



Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch
centralcoastwriters.org

March 2016

March 15 Speaker Amanda McTigue

The Art of Writing Emotion

An out-of-the-box thinker and speaker, novelist Amanda McTigue will help us open the emotional content of our writing across all genres. Whether we struggle with work that seems lifeless or overblown, Amanda's insights refocus us in ways that enhance authenticity and depth on the one hand, surprise and subtlety on the other.

AMANDA MCTIGUE's 2012 debut novel [Going to Solace](#) attracts interest as literary fiction and for its unusual exploration of race in the Appalachian South. She is working on a new collection of climate-collapse short stories, *This is Not Water*, and a second novel, *Monkey Bottom*. A Yale grad, McTigue has written for Disney Entertainment and Paramount Entertainment. Her works for the stage have been produced at Carnegie Hall, the Minnesota Opera and the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University.



Coming on April 19

Sandra Balzo – Writing the Killer Series

Unlike a stand-alone, whatever you choose to do in one book of a series, you're stuck with in the next. You've written your fictional characters' history—and re-writing it is not an option. Balzo will talk about the important decisions: creating a cast of characters you can live with for years, how much to allow your characters to change throughout a series, as well as choosing point of view and setting.

SANDRA BALZO is an award-winning author of crime fiction, including twelve books in two mystery series from Severn House—the Wisconsin-based [Maggy Thorsen Mysteries](#) and the [Main Street Murder series](#), set in the High Country of North Carolina and featuring journalist AnnaLise Griggs. Film rights for the Maggy Thorsen Coffeehouse Mysteries have been optioned toward development as a television series or movie.

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Beware the Ides of March

Our next general meeting is on the 15th of March, also called the Ides of March. This rather innocuous day became notorious in 44 BC when Julius Caesar was stabbed to death during a meeting of the senate. Politicians and political shenanigans being what they are, I suppose I shouldn't be surprised that tensions ran high. Some people just don't seem to deal well with emotion.

Yet another reason to be excited about our March speaker. Amanda McTigue will join us to talk about opening the emotional content of our writing. Julius Caesar's story, at least the version told by Shakespeare, is certainly dripping with emotion. Of course, the Bard may have taken some liberties with the tale, but that shouldn't be a surprise. He was, after all, a writer. It's what we do. We are the tellers of tales. It doesn't matter if we're writing fiction or nonfiction, poetry or prose. We all have a beginning and an ending, and we'd like the reader to come away with the feeling that they have just experienced something—hopefully the something that we're trying to impart. I think

Ms. McTigue's talk will certainly provide some tools to assist with this task!

Speaking of tasks, one of mine will be getting the word out about Central Coast Writers' participation in Good Old Days. For the third consecutive year (or is it the fourth?), we'll be walking in the parade that kicks off the event, and we'll also have a booth to publicize our club. See page 6 for more information!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on the Ides of March; however, if anyone named Cassius or Brutus should happen to attend the meeting, I'll certainly be on my guard.

Until we meet again, happy writing!

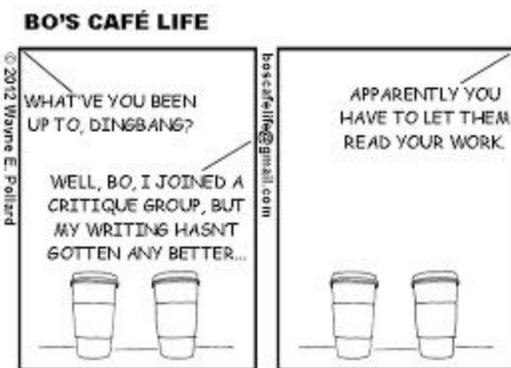
Laurie

Starting a Critique Group or Want to Join One?

Although our fabulous CCW club does not organize critique groups, members are certainly welcome to do so.

One group has been meeting for a while now. Each Saturday following a CCW Tuesday meeting, a critique group meets at Juice & Java, 599 Lighthouse Avenue in Pacific Grove, at 9:30 a.m. Contacts are Harold Grice ookaayy@sbcglobal.net, and Clarissa Conn ccw.treas@yahoo.com.

Contact Lana Bryan, ana.bryan@writeteam.com, to advertise your critique group (when, where, genre, and so on) to the club!





Brooke Warner on Hybrid Publishing

If you grew up with the dream of becoming an author, you might have imagined getting a nice advance and the red-carpet treatment from your publisher. That's the dream of yesteryear, said Brooke Warner, publisher of [She Writes Press](#), at the February meeting. Now even if you get published by one of the big houses, you'll likely have to do most of your own publicity. And there are fewer opportunities to get published traditionally as bigger houses gobble up the smaller ones. In its place, self-publishing opportunities have sprung up, and hybrid publishers are popular, Warner said.

Warner started She Writes Press—considered a hybrid publishing house—in 2012 after a twelve-year career as an acquisitions editor in traditional publishing. She Writes Press accepts projects it deems to be ready for publication—the rate of acceptance is around seven or eight percent—and suggests ways to help writers get there if the project isn't ready. Writers can purchase a package that meets their needs. Proofreading, copy-editing, and developmental editing are some of the services available. The company also offers distribution services—a team of reps go out into the marketplace to sell to bookstores, online retailers, and specialty markets, Warner said. And ultimately authors retain a much bigger percentage of the net profit than they would if they were published traditionally.

When Warner began her career in traditional publishing, working for Seal Press, she was able to acquire a book just because she loved it, When she ended it twelve years later, it was because she felt her career would be on the line if a book she promoted was ultimately not successful.

The vision for She Writes Press, Warner said, was to build a company based on the merits of a book, not just its proven ability to make money. Other hybrid publishers Warner mentioned include Booktrope, Inkshares, and Boutique of Quality Books (BQB) Publishing.



Reader Joanna Fitzpatrick



Speaker Brooke Warner



Raffle Chair Cheri Love

Photographs by Clarissa Conn

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

Duncan Clarke **Anne Hooker-Clarke**
Lynsey Howell **Karyn Witmer-Gow**



Member Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Leslie Patiño** on the publication of her novel *The Brewer's Justice*, available on [Amazon](#) in paperback and Kindle formats. Contact Leslie for signed copies at lesliepatinoauthor@gmail.com.

Jane Parks-McKay, longtime CWC member and author of an award-winning story, was featured along with her husband Tim in the San Jose Mercury News recently. The article is "Life after brain injury: Patients and caregivers cope with 'hidden' disabilities" and is here:

mercurynews.com/bay-area-living/ci_29434479/life-after-brain-injury-patients-and-caregivers-cope

If you had to miss **Carol Marquart's** one-hour staged reading of *Mark Twain and the Wild Wild West, 1863-1868* last month, you have a second chance to catch it at the Gentrain Lecture Series on Wednesday, April 20, Lecture Forum 103 at 1:30 p.m. The reading includes dramatizations of the best of Mark Twain's stories about California from his book *Roughing It*.

"Rowena & Armin & Effie Paint the Town, 2010-2020: Discoveries since the 2015 Release of Artists' Honeymoon"

Friday, March 4, 6–7 p.m., Monterey Museum of Art on Pacific Street opposite Colton Hall; no charge.

In a new slide presentation, **Julianne Burton-Carvajal** explores previously unknown ties between Rowena Meeks Abdy and her one-time school chums Armin Hansen and Euphemia (Effie) Charlton Fortune—two future giants among Western artists. The second portion of the talk focuses on intriguing discoveries made since the release of *Artists' Honeymoon*. Immediately after the 6–7 p.m. talk, you are invited to view the Casa Serrano Collection, an important selection of historical paintings of our region by leading 19th and 20th century artists. Assembled by the Monterey History & Art Association since the early 1930s, the collection has recently been re-installed at Casa Serrano, one block north of the Art Museum, facing Pacific Street.

Your World, Your Protagonist, Your Story

A fiction-writing workshop presented by the Fremont Area Writers and led by Shelley Bates, RITA Award-winning author and Christy Finalist. Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. DeVry University, Room 115, 6600 Dumbarton Circle, Fremont, CA. Email Erika Anderson-Bolden at rikadanie@hotmail.com. Fee includes lunch: \$45 to \$55.

Your Writing Expertise Is Needed!

For three hours on March 7, you can coach a middle school student write his or her reflective essay on *The Red Pony* at the National Steinbeck Center. Austin Sanchez-Moran, Education Coordinator needs looking 15 more volunteers, who are also good writers, to help out on the Day of Writing from 10:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Contact Austin for the coaches' flyer and a participation form at austin@steinbeck.org.

Announcements (continued from page 4)

Networking Aloud: A Writers Open Mike

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (2nd Tuesdays of the month)

Where: OLD CAPITOL BOOKS – 559 Tyler St., Monterey, CA 93940

Submitted monthly by Pat Hanson

Our free monthly event is open to the public every second Tuesday: NETWORKING ALOUD: A WRITERS OPEN MIKE. Come early & sign up for a five-to-seven minute reading from any genre: prose, screenplay, poetry, or essay, following 15 minutes from a featured published reader. We applaud one another; no critique allowed. (We pass the hat for “love offerings” of any size to help Old Capitol Books stay open late for us.)

On March 8, Leslie Patiño will read from *The Brewer’s Justice*, her novel released in February. Leslie’s weekly blog on craft beer topics, “Not My Father’s Beer,” is at LesliePatinoAuthor.com/blog. At what point does doing the right thing become more important than brewing the best beer? And what if doing the right thing might lead to tragic consequences for the people you love? While twenty-seven-year-old Brad Peters works the graveyard shift at a major U.S. brewery, he dreams of having the money and freedom to create his own brews. When an old college buddy offers Brad the chance to be brewmaster and partner in a new, upscale brewpub in Monterrey, Mexico, he jumps at the opportunity. They have every ingredient for success, including an underserved market thirsty for Monterrey Brewing Company beers. The only thing they didn’t factor into the recipe was a drug cartel muscling in on the action. As Brad’s reputation grows, so do the cartel’s demands on the business and its successful brewer. How long—and how much—will Brad pay until he finally says no to a ruthless Mexican cartel? Ideas for an alternate venue? Contact Pat Hanson at phanson@csumb.edu 831-601-9195 or Janice Roche at jrocke5@aol.com 831-521-0375.

CWC Sacramento 2016 Short, Short Story Writing Contest

The CWC Sacramento Branch 2016 Short, Short Story Writing Contest is open for submissions, which must be postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2016. The contest is open to all writers, the category is fiction and length is up to 750 words. For details on awards, entry fees, submissions and manuscripts, see cwcsacramentowriters.org. Questions? Contact Contest Chair Jo Chandler at jochandler3@yahoo.com.

CCW Members Invited to Two Free Memoir Classes

Patricia Hamilton and **Joyce Krieg** invite CCW members to attend one or both of the free Guided Autobiography classes sponsored by the Pacific Grove Public Library. The program was developed by renowned gerontologist Dr. James Birren to help writers of all levels access memories and get them down on paper. Patricia and Joyce are certified Guided Autobiography instructors. Sessions are on Saturday, March 12, and Saturday, April 16, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the “Little House” in Jewell Park next to the library. Attendance is free with no pre-registration required. All materials are provided. For more information, contact Patricia at 831/649-6640, publishingbiz@sbcglobal.net.

Writers of Kern Annual Spring Conference

The Writers of Kern Annual Spring Conference is on March 12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Hodel’s Liberty Hall in Bakersfield. The conference features four fabulous speakers: Anne Perry, Victoria Zackheim, Matthew Woodman, and Lois Henry. The early registration rate is \$50 for CWC members (includes a continental breakfast and lunch). Details are here: writersofkern.com/events/spring-conference/

Book Publishing 1-2-3

Longtime editor **Laurie Gibson** presents her popular “Book Publishing 1-2-3” program, featuring an overview of publishing options, ideas for improving the craft, tips for connecting with agents, writing prompts, a four-page handout, and Q&A. Monday, March 14, 7–8 p.m., Aptos Library (7695 Soquel Drive, 427-7717). Free.

Announcements (continued from page 5)

Meet the Author Jennifer A. Jordan Pacific Grove Public Library, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

In *Edible Memory: The Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes & Other Forgotten Foods*, Jennifer A. Jordan examines the ways that people around the world have sought to identify and preserve old fashioned varieties of produce. As the author shows, these fruits and vegetables offer a powerful emotional and physical connection to a shared genetic, cultural and culinary past. Suggested donation \$10 to benefit the library.

Good Old Days in Pacific Grove!

On Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, Pacific Grove hosts the 59th annual Good Old Days Celebration. Join Central Coast Writers (CCW) in the Saturday morning parade down Pine Avenue, where we march together showing off our writer props. Props? Prez Laurie Sheehan suggests carrying a pad and pen, a marked-up manuscript, an old-fashioned newspaper reporter visor, a quill and scroll, an electronic tablet, a little red wagon full of books, or whatever creative idea you can think up! Wear your a CCW t-shirt (some are still available). Booths line the streets of downtown Pacific Grove, including live entertainment and 225 art and food vendors; it's the county's largest arts and crafts show. And CCW will have a booth! All members are welcome to man the booth and extol the virtues of membership in our fantastic writer's club! Published authors are invited to sign up for a time slot and sell books. (Note that you are responsible for handling your own sales and sales tax.)

Joyce Krieg celebrates Good Old Days
in the murky past.



Contact Laurie Sheehan at erudite@mac.com or 831-324-0376 to sign up for time slots in the booth.

Kauai Writers Conference

The Kauai Writers Conference runs from November 4 through 6, 2016, and is preceded by Master Classes taught by top authors and literary agents from October 31 through November 3. The three conference days are packed with presentations by best-selling authors, top literary agents, and publishing professionals. Attend the events separately or together. For more information, go to kauaiwritersconference.com.

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.



“Born to Write”

Ned Huston

Writer and film buff *Ned Huston* moved to the Monterey Peninsula a year and a half ago and has been a CCW member for just over a year. But he has no idea when he first developed an interest in writing. In fact, he can't recall a time when he wasn't a writer.

“I've always intended to be a writer,” Ned says. “I even wrote my own comics when I was a kid.”

After earning bachelor's degrees in English and Radio/TV/Film from the University of Kansas, Ned obtained a Ph.D. in English from the same institution. Now he teaches writing at Cal State University, Monterey Bay, and this month he'll self-publish *Quantum Time Theory*, his first in a series of ten science fiction novels about time travel.

To ward off carpal tunnel syndrome, Ned writes his first drafts longhand then continually writes and revises in his head until he's satisfied with his latest iteration. “I write in the mornings, and I plan my next day's writing in the afternoon while I hike,” he says. “Or, if I'm revising a completed draft rather than writing a new book, I revise in the morning and revise during my hike.”

Before completing *Quantum*, which he revised eighty-five times in the last fourteen months, Ned wrote five books in five months. With that kind of output, this prolific writer knows a thing or two about discipline as well as the role intuition plays in good writing.

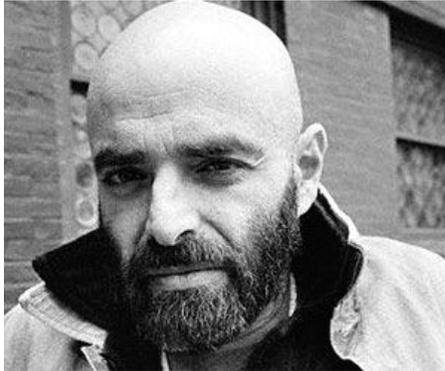
“Develop a feeling for your writing,” he says, “so you can [tell] if something's wrong even if you don't know what.”

Whether he's trekking at the Fort Ord Natural Reserve or enjoying a hot soak in his tub in homage to novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, Ned keeps busy devising new and electrifying adventures for his characters.

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



Shel Silverstein



Shel Silverstein died May 10, 1991, leaving a remarkable legacy of accomplishment.

Whatif

by Shel Silverstein

Chicago can be proud to be the birthplace of multi-talented Shel Silverstein, born there on September 25, 1930. He was an American poet, singer, songwriter, cartoonist, screenwriter and author. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Roosevelt University and the School of Art Institute in Chicago.

In 1950, Silverstein enlisted in the Army and served in Korea and Japan. He became the cartoonist for the Army publication *Stars and Stripes*. After his discharge from the Army, his cartoon work appeared in such publications as *Look*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Playboy*. It was the latter that gained him national recognition. His cartoons appeared in every issue of *Playboy* from 1957 to the 1970's.

Silverstein was well known for writing children's books, such as *The Giving Tree* and *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. He also wrote the song "A Boy Named Sue," made popular by Johnny Cash. *A Light in the Attic* is a book of poems that is appreciated for his beautiful use of metaphors, similes, and alliteration.

He earned many awards: a Grammy for Best Country Song in 1970; a Grammy for Best Album for Children in 1985; and the Academy Award for Best Music, Original Song, for "I'm Checkin' Out" (*Postcards from the Edge*) in 1991.

Shel Silverstein was a very private person. In his own words: "When I was a kid—12 to 14, I'd much rather have been a good baseball player or a hit with the girls, but I couldn't play ball. I couldn't dance... So I started to draw and to write. I was also lucky that I didn't have anybody to copy, be impressed by. I had developed my own style; I was creating before I knew there was a Thurber, a Benchley, a Price, and a Steinberg. I never saw their work till I was around 30."

Last night, while I lay thinking here,
Some Whatifs crawled inside my ear
And pranced and partied all night long
And sang their same old Whatif song:
Whatif I'm dumb in school?
Whatif they've closed the swimming pool?
Whatif I get beat up?
Whatif there's poison in my cup?
Whatif I start to cry?
Whatif I get sick and die?
Whatif I flunk that test?
Whatif green hair grows on my chest?
Whatif nobody likes me?
Whatif a bolt of lightning strikes me?
Whatif I don't grow taller?
Whatif my head starts getting smaller?
Whatif the fish won't bite?
Whatif the wind tears up my kite?
Whatif they start a war?
Whatif my parents get divorced?
Whatif the bus is late?
Whatif my teeth don't grow in straight?
Whatif I tear my pants?
Whatif I never learn to dance?
Everything seems swell, and then
The nighttime Whatifs strike again!



CONTESTS

Nelligan Prize at the Colorado Review

Website: coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nelligan-prize/submission-guidelines/

Deadline: March 14, 2016

Entry Fee: \$15.00 per entry by mail, online entry fee \$17.00 per story

Prize: \$2000.00 for best short story and publication in the Fall/Winter 2016 *Colorado Review*.

Contest Rules: Stories must be at least 2500 words or ten pages, but no longer than 50 pages or 12,500 words. Only previously unpublished stories will be accepted.

Wilkes University 25th Annual James Jones Literary Society First Novel Fellowship

Website and submissions: jamesjonesliterarysociety.org/first-novel-fellowship.html

Deadline: March 15, 2016

Entry Fee: \$33.00 online, \$30.00 by mail

Contest Rules: This prize is awarded for a submitted novel manuscript with outline from a previously unpublished author. The winner must be present at the November meeting of the James Jones Society to accept the award; transportation provided. See the contest page for guidelines.

Prize: Winner receives \$10,000.00; two runners-up receive \$1,000.00. The award is intended to honor the spirit of unblinking honesty, determination, and insight into modern culture exemplified by the late James Jones, author of *From Here to Eternity* and other prose narratives of distinction.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Norwescon 39—Remembering the Future

Location: Doubletree by Hilton SeaTac Airport, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle WA 98188

Date: March 24–27, 2016

Event: Norwescon is the site for the annual Philip K. Dick Awards for Science Fiction. The conference's primary literary focus supports the Science Fiction genre, although the panels do encompass Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Comic Book works. This event is Cosplay friendly. Writing and publishing panels are often standing room only.

Deadline & Cost: \$70.00 for full four-day event. Fee does not include meals or lodging.

Website: norwescon.org

Las Vegas Writer's Conference sponsored by the Henderson Writers' Group

Date: April 28-30, 2016; meet with agents, publishers and writers.

Location: Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall, Las Vegas NV

Fee: \$475.00 in advance, \$525.00 at the door. Fee does not include food and lodging.

Website: lasvegaswritersconference.com



Notice, Study, Analyze, Describe

Writers are advised, "Don't tell me; show me!"

Okay, it's easy enough to say "He slammed the book shut" instead of "He was angry." But how do we subtly reveal our protagonist's personality so the readers will sense it and feel it throughout the story?

How are we to know? We notice how people behave and study their reactions and responses in various situations.

We become aware of desired behavior by observing and contemplating our own actions and the actions of others. We are then in a position to make a conscious commitment to practice certain habits or abstain from them as a result of our expanded awareness.

As writers, we notice and analyze behavioral indications of personality to make our protagonists seem more believable to the readers.

Let's think outside the box for a few minutes: we also get feedback in our dreams.

Things happen in our dreams that reveal how we see behavior in a positive or negative light. We awaken from the dream and think "How terrible!" or "More people should really be like that!"

Sometimes, the other people in the dream are actually a part of us, as if we are seeing ourselves in a mirror. We might see our own fortitude or lack of integrity in their actions. That person might demonstrate a quality we would like to see in ourselves, or possibly alert us to our faults.

If we take notes on these traits, it might help us to develop characters in our work, making sure they stay in character. When we get a chance, we can use these notes to write a short sketch that reveals personal characteristics; from our dreams and also from day-to-day scenes that we observe.

For example: "She suddenly stopped talking and drew in a long breath as her glance paused first on one of us, then another. A hint of a smile belied the moisture in her eyes as she opened her arms to all of us; each of us." Or:

"Sally felt uneasy about the guy. What he said made sense, and he sounded quite positive. But, when she questioned him about certain aspects, he glanced downward and to the left for a moment and then re-established eye contact as he went into great detail, becoming increasingly animated as he spoke." . . . or something similar.

We get a deeper feeling of a personality type and expand on it, thus enriching our work by practicing the skill. We place the perspective of a close friend, or of a person who irritates us, into some situation and portray their demeanor by demonstrating body language and manner of speaking. Just a short sketch now and again.

It sounds crazy, doesn't it? What would it cost you but a little spare time? And you would be writing! And maybe that's something you haven't had time for in a while.

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

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

**Spring Has Sprung,
the Grass Has Ris'...**



Let's not follow Ogden Nash down that silly road, but let's do take a writing break and wander outdoors. Spring comes in mid-January in our lovely part of the world and now, thanks to recent welcome rain, is blooming like mad.

Witness Poppies, Ceanothus, Owl's Clover, Mountain Lupine...oh, let's just look at them.



California poppies are everywhere, from Safeway's parking lot to General Jim Moore Drive. And your yard.



Ceanothus is the California Lilac showing off nearly everywhere in the Monterey Bay Area. Beautiful in both shrub and tree form.



Owl's Clover is a tiny plant. Look for it along the top of Veteran's Drive across from the camp entrance.



Lupine blooms on the hillsides in shades of blue and purple. Watch for Bush Lupine in summer by the ocean—yellow and purple on the same bush!

The California natives are naturally drought-tolerant. (Why do you still have a lawn?) For tons of information on California's blooming bounty, see the [California Native Plant Society](#).

Now go back inside and write!
-Lana

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centralcoastwriters.org

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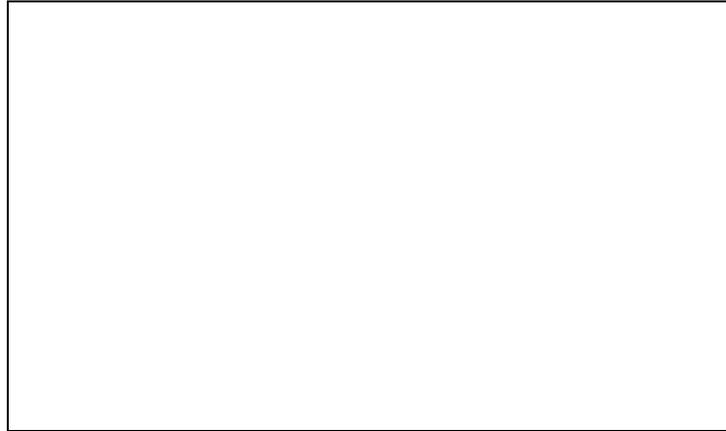
Not yet a member of CCW?

You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:

centralcoastwriters.org



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



March 15
Amanda McTigue:
Publishing's New Middle Ground
5:30 p.m. - DINNER
6:30 p.m. - MEETING
Point Pinos Grill
79 Asilomar Boulevard
Pacific Grove