



# Scribbles

California Writers Club—Central Coast Writers Branch

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

March 2017

## Tuesday, March 21

### Mark Wiederanders

#### Fictionalizing Historical Personalities



Photographs, news accounts, and personal letters of well-known figures who lived in the last few centuries are widely available, but patience and passion are required to mine these effectively in writing historical fiction. The key to creating lively characters and suspenseful plots is to identify those images and records that have the greatest emotional impact, and to craft stories around them. The speaker will illustrate, with old photographs and documents, how he wrote novels about two writers with strong Northern California connections, Robert Louis Stevenson and Jack London.

Wiederanders' first novel, [Stevenson's Treasure](#), was published by Fireship Press in 2014, and was named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing. His screenplay about William Shakespeare's family, "Taming Judith," was a finalist in the Academy of Motion Pictures' screenwriting competition. Wiederanders is a

psychologist who lives in Sacramento, California.

## Coming on April 18

### Zöe Ferraris

#### Imbuing your Work with a Sense of Place

Zöe Ferraris' novels, set in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, are deeply informed by a sense of place. Her first novel, *Finding Nouf* won wide acclaim for its incisive portrayal of a conservative Muslim man's navigation of tightly rule-bound Saudi society as he tries to solve the mystery behind the suspicious death of a 16-year-old girl. The characters' conflicting values and lifestyles highlight modern-day tensions in Saudi Arabia. In this presentation, Ferraris will talk about her strategies for helping readers make the imaginative leap into another world.

Ferraris moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in the aftermath of the first Gulf War. She lived in a conservative Muslim community with her then-husband and his family, a group of Saudi-Palestinians. In 2006, she completed her MFA in Fiction at Columbia University. Her debut novel, *Finding Nouf* won the LA Times Book Award. That novel and its follow-ups, *City of Veils* and *Kingdom of Strangers*, have been international bestsellers, published in over forty countries. She currently lives in San Francisco.

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## The Take-Away

There are inherent lessons to be found in, well, almost everything. People have the ability to observe and absorb the circumstances of their surroundings, and they take something away from each of these encounters.

It's what we do as writers, is it not? Every situation we confront provides tools that we might add to our creative arsenal. We make mental notes, take an intellectual snapshot, and we file these away with like experiences. That compilation of ideas and images makes us better writers, because we have this stockpile of archives to rifle through when we need characteristics for protagonists, scoundrels, or just the little old lady next door. (Although, I'll tell you that my idea of the age of that little old lady inches up with each year.)

For so many, this year, 2017, began with a certain amount of trepidation. There continues to be A LOT of information tossed our way from myriad sources. We're bombarded with news and images and the personal beliefs of others being offered to us as fact.

It's our job to look for the "Take-Away." There are lessons to be learned everywhere we look, and I believe we are discerning consumers of information. We are students of the world around us. Look for the good along with the bad, and remember that everyone has worth, even if it's just to serve as a bad example.

To give you more fun to look forward to, here are some of the things on the horizon from our club:

- CCW booth at Good Old Days (April 8 and 9) and participation in the parade on Saturday
- Our Workshop on May 6
- The 4th of July parade
- The Summer BBQ on August 20

And, as always, we look forward to our monthly meetings (as long as the power stays on), and plenty of fun collaboration with other members.

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

***Laurie***

## Who's Feeling Deprived?

According to longtime and charter member Joyce Krieg, CCW has never before had to cancel a meeting. But the electricity gods held sway in February. In lieu of a Speaker Report from Dorothy Vriend and photos from Clarissa of the meeting-that-wasn't-to-be, here are some images from previous events for your entertainment.



Alana Myles



Mary Feliz (right)



Christine Sleeter



David Conneau



Dennis Hamilton



Frankie Appling



Joyce Krieg and Cheri Love



Linda Kane



Mary Flodin



Nancy Jacobs



Lyn Whiting



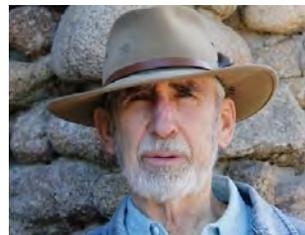
Sharon Row Flannagan



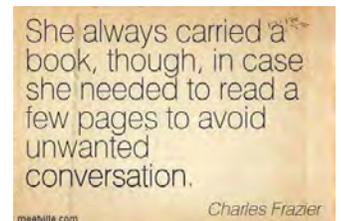
Suzi Storman



Tina Zmak and  
Christina Sierra-Jones



Howard Grice



# Announcements

## Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

**Dyane Harwood** writes memoir, and has published [Birth of a New Brain: Healing from Postpartum Bipolar Disorder](#).

**Alesa Lightbourne** writes fiction and has published one novel [The Kurdish Bike](#).

**Carlin Jardine** and **Genevieve Weaver** have both re-joined CCW!



## Member Congratulations!

CCW member **Marcia Rosen** will be a featured speaker at the [Public Safety Writers Association Conference](#), July 14 - 17, 2017, in Las Vegas. Her “Marketing Your Book(s)” presentation provides participants with a copy of her Marketing Workbook to use as a guide and resource. Marcia’s web sites are [creativebookconcepts.com](#) and her mystery series [dyingtobebeautiful.com](#). Email Marcia at [MarciagRosen@gmail.com](#).

## CCW Workshop By Sharon Tucker

Be sure to calendar May 6 for another great CCW Workshop: **B.A.M! Crafting Fiction and Creative Nonfiction with the Book Architecture Method**. The presenter is Stuart Horwitz, founder and principal of Book Architecture, a firm of independent editors based in Providence ([www.BookArchitecture.com](#)). He will expand on the Book Architecture Method that he discussed at the CCW November 2016 meeting.

It’s the age-old battle between the outliners and the pantsers—those who meticulously script every writing session, and those who pilot solely by feel (seat of their pants). Finding your unique approach requires a method rather than a formula. The Book Architecture Method has helped bestselling writers transform their messy manuscripts into polished books. Accomplished and aspiring writers alike will learn the secrets of how to painlessly create a complex narrative, such as:

- what “plotting” actually means, and why there isn’t one narrative arc but several
- how to make sure your book has one “theme”—and one theme only
- how to separate your work into scenes and use this disassembly to diagnose what’s going wrong with your manuscript
- the secret to why some narratives feel like they are all coming together at an emotional pay-off while others do not

The 4-hour workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m at the Monterey Peninsula College in the Sam Karas room. Stay tuned for registration information and cost.

## Auditions for THE GOLDEN GIRLS

Starring Louella Parsons, Hedda Hopper, Bette Davis and Dorothy Manners. Mature, experienced actors needed for this staged reading by Carol Marquart. Fasten your seat belt. There’s going to be a lot of name dropping and insult swapping. Must be available during the daytime on the following performance dates at different locations in Pacific Grove and Carmel: April 9, April 19, May 10, and May 15.

Auditions will be Wednesday, March 29, and Thursday, March 30, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Tech Room of the Sally Griffin Center 700 Jewell Ave. in Pacific Grove, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. We will read through the script, exchanging parts as we go along. To reserve a spot, please call Carol Marquart at 831-375-2235.

## Announcements (continued)

### Two Conferences Offered by CWC Branches

#### Writers of Kern Spring Conference

Saturday, March 11, 2017, 8 a.m. to 4 p. m.  
Hodel's Liberty Hall, 5917 Knudsen Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93308

Be inspired to continue with your work in progress. Write family stories that connect with your loved ones. Experience new genres. Produce effective query letters and pitch your work. Pursue publishing and see where it takes you.

Registration includes continental breakfast, a lunch buffet, and snacks. To register: [writersofkern.com](http://writersofkern.com). To reserve vendor space for selling books, email [sunshine@writersofkern.com](mailto:sunshine@writersofkern.com).

#### Tri-Valley Writers 2017 Conference

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Four Points by Sheraton 5115 Hopyard Rd. Pleasanton, CA 94588

California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch announces its second full-day writers' conference featuring keynote speaker, *New York Times* and international bestselling author, Anne Perry. Network with authors, marketers and innovators who share a passion for writing. See the complete schedule, speaker bios, and other key information on the [website](#).

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Contact: Lana Bryan [lane.bryan@writeteam.com](mailto:lane.bryan@writeteam.com)





## **“An Engineer’s Blueprint for Creativity”**

**Robert J. Roy**

A civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Hunter Liggett, Robert J. Roy once renovated a 1927 barracks for the Army at Fort Lewis in Washington. “The idea was to completely gut three three-story buildings and build a new hotel-like interior while maintaining the historical exterior and windows,” he says. That challenge undoubtedly required an abundance of imagination, which likely served Robert well in his more than thirty years of being a “strictly” fiction writer.

Rob began writing around the same time he sought a B.S. in civil engineering at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, but that similarity is where any connection between the two pursuits begins and ends. “Engineering was a means of self-preservation, and writing was a hobby that allowed [me] to escape the rigors of real life,” Rob says. “Not many writers can support themselves strictly on their writing.”

Inspired by novelist, screenwriter, and director James Clavell, Rob started with screenplays. Now he focuses on cozy mysteries, with his first book, [The Torrance File](#) (Mark Harrow private detective series), first published by Aberdeen Bay. He also writes adventure ([The Karma Option](#)) and historical fiction ([The Patsy](#), his account of the Lee Harvey Oswald story), but now relies on self-publication through Amazon’s “user friendly and versatile” CreateSpace.

Though a technologist, Rob says he’s not at all regimented when it comes to putting pen to paper. In fact, his writing schedule can be downright “crazy.”

“When I get motivated to write a story, I sit down and write, sometimes a few pages at a time, [but] sometimes I spend the entire day working on it. Sometimes I skip days and don’t write anything at all.”

In spite of the episodic nature of his writing schedule, Rob heeds commonly advocated doctrine by networking with other writers and reading works from his favorite authors, which include Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum, and Dan Brown. Like many writers, he hopes to become a *New York Times* Best Seller and would love to see his books made into motion pictures.

Meanwhile, Rob keeps plugging along whenever the muse hits him, thriving off the vibe found in CCW’s community where he’s been a member for at least five years. “I like CCW because it’s a small and intimate society,” he says. “The officers really care about the group, and the guest speakers are second to none. I only regret that I cannot attend more meetings.” Rob’s website is [www.robertjroyauthor.com](http://www.robertjroyauthor.com).

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



## Windy with a Chance of Tartar Sauce

It's said that March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, and that's the perfect metaphor for my writing. March, or a new writing project, begins with blustery confidence, but that bold self-assurance rarely lasts until the words: The End. Somewhere along the voyage I'm blown off course, my sails in tatters from a storm of criticism and self-doubt. That's when I lose belief in myself and drift away like a whimpering lamb. (Okay, I've officially over used the metaphor.)

But why does this scenario happen? Why do I lose my confidence?

Confidence is the foundation of all great success and achievement, yet we as writers often struggle to maintain our conviction in the face of rejection and negative criticism. Motivational writer Zig Ziglar said, "Confidence is going after Moby Dick in a rowboat and taking the tartar sauce with you." What I want to know is: How can we writers cultivate the confidence to bring the tartar sauce?

As [Orange County] club president I've gotten to know many of the writers who have spoken to us, and I always ask them, "Where do you get your confidence?" And the answer is invariably, "What confidence?" Yes, even successful writers suffer from self-doubt. The only difference is that, although they too are running on a confidence deficit, they still have enough faith in themselves to keep going. They have the ability, if not to silence, at least to ignore their critics and adopt a fake-it-til-you-make-it attitude.

How do they do that? Well, here's the best answer I can come up with.

Imagine that the inside of your head is a bar. You decide if it's classy or a cheap dive. In this bar self-confidence is sitting quietly working in a corner while nursing a club soda, when loud-mouthed self-doubt, drunk on Happy-Hour half-price cocktails, falls off its bar stool and begins shouting, "Hey Confidence, give it up. You'll never be any good." Now here's the money shot. Confidence simply continues working despite the noise.

But how does a writer do that when just one negative comment can negate ten positive ones? When the critics speak at 600 decibels and confidence speaks at 60? You can start by understanding the real purpose of confidence. It's not to pump you up with enough chest-pounding bravura to drown out your critics; its purpose is to gently urge you to keep going despite your critics.

Recently a writer told me, "Confidence doesn't come from always being right; it comes from not being afraid to be wrong." And I know it's hard, yet accept the fact that writing with confidence doesn't always mean you're writing well. But confidence does spur you on to keep writing, to keep reworking, which is the only way to get better.

Greek playwright Aeschylus said, "I'm not afraid of storms, for I am learning to sail my ship."

And to that I say, "Sail On! And don't forget the tartar sauce."

*[Thank you to guest writer Pam Tallman, President of the Orange County Branch of CWC. -Ed.]*

# Federico García Lorca



No one knows the real reason why Federico García Lorca was killed by a firing squad in Spain in 1936. He was 38 years old. His body has never been found. Some suspect it was because of his homosexuality, while others know that it was a political killing by the forces loyal to the Fascist dictator Francisco Franco. Lorca's work was silenced until the death of Franco in 1953. At the time of his death he had been working on plays, including a folk drama trilogy *Bodas de Sangre* or [Blood Wedding](#).

Lorca was born June 5, 1898, in Fuentes Vaquero, Spain. Lorca became famous as a member of the Generation of '27, a group of poets who introduced symbolism, futurism, and surrealism into Spanish literature.

At the Residencia de Estudiantes, he was taken under the wing of poet Juan Ramón Jiménez. Lorca socialized at the Café Alameda with artists and writers. In 1921 his first book of poems was published. But his next book, [Poem of the Deep Song](#), was not published until 1932. He fell in love with the Avant Garde. In the following years he published [Canciones Y Poemas](#) (*Songs and Poems*) and [Romancero Gitano](#) (*Gypsy Ballads*), a book that brought him fame.

Madrid was an exciting place for Lorca. He met Salvador Dalí, who made a lasting impression on him. They had an intense friendship during the years 1925 to 1928. The film "[Little Ashes](#)" explores the love affair between Dalí and Lorca during Madrid's rip-roaring 1920's. Lorca also had a love affair with sculptor Soriano Aladren. Lorca was never comfortable about his homosexuality and felt anguish because of it. Dalí created the stage sets for Lorca's second play, [Mariana Pineda](#), which opened with rave reviews in 1927.

Lorca and Dalí had a deep friendship. When it ended, Lorca was thrown into a deep depression; his family paid for a trip to America. The trip was very exciting from the beginning as he sailed on the RMS Olympic, the sister ship of the RMS Titanic. In America, he visited New York, Vermont, and Cuba. And he did some writing. His work of this time examines his feelings of isolation and alienation—[Poet in New York](#) was published posthumously in 1942. In it, he used experimental poetic techniques. While he was in New York in 1929, the

## The Poetry Corner

By Nancy Jacobs



stock market crashed. He wrote about it, but his book, [The Public](#), was not published until the 1970's and has never been published in its complete form.

Before he was shot he had been working on traditional poetic forms. His last work is called [Sonnets of Dark Love](#), 1936. These sonnets derive inspiration from the 16th century poet San Juan de la Cruz.

Something people don't know about Lorca is that he was also a very talented visual artist.

### Ode to Salvador Dalí

By Federico García Lorca

A rose in the high garden you desire.  
A wheel in the pure syntax of steel.  
The mountain stripped bare of Impressionist fog,  
The grays watching over the last balustrades.

The modern painters in their white ateliers  
clip the square root's sterilized flower.  
In the waters of the Seine a marble iceberg  
chills the windows and scatters the ivy.

Man treads firmly on the cobbled streets.  
Crystals hide from the magic of reflections.  
The Government has closed the perfume stores.  
The machine perpetuates its binary beat.

An absence of forests and screens and brows  
roams across the roofs of the old houses.  
The air polishes its prism on the sea  
and the horizon rises like a great aqueduct.

Soldiers who know no wine and no penumbra  
behead the sirens on the seas of lead.  
Night, black statue of prudence, holds  
the moon's round mirror in her hand.

A desire for forms and limits overwhelms us.  
Here comes the man who sees with a yellow ruler.  
Venus is a white still life  
and the butterfly collectors run away.

Continue reading [here](#).

## Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



### CONTESTS

#### 2017 Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction

**Deadline:** March 14, 2017

**Entry Fee:** \$15.00 by regular mail, \$17.00 by email (per story).

**Website:** [coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nelligan-prize/submission-guidelines](http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nelligan-prize/submission-guidelines)

**Submission Guidelines:** Email submissions through Submittable; submissions by post must be postmarked March 14, 2017. Visit website for guidelines, no theme restrictions. The work must be a minimum of 2500 words, maximum 12,500 words. Winner will be announced by July, 2017.

**Prizes:** \$2000.00 plus publication in the *Colorado Review*. All submissions will be considered for publication in the Fall/Winter edition of the 2017 *Colorado Review*.

#### Limnisa Short Story Competition 2017

**Deadline:** Midnight, March 15, 2017. Winners will be announced May 1, 2017 on the Limnisa website.

**Entry Fee:** Free, provided you LIKE the Limnisa Facebook page or FOLLOW Limnisa on Twitter and SHARE the Competition page on Social Media, *Optional fee:* \$30.00 for a professional story evaluation.

**Website:** [limnisa.com/competition-2017](http://limnisa.com/competition-2017)

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for full guidelines. Unpublished stories of 500 to 3000 words max; any subject; past, present, or future; in fresh, original, compelling style. Send entries by email to [entries@limnisa.com](mailto:entries@limnisa.com), only one story per person, entries in English, open to anyone worldwide except friends and family of judges. All copyrights remain property of author.

**Prizes: 1st Prize:** One week writer's retreat in 2017 or 2018 at Limnisa, Greece. All inclusive: full board, 7 nights accommodation in a single room, optional daily yoga sessions, literary evening, use of all Limnisa facilities: beach, bikes, international library, etc., *OR* five online sessions of personal tutoring. **2nd Prize and 3rd Prize:** 50% discount on the Writer's Retreat or a free online session of personal tutoring or feedback on written work. **Two Runners Up Prizes:** 25% discount on the Writer's Retreat. (Prizes are not transferrable and are only valid in 2017 and 2018.)

#### Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest

**Deadline:** All entries must be received by April 1, 2017.

**Entry Fee:** Free.

**Website:** [winningwriters.submittable.com/submit/58279/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-no-fee](http://winningwriters.submittable.com/submit/58279/wergle-flomp-humor-poetry-contest-no-fee)

**Submission Guidelines:** One humor poem of up to 250 lines, submissions by email, see website.

**Prizes: 1st Prize:** \$1000.00, **2nd Prize:** \$250.00, **3rd Prize:** \$100.00. The top 12 entries will be published online.

**Judges:** Jendi Reiter assisted by Lauren Singer.

### WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

#### Gold Rush Writers Conference

**Location:** Historic Leger Hotel, Mokelumne Hill, CA

**Date:** May 5, 6, 7, 2017

**Deadline & Cost:** \$165.00 early fee by April 1, 2017 includes picnic dinner Friday, Saturday dinner, Sunday Brunch, gluten free meals available.

**Website:** [www.goldrushwriters.com](http://www.goldrushwriters.com)



**“Don’t Worry, Be Happy” —Bobby McFerrin**

**“Someday perhaps I’ll have to get a grownup job...**

**but for now I’m having too much fun being a reporter.”**

**—Andrea Mitchell**

Little children spend endless hours with crayons and coloring books because it’s fun, designing their own landscapes and people freehand: “Grandpa, may I have some blank sheets of paper to draw on?” They might make up stories to go with their drawings, folding the paper to form a picture story book. They enjoy the activity and are pleased with the result.

It’s fun to make a straight line without using a ruler. It’s fun to start a zipper without looking; and to put candles on a cake without getting frosting on your little finger. The challenge, and the concentration it takes to do new things is exciting; and success is wonderful! To praise them is a bit anticlimactic.

As they get older, the challenges become more difficult. They see others engaged in an activity that they would like to try, but it’s tempting to give up when they don’t succeed after repeated efforts. But the harder it is to do, the more they want to do it. And the more they exert the effort, the closer they come to mastering it.

I think we all feel excitement surging through us when we realize that we are gaining the ability to accomplish our goal:

- Riding a bicycle without training wheels.
- Throwing a curveball with accuracy.
- Surfing upright through an incoming wave.
- Finishing the tough slalom at a ski resort.

We experience the realization that “I can actually do this!” When we stitch a perfect hem, or barbecue a very juicy hamburger that’s not too rare in the middle, it’s really no big thing; but we feel the ecstasy of accomplishment. Parallel parking in one easy sweep and then pull a little straight forward is a challenge to master and a great pleasure every time we do it!

When writing, pre-teen children sometimes express emotions in very private detailed descriptions of their status or what life would be like if they had their own way. “What are you writing?” “Nothing!”

They may be angry, or sad—or worried! Writing releases the tension. Some write to conquer fear, or simply to escape! They record feelings and ideas that might be ridiculed if they said them aloud.

Teenagers write very personal stuff to themselves—or maybe to flirt with a special person. Or maybe just because writers are cool. They write to “tweet” and be “RTed.”

Many adults write for similar reasons in a more complex world:

- To talk to their higher power.
- To resolve problems and prioritize.
- Simply to enjoy expressing their ideas in detail.

From those I’ve known, writing is purely personal pleasure. They enjoy the activity and are pleased with the result.

**Be well, and be happy,  
Jonathan**

## The Last Word

By Lana Bryan



### Are You a Live One? Volunteering at CCW

At the first CCW meeting I attended, Leslie Patiño said she was hoping to hand off the newsletter to someone else. I wrote in this space what I said to my husband (“I could do that!”) and his response (“Are you insane?”). Apparently so, as here we are. Recently in an Executive Committee (ExComm) Meeting, a not-to-be-named member said to me, “I went back to my table and said ‘We’ve got a live one!’”

To follow up on a recent email from Prez and all-around sweetheart Laurie Sheehan, your ExComm works hard for you, and some members hold more than one job. We could use a little help.

We have upcoming openings for Publicity and for Membership. Leslie Patiño is one of those holding dual (and occasionally triple) positions. She is ready to hand off the Publicity portion to a new member or to one who has been in CCW a while and is ready to take on a bit more activity. The Publicity Chair creates the monthly meeting reminder postcards and mailing labels. Then, s/he has the cards printed, affixes mailing labels and stamps and gets them in the mail a week before their general meeting.

Membership Chair Christine Sleeter would be willing to guide a new chairperson in all things about membership before this summer, when travelling makes the job tougher to handle. Her main duties are recording new members’ information in our database and sending out the new member welcome packet, alerting the Executive Committee to new members, and coordinating payment of the membership fees with Treasurer Clarissa Conn. In May and June, Christine will be reminding us all to renew our memberships, a busy time of stuffing envelopes, addressing, and mailing to all members. ExComm members help assemble the packets. You could be the one to help her with that and learn the ropes at the same time!

Joyce Krieg is willing to relinquish the elected role of Secretary, if someone in the Club covets that job. Must be at the monthly ExComm meetings and get all the lively discussion recorded.

We don’t currently have a Member at Large on CCW’s ExComm, but have thought about it. This person fills in wherever needed.

If you might want to step into the water with just one toe, consider helping Sarah Pruitt, Hospitality Chair. She is at the greeting table every month, handing out the name tags, making guests feel welcome and offering them name tags. Dee Smith is her usual helper at the table, but on occasion we need a sub.

Are you a live one? Let us know!

Until next time,  
-Lana

**Scribbles March 2017**

## CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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*Scribbles* is published by: Central Coast Writers,  
Post Office Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

### Editorial Staff

Lana Bryan	Editor
Nancy Jacobs	Poetry Corner
Patricia Watson	Contests and Workshops
C. Jonathan Shoemaker	If the Shoe Fits
Michelle Smith	Member Profiles
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## CCW Website

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

### For anything *Scribbles* related:

Contact *Scribbles* editor Lana Bryan:

[lane.bryan@writeteam.com](mailto:lane.bryan@writeteam.com)

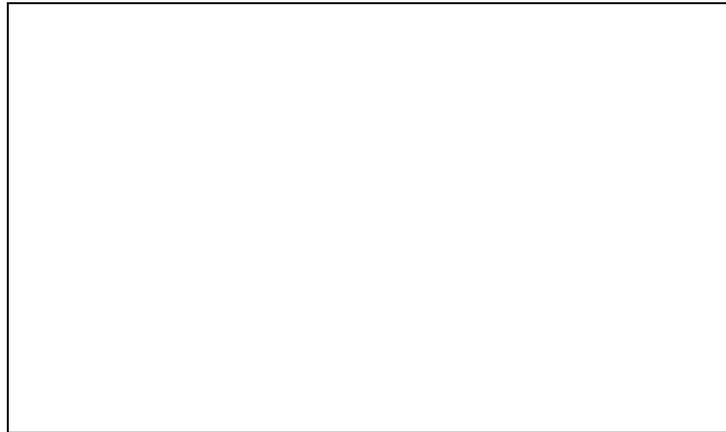
### Not yet a member of CCW?

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



## **March 21**

**Mark Wiederanders**

**5:30 p.m.—CHECK-IN and DINNER**

**6:30 p.m.—MEETING**

**Point Pinos Grill**

**79 Asilomar Boulevard**

**Pacific Grove**

