop my themes in poetry or prose, fiction or creative non-fiction. I'm headed down the path of one idea or concept when another occurs to me, and – Ahah! what a great idea!

I don't discard the original idea. I save it in my back-up file to finish it later when it's more *a propos*, and I delve into the new direction, wherever it might take me.

The impetus of the fresh idea draws me along toward whatever develops. As I probe deeper into the inspiration, the characters and/or concepts evolve and develop their own individualities, posing problems and questions that I would not otherwise have considered.

It is no longer my plan. It has evolved into a logical development of other circumstances and possibilities including situations that I have observed in the lives and actions of other people I have known or other paths I might have taken. They, who will be my readers, have become my source. Everyone aspires to something, loves something, achieves something and has lost something. We share different destinies, but common concerns.

How important it is for me to expose my inner feelings as I observe and record the actions of those who choose different paths! I have an endless source of perspectives. It doesn't even matter if the readers don't clearly understand exactly what I'm thinking while they absorb my words. What matters are the ideas, emotions or decisions that the readers experience from within as they read my thoughts. James Barrie said, "The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another." Writing and reading are a means by which we can make a common connection.

*Be well,  
and do good work,*

*Jonathan*



## *The Last Word*

Leslie Patiño, *Scribbles* Editor

## *Platform, Schmatform*

You know all those stories the pros tell about how time-consuming and hard it was to build their platform? My personal experience confirms the first two-thirds of that: time-consuming and hard. Whether or not the platform materializes remains to be seen.

The good news is my website turns a week old on July 1<sup>st</sup>!  
**([www.lesliepatinoauthor.com](http://www.lesliepatinoauthor.com))**

Figuring out what to blog about has been the hardest piece by far. My novel, the *raison d'être* of the site, is about an American brewer who goes to Mexico to open an upscale brewpub with his wealthy Mexican friend. Harassment by a drug cartel begins even before they open. Several pros said, "Easy. Write about drug violence in Mexico—great topic."

Actually, not so much. In Mexico, it's not uncommon for journalists, newscasters—even bloggers—who write about or speak critically of the cartels to be threatened or harmed. There are too many Patiños living in Monterrey, Mexico for me to go down that road.

My husband the brewing consultant came up with blogging on women/brewing/beer since an important character in the novel is a female brewer. I found amateur YouTube videos of beautiful, sexy women explaining in unsophisticated terms why they liked a beer. I discovered an incredibly long list of beer blogs, some boring, others no longer active. But I also found extremely good sites produced by very knowledgeable people, some of them women. One woman had 1600 followers on Facebook.

I kept coming back to why I wrote this novel: to help Americans understand the extent to which narco instability has impacted Mexicans at every social level in so many ways since I began living and traveling in Mexico over forty years ago. At the same time, I wanted to show Americans the many good things happening in Mexico.

Bingo. That was my topic.

When you have some time, I'd be tickled if you checked out "The Other Side of the Peso—Mexican Success Stories."

## **CENTRAL COAST WRITERS** **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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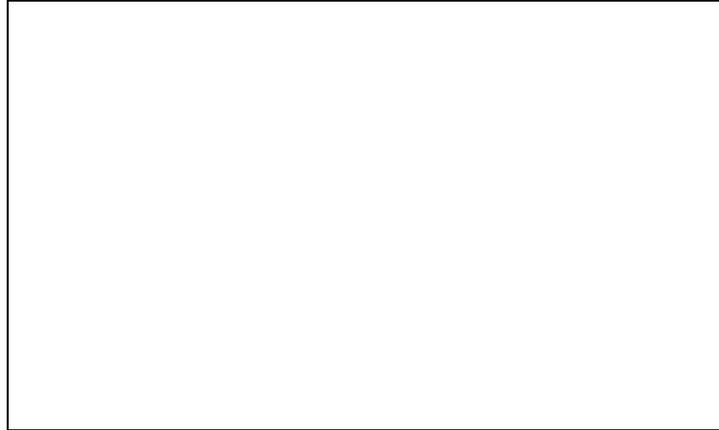
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Michelle Smith: "Member Profiles"  
C. Jonathan Shoemaker: "If the Shoe Fits"  
Diana Paul: Contests and Workshops  
Dorothy Vriend: Monthly Speaker



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## *Raffle Prizes for July 16th at Point Pinos Grill*

- *Legends of Literature* edited by Phillip Sexton
- *Between the Lines* by Jessica Page Morrell
- *Word Court* by Barbara Wallraff
- *Photo Reading* by Paul R. Scheele
- *Complete Writer's Kit* by Scott Edelstein
- *Paradise* by Toni Morrison
- *Help, Lord! I'm Having a Senior Moment* by Karen O'Connor
- *Proust's Way* by Robert Shattuck
- *The Image of the World* by Peter Whitfield

***Prizes  
Galore!***

