



# Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch

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

March 2018

**On March 20**

**C.S. Lakin**

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

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

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



**Happy St. Patrick's Day**

**Coming on April 17**

**To Be Announced**

**It's a Mystery—stay tuned!**

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## Steady Progress

Welcome to March—a month named for Martius, aka Mars, the Roman god of War. That fact will conjure different images for each of you; however, for the purpose of this epistle let us only think about the little battles that we wage with ourselves. I cannot be the only one who sometimes feels that sitting down to write is like facing a foe. So many things present themselves as obstacles between me and my ultimate goal. But, as with any good war analogy, I'm going to say that the only way to win is by moving one step at a time, one skirmish, one small scuffle, a tiny mêlée, if you will. Moreover, while I don't wish to seem militant or pushy, there is something to be said for steadily plodding along on one's path. That might just be a better definition of march, and it ties in so well with the idea of trooping along.

Merriam-Webster defines march as follows: 1) to move along steadily usually with a rhythmic stride and in step with others, and 2) to move in a direct purposeful manner: proceed, and finally 3) to make steady progress: advance. I'm going to borrow from good old Webster and boldly state that one of my hopes for our club is that we can help you move steadily toward your writing goals with purpose, with a rhythmic stride, and in step with other writers. I'm quite proud of the job our club already does to instruct and nurture our members. We'll continue to offer fantastic presentations at our meetings, workshops that foster creativity and educate attendees, and opportunities to participate in public events (see page 5 for more information on ways to participate in Good Old Days).

We're always looking for ways to connect writers, so we're trying something new. Our first attempt at a Writers Confab will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at the Monterey Public Library. It's going to be a casual gathering, and I hope to see many of you there. I'd also enjoy hearing some of your ideas—what do you think would add to your experience as a CCW member? Ultimately, it's your club, and you're welcome to help make it great!

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

**Laurie**





## Technology and the transformation of human experience — Scott Thomas Anderson

The habit of condensing thought into Twitter’s 280-character limit or texting an emoji to express a feeling could be degrading our ability to think and to use the full breadth of language, according to our February speaker, journalist and author Scott Thomas Anderson.

“Language colors how you experience reality. When social media dumbs down our reading and writing, it dumbs down our ability to conceive or imagine,” he said.

Anderson is an investigative journalist for the *Sacramento News & Review*, and author of two non-fiction books: one addresses prison culture, the other meth addiction. He says it’s not enough to be a good reporter; one needs to channel the information gathered through writing that “cuts people to the core.”

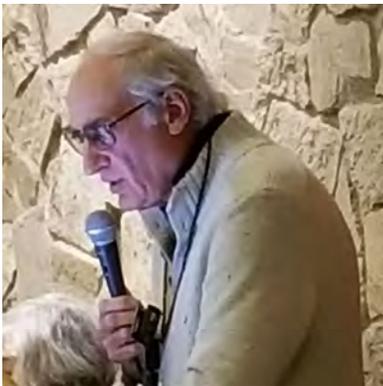
“If you are a writer, you are harnessing creative endeavor to challenge society to find a higher way of being,” he said.

He concedes there is no stopping social media. But it should be balanced through a focus on creative writing, and by supporting youth in that endeavor.

Anderson also mused on the origins of social media and the driving force behind it. “Some of the biggest drivers of the platforms are so divorced from the humanities. People writing these platforms do not have a Hippocratic oath of any kind...that says do no harm. It’s just a forward momentum without looking back,” he said.

Anderson put us all squarely in the path of history when he said that some of us may belong to the last generation who remembers the world before the Internet.

“We need to capture what we remember about the world before it changes,” he said.



Five-minute Reader Mark Krieger



Speaker Scott Thomas Anderson



Speaker Scott Thomas Anderson

Photographs by Gary Parker

## New CCW Workshop

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

Saturday, March 10th



Congratulations! Finishing a book-length manuscript and getting it up on Amazon is a huge accomplishment! But now...how do you get the word out so readers can actually find your book? How does “the little guy” get reviews and media coverage if you’re not published by one of the big, traditional New York houses? Find out at our upcoming workshop!

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 10:00 A.M. – NOON  
(doors open at 9:30 a.m.)  
MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE in the  
SAM KARAS ROOM  
(plenty of free parking)  
\$30 MEMBERS  
\$40 NON-MEMBERS



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

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

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

[Online Registration](#) - [Online Payment Option](#)

 Please note that there has been an issue with our online forms. If the registration form does not appear, send in the mail-in form. If you are having problems, you can register with Sharon Tucker by phone: [831-809-1705](tel:831-809-1705).

# Announcements

## Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

**Michael Beck   Sally Boho   Amanda Gladin-Kramer**



## CWC Marches On!

Submitted by Nancy Swing and Russell Sunshine

We've volunteered to organize CCW's participation in the annual Good Old Days Parade, Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m.

It's a lot of fun, and marchers get CCW's name out to the community. Have you marched before? Are you ready to march again? Or are you up for your first time?

Last year, thanks to the rain, we had only a few hardy souls. This year, we're hoping for sunshine and a larger turnout. Some CCW marchers wear their CCW tee shirts. Others put on Good Old Days costumes or get gussied up like characters in famous books. It's not necessary to wear anything special, but we sure get compliments when we do. Let's make a real effort to leave parade watchers with a lasting impression of just how nifty CCW is.

If you'd like to participate, or if you have ideas about how we can make our section of the march even more memorable, please let us know via [sunswing44@gmail.com](mailto:sunswing44@gmail.com). We'll be getting in touch directly as the date draws near.



## Pitch-O-Rama 2018

Submitted by Marcia G. Rosen

Meet Agents and Editors...Get a Book Deal. San Francisco—On Saturday, March 31, from 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., the Women's National Book Association hosts Pitch-O-Rama 2018. The annual event for writers, authors, and others interested in publishing is held at the Women's Building Auditorium in the heart of [The Mission District, 3543 18th Street](#) (between Guerrero & Valencia). Registration for Pitch-O-Rama 2018 is \$65 for WNBA members and \$75 for non-members. Space is limited to the first 60 ticketed attendees. Men are welcome. The fee includes continental breakfast, as well as early morning coaching on how to pitch, a one-on-one pitch session and a panel discussion. For more information and to register: [wnba-sfchapter.org/agents-editors-publishers-pitch-o-rama-2018](http://wnba-sfchapter.org/agents-editors-publishers-pitch-o-rama-2018).



## Announcements (con't.)

### Events of Interest to Writers

Submitted monthly by Janet Rocke

**Networking Aloud:** A monthly event (every second Tuesday) open to the public. Fifteen to twenty minutes from a featured reader followed by a literary open mic. Come early and sign up for a five-to-seven-minute reading from any genre: prose, screenplay, poetry, essay, etc. This month's featured writer is Ayaz Pirani. He was born in Tanzania. His degree is from Vermont College of Fine Arts, where he was a student of the late Jack Myers. His first book, *Happy You Are Here*, was published in 2016 and his poem "African Masks" was recently featured in Poem in Your Pocket Day by the Academy of American Poets.

March 13, 6-8 p.m. Old Capitol Books 599 Tyler Street, Monterey

**Curated Words:** A free event with easy parking and a comfortable atmosphere. Delicious refreshments available including beer and wine. An eclectic mix of a popular genre with real world issues of justice and inequity. Provocative and entertaining. Special March edition: Hope for the Future. A line up of young aspiring writers, many of whom are from Lowell High School in San Francisco.

March 29, 6:45-8:45 p.m. Juice n' Java Cafe 599 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove

**Lascivious Hypnagogic:** Salvador Dali is balanced between the conscious and unconscious as paintings come to life and speak to him in a language of movement and prose. Provocative writing, risqué dancing and acting performances offer a brutally honest but nonetheless sexy take on the controversial persona and brilliant art of Salvador Dali. Featuring The Erotic Eclectic, an affiliation of writers and other creatives who weave words and exotic dance into dynamic multimedia performance.

March 30 and 31, 7-9:30 p.m. The Dali17 Museum, 5 Custom House Plaza, Monterey. Tickets available through eventbrite.

### A Few Simple Rules For Donating to the Door Prize Drawing

By Joyce Krieg, CCW Secretary

The door prize drawing is a beloved tradition at our monthly meetings, and the source of funds for the cash prizes in our high school short story contest. In addition to generously supporting the raffle by purchasing tickets, a number of you are also donating items for prizes. So much so that your CCW Executive Committee has had to devise a few guidelines.

The Raffle Chair—Cheri Love—makes the final decision as to prizes offered each month. If there are too many prizes, this can cause the drawing process to drag, sometimes even cutting into the guest speaker's time. In this case, some items may be held until the following month. Likewise, gifts that arrive after the ticket sale begins—usually around 5:30 p.m.—may be held for later give-away.

Please keep these guidelines in mind when deciding whether to donate prizes to the raffle:

- Wine and chocolate are always welcome!
- In general, items should be new.
- Books are limited to
  - topics related to writing—recently published, please;
  - recent releases by our members, one-time-only per title; and
  - books by our guest speaker.
- Produce, cut flowers and plants should be fresh and look attractive.
- Sorry, no homemade edibles due to health/liability concerns.

The CCW officers and board reserve the right to make the final decision, which may include bending the rules, keeping in mind the best interests of the club and our members.



## “If I Sit, It Will Happen”

**Collette O’Connor**

After earning a B.A. in English from U.C. Berkeley, Colette O’Connor’s first job out of college was as a ski instructor at a French ski school based in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

“This was the beginning not only of my lifelong love of travel, with my passion focused on France,” Colette says. “It also was an adventure that made for my first published story.”

Named after the French novelist, Colette saw her travel stories published in *The Best Travel Writing, True Stories From Around the World, The Best Women’s Travel Writing*, and *Travelers’ Tales* humor anthologies. She also worked as a staff lifestyle feature writer at the *Pasadena Star-News* and freelanced for the *Los Angeles Times*.

For years, Colette worked as a part-time legal assistant. During that time, she earned an M.F.A. in creative writing at San Jose State University. Then, in 2015, she left her legal office to teach freshman writing at San Jose State and Cal State Monterey Bay, which led to a hiatus for her own writing.

“There’s some mysterious thing about teaching that completely drained my writing motivation,” says Colette, who didn’t stray for long. “One is really a writer forever, right?”

Though Colette, who joined CCW a few years ago, is not teaching freshman writing this semester, she’s having a blast teaching writing workshops and has plenty of time to pursue her own writing. “Unemployment is completely wonderful,” she says, adding that she’s on a mission to find another writer-friendly occupation.

When it comes to revving up her muse, Colette is an ardent believer in reading. A fan of humorists, essayists, and those who write creative nonfiction, she also advocates creating a “sacred time and place to just sit and ‘invite grace.’ Every day, I tell myself I need only work for an hour, but that hour is sacrosanct. If I sit, it will happen.”

Colette’s favorite spot to forge through her creative nonfiction is on her bed in the company of her cats and a hot cup of tea where she gazes through her window at visiting birds—where her minimum one hour of dedicated writing time easily turns into two or three. “You need not leave your room,” she says, taking to heart the words of Bohemian-Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke.

Colette’s next workshop on travel writing will take place in April at Cabrillo College Extension, a 4-week course, meeting every Tuesday evening in April. (Go to the [Cabrillo Activity Calendar](#) and search for “Travel Writing.”) Meanwhile, Collette is working on a travel memoir about the time she lived in Paris—a project she looks forward to completing soon in anticipation of publication.

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



## Rainer Maria Rilke



In Prague, December 4, 1875, Rainer Maria Rilke was born into an unhappy family. His parents put him in a military school with the expectation that he would become an officer. With the help of his uncle, however, Rilke left the military school and entered a German prep school. By 1895 Rilke planned a literary career. He published his first volume of poetry called *Leben und Lieder* in 1896. He traveled to Italy, Spain, Egypt, France, and Russia during his lifetime.

Russia became Rilke's "spiritual fatherland." One can see Tolstoy's influence in *Das Buch vom Lieben und Andreas*, which translates to "Stories of God." He married Clara Westhoff, who was a student of Rodin. In 1902 Rilke became friends with and secretary to Rodin. *Duino Elegies* is one of Rilke's best known and best works written during this time. Another very popular work is *Das Stunden Buch* (*The Book of Hours*).

Rilke fell in love with Paris, where he developed a new style of lyrical poetry influenced by the visual arts. At the start of World War I, he moved to Munich, where Danish writer Jens Peter Jacobsen influenced him.

Rilke expanded poetry by using syntax, diction, and imagery. He preferred physical to intellectual symbols. In the book *New Republic*, W.H. Auden states that Rainer Maria Rilke rejected Catholic beliefs and Christianity in general. Rilke tried to reconcile beauty and suffering, life and death into one philosophy. Art was what mattered most in life.

There was a period in Rilke's life when his short stories and verse were strongly influenced by Romanticism and German folk songs, and by the work of Heinrich Heine. His *The Story of the Love and Death of Cornet Christopher Rilke* remained popular all his life. *The Book of Hours* comprises three books: *Of the Monastic Life*, *Of Pilgrimage*, and *Of Poverty and Death*. Although a popular book, the critic Pickman states that *The Book of Hours* "remains too constantly abstract. It lacks the solid reality of great poetry."



Some of Rilke's work is autobiographical. In *Pierre Dumont*, a young boy says goodbye to his mother at the gates of a military school. The book *Ewald Tragy* is a two-part story about a boy who leaves his family and hometown of Prague for Munich. Once there the boy is unhappy but eventually finds freedom. In Switzerland, he wrote his last two collections, *Duino Elegies* (1923) and *Sonnets to Orpheus* (1923). He was known as the master of verse.

Leukemia took his life on December 29, 1926. Artists and critics like his work but the average person was not aware of his writing. Rilke had written his own epitaph poem: "Rose, oh pure contradiction, delight of being no one else's sleep under so many eyelids."

"In the deepest hour of the night, confess to yourself that you would die if you were forbidden to write. And look deep into your heart where it spreads its roots, the answer, and ask yourself: 'Must I write?'" —Rainer Maria Rilke

### To Lou Andreas Salome by Rainer Maria Rilke

I held myself too open, I forgot  
that outside not just things exist and animals  
fully at ease in themselves, whose eyes  
reach from their lives' roundedness no differently  
than portraits do from frames; forgot that I  
with all I did incessantly crammed  
looks into myself; looks, opinion, curiosity.  
Who knows: perhaps eyes form in space  
and look on everywhere. Ah, only plunged toward you  
does my face cease being on display, grows  
into you and twines on darkly, endlessly,  
into your sheltered heart.

As one puts a handkerchief before pent-in-breath-  
no: as one presses it against a wound  
out of which the whole of life, in a single gush,  
wants to stream, I held you to me: I saw you  
turn red from me. How could anyone express  
what took place between us? We made up for everything  
there was never time for. I matured strangely  
in every impulse of unperformed youth,  
and you, love, had wildest childhood over my heart.

[Read the rest of the poem...](#)



### CONTESTS

#### The Fiction War Atom Bomb Flash Fiction Competition

**Deadline:** May 23, 2018

**Entry Fees:** 1 story for \$10.00, 2 stories for \$9.00 each, 3 stories for \$8.00 each.

**Website:** [fictionwar.com](http://fictionwar.com)

**Prize:** \$5000.00, plus publication in *Fiction War Magazine*. Prize paid 30 days after publication.

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for full details. Flash Fiction stories of 100 words on the theme "When I Lived." Multiple submissions allowed, no simultaneous submissions.

#### The AudioJam Play Script Spring Contest

**Deadline:** Midnight March 31, 2018, GMT, online submissions only

**Entry Fee:** \$4.17 per manuscript paid as 2.99 British pounds, online payment only.

**Website:** [audiojam.co.uk/competitions](http://audiojam.co.uk/competitions)

**Prize:** Work will be recorded by professional actors and broadcast via AudioCloud.

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for details, including play length and style.

#### The L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Contest

**Deadline:** March 31, 2018

**Entry Fee:** Free for Science Fiction/Dark Fantasy work

**Website:** [writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest](http://writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest)

**Prizes:** \$1000.00, \$750.00, \$500.00 awarded quarterly. From the four quarterly 1st Place winners yearly, a panel of judges choose one grand prize winner. That winner wins the Golden Pen Award and an additional \$5000.00 cash prize. Authors retain all rights.

**Submission Guidelines:** See website for details. Prose up to 17,000 words in length. No work for children please. Some restrictions for previously published novelists, so read guidelines closely.

### WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

**Las Vegas Writer's Conference**, sponsored by The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and the Henderson Writer's Group

**Date:** April 19-21, 2018, Full day post-event workshop April 22, 2018.

**Website:** [hendersonwritersgroup.com/las-vegas-writers-conference](http://hendersonwritersgroup.com/las-vegas-writers-conference)

**Location:** Tuscany Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV

**Cost:** \$500.00 regular admission, Single-day admission \$300.00, Sunday workshop \$250.00

**Speaker:** Jane Friedman, see more at [JaneFriedman.com](http://JaneFriedman.com).

**Getaway to Writer-Wales's** July 7-14, 2018, Snowdonia, Wales

**Website:** [murphywriting.com/writing-getaways/get-away-to-write-wales-writing-retreat.html](http://murphywriting.com/writing-getaways/get-away-to-write-wales-writing-retreat.html)

**Cost:** \$2365.00 to \$3465.00, register by April 1, 2018, and receive \$75.00 discount

**Location:** Mt. Snowden, Sir Edmund Hillary's training camp

**Inclusions:** Includes food, lodging, activities, excursions. Excludes travel to and from Wales.



## **“Nothing to Write About? how about...Remember when?”**

Oh yes! When we have a family gathering or a class reunion, we start talking about the stuff that we used to do and how much fun it was—or how we got in trouble for...

“Hey, whatever happened to the pretty girl in sixth grade who suddenly transferred to a private school in the middle of the year? We never saw her again.”

“Yeah, she was really nice. But quiet. I mean weird quiet!”

“My mom said her parents got divorced right after that.”

“And we discovered that body in the cave at low tide.”

“Yeah. Who was with you guys?”

“Henry found it and ran and got us. I think the priest knew who the guy was.”

“Didn’t that one teacher quit right after that? You know—the one who pinched our ears when we started messing around in class? That was weird!”

“And Miss Grover took his place and she was so nice.”

“I didn’t like her.”

“Dude! She was cool!”

“She always finked to our parents.”

There are already three or four ways that this plot could develop. As you remember which person added a comment, you remember the personality of that classmate. All of them become clear in your impression of them—and each becomes a character in the plot you are building. Mentally gather a group of classmates or friends or family members that you might use.

A situation in the past occurs to you. There’s something about it that you feel needs to be resolved. You sense a possible storyline there. It’s in your memory—or your imagination. Day by day, scene by scene, it seems to be calling you.

“Hey, Crazy Jimmy is really our cousin. He wasn’t adopted.”

“Don’t be silly!”

“Really! I saw a copy of his birth certificate.”

“I was talking with Detective Henderson yesterday. Do you know what really happened to Aunt Polly?”

“I always wondered about that.”

Uncle George’s humorous comments seem totally idiotic, but in retrospect, as the plot develops, the things he says turn out to be full of insight. His remarks provide the key to resolving the mystery.

You have a group of characters around you that you are able to predict how each will react in any situation. Put them on an imaginary stage. Have them speak their respective parts. You know them well enough to portray their attitudes and personalities by their actions or by the way they talk. Gradually, the person you’re thinking of becomes that fictional character. By the end of the first act, a related idea may pop into your mind, and you can file this one and get into something more poignant. Or, oh my gosh, you could be excited enough to move on to the second act. You can toss in some action and scenery as you proof the prior day’s dialogue.

Who knows? Just write; and keep going.

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

## The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

### Look! Nature!



At first glance, nothing is happening outside the window. But in the ravine, birds and squirrels abound, hopping and climbing, looking for food. A baby squirrel high in the tree reaches for a morsel, does a flip, but gets his balance and tries again.

A pregnant deer browses for munchables. One deer or another visits often. Sometimes a few young males wander through.

The holly tree, full of red berries in January, is set upon one February morning by dozens of cedar waxwings. In an hour, the berries are nearly picked clean. Off they swoosh *en masse* to find more bounty. I wish I'd seen that.

On another day, just outside the window about 12 feet away, a turkey vulture balances on a broken tree top. Oh, there's why. A deer has succumbed and the vultures are having their day. They all fly up when a coyote comes to make a claim. He drags the fallen prey a few feet, hangs out a while, then scurries off. The vultures hesitantly return.

Unseen by all but the most observant are the tiniest critters: the rats, the voles, the mice, the insects. But they are there.

The cherry trees start to flower in February, increasing in beauty every day, and buzzing with bees when the sun hits the ravine. All the animals will find the resulting cherries irresistible.

Creeks have gouged out many ravines in Monterey. All this activity is right in the middle of town.

**Observing, until next time.  
Lana**

## CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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## CCW Website

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

### For anything **Scribbles** related:

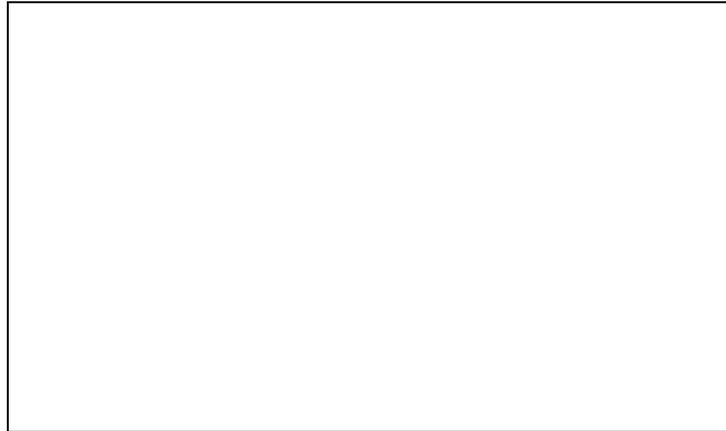
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### Not yet a member of CCW?

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



**March 20**  
**C.S. Lakin**  
**Shoot Your Novel: Cinematic Secrets  
to Supercharge Your Story**  
**5:30 p.m. - CHECK-IN and DINNER**  
**6:30 p.m. - MEETING**  
**Point Pinos Grill**  
**79 Asilomar Boulevard**  
**Pacific Grove**