



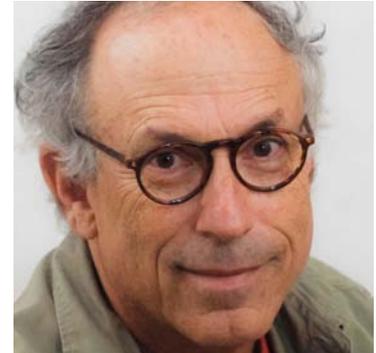
Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch

centralcoastwriters.org

November 2015

Coming on November 17 Andy Ross: The Agent Experience



Come listen to Andy Ross discuss what agents are looking for in a book project and how authors can get their projects ready for submission to agents.

Former owner of the legendary Cody's Books in Berkeley, Ross opened his literary agency in 2008. His agency represents books in a wide range of non-fiction genres, as well as literary, commercial, historical, crime, upmarket women's fiction, and YA fiction. Authors he represents include Daniel Ellsberg, Anjanette Delgado, Mary Jo McConahay, and Paul Krassner.

Tawni Waters, author of the acclaimed YA novel, *Beauty Of The Broken* (Simon Pulse, 2014), said this about him: "Since the day I signed with him, Andy has been an amazing friend, ally, and editor... I have no doubt Andy's edits were the thing that gave *Beauty of the Broken* the polish it needed to sell to a mainstream publisher."

Before the meeting, check out andyrossagency.com and his "Ask the Agent" blog at andyrossagency.wordpress.com.

We expect a large turnout to hear Andy Ross. To guarantee a seat, plan to arrive no later than 6 p.m.

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.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Announcements	4-5
As the Pen Flows	6
Booktoberfest!	3
CCW President's Letter	2
Contests and Conferences	9
If the Shoe Fits	10
Member Profile	7
The Poetry Corner	8
The Last Word	11



Have you heard the one about the retired Catholic priest and the fart machine?

By Laurie Sheehan

A special thanks to Father Harry Freiermuth, Patrick Flanigan, Marina Romani, Peter Hoss, Diana Paul, Kymberlie Ingalls, Jeanne Olin, Laura Hamill, and Debora J. Smith. These 10 Central Coast Writers Club members stepped up to the microphone at our October general meeting, Booktoberfest, to share excerpts from their published works. It takes a certain amount of pluck to stand in front of a crowd and share our written creations. I have to say, I was once again awed by the talent within our membership. Those in attendance were regaled by snippets of fiction and nonfiction that ran the gamut from touching to humorous to downright laugh-out-loud funny (thanks to Father Harry's hand-held "flatulence box"). I also wish to thank Linda Kane and Ned Houston for their understanding about being placed on the alternate readers list. I'm sorry you didn't have a chance to share, but you're on the slate of 5-minute readers!

By now you should have received your membership packet. Make sure to check your information in the roster, which is now in very cool booklet form! If you see anything that needs updating, please let me know. Thanks to the entire Executive Committee, but especially Christine and Clarissa, for being so integral to the process.

In other news, November is National Novel Writing Month, NaNoWriMo for short (<http://nanowrimo.org/>). This will be the 8th year that I've participated in this event. It's a wonderful opportunity to tell your internal editor to take a flying leap. The free-writing necessary to meet the goal of 1667 words tends to produce some seriously interesting stuff!

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting when Andy Ross will share information on The Agent Experience. DATE CHANGE: Our Holiday Member's Party is now scheduled for December 6. More to come!

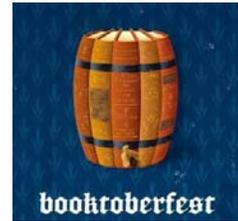
Until we meet again, I wish you happy writing!

Laurie



CCW Treasurer Clarissa Conn displays the nifty new roster booklets that she designed and produced. All paid-up members should have received a packet including the booklet via U.S. mail on or near October 20. If you did not receive a packet, please verify your mailing address with CCW Membership Chair Christine Sleeter, csleeter@gmail.com. Thank you, Clarissa, for creating this fabulous roster booklet for us!

Booktoberfest!



At Booktoberfest, we had ten authors read from their own published works. Two additional writers sold their books after the event. What talent our club has! Big thanks to Clarissa Conn for the photos here.



Peter T. Hoss



Jeanne Olin



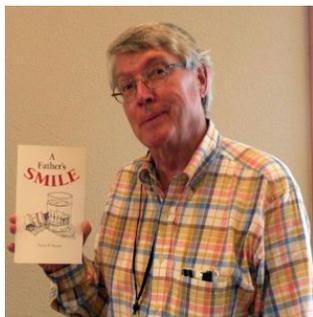
Laura Hamill



Kymberlie Ingalls



Marina Romani



Patrick Flanigan



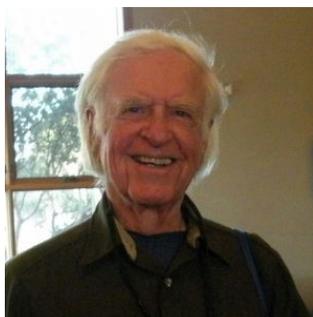
Sharon Row
aka Sharon Flannagan



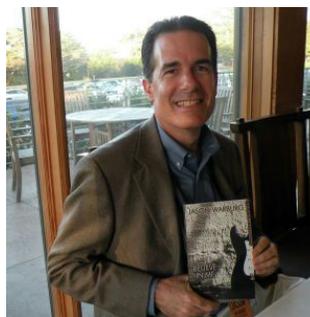
Diana Y. Paul



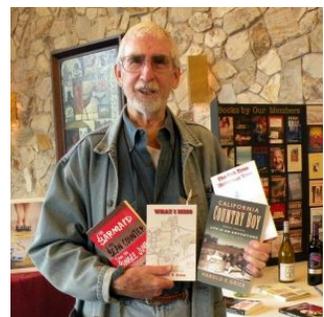
D. J. Smith



Father Harry Freiermuth



Jason Warburg



Harold Grice

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

Merlin Askren **Laureen Diephof**
Sandra Balzo **Catherine M. Wiener**



Member Congratulations!

Carol Marquart has written a play called “Who Was Mabel Dodge Luhan?” She will present it as a one-hour staged reading at the Monterey Peninsula College Lecture Series at 1:30 p.m. on November 18. Admission is free. More information in *As the Pen Flows*, page 6.

Wanda Sue Parrott’s “CHINESE COUPLET” CHALLENGE—Help our CCW member introduce her latest poetic form invention to the world and win cash. 6-word, 3-line storylet poem in couplets. One line must be “chop chop,” Deadline 11/15/15. Details: <http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org> Sample: (by Jerry-Mac Johnston, Springfield, MO)
knife wife
chop chop
me free

Congratulations to longtime CWC members **Jane Parks-McKay** and **Michelle Smith-Johansen**, whose stories were selected to be in the recently published anthology *The Light Between Us: True Stories of Healing Through Creative Expression* (Pen Women Press). Jane authored “Mr. Doola, the Button Man” and Michelle wrote “Letters to My Father.” To order the anthology online, visit www.nlapw.org/bookstore.

Harriet Lynn, guest columnist for the “[Keepers of Our Culture](#)” column (*Cedar Street Times*, October 16, page 18), describes the new Carmel Foundation Players and its first production, *Carmel Life Stories*—an oral history performance. Harriet seeks participants (55+ years) with Carmel-related stories. The premiere is December 3rd with further performances during the Carmel Centennial 2016. No theatre experience is necessary. Contact Harriet at hlynn@umbc.edu or 443-630-5312.



Meet the authors: Anne Perry & Victoria Zackheim

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 p.m., Pacific Grove Public Library

Victoria Zackheim’s new anthology, *Faith: Essays from Believers, Agnostics, and Atheists*, features work from more than two dozen eminent authors, including mystery writer Anne Perry. Perry is a New York Times and international bestselling author with more than eighty books in print. She is noted for her memorable characters, historical accuracy and exploration of social and ethical issues. In addition to talking about the anthology, Perry and Zackheim will share how they approach a story to create compelling characters and mesmerizing plots, and they will share anecdotes related to their writing careers.

(Suggested donation to benefit the PG Public Library is \$10; refreshments are included. Books are available through The Bookworks.)

[Announcements - continued from page 4](#)

Submit Your Member Profile!

Our website, <http://centralcoastwriters.org/>, has a member profile section and you are invited to submit your own by email to info@centralcoastwriters.org. To have a photo posted with your profile, please include the photo in JPG format with your profile email. If you would like to have a new photo taken, our club Treasurer, Clarissa, has graciously offered to take photos of members at our meetings! Most of the photos you see in *Scribbles* are a product of Clarissa's labor and dedication to the club.

Thinking of Writing a Memoir?

Pacific Grove's weekly newspaper, *Cedar St. Times*, continues to look for true life stories, 500-750 words, for the "Keepers of Our Culture" column. Author gets blurb, including link to website, blog or Amazon sales page. Submit in Word doc format by the 15th of each month to pacificgrovejoyce@gmail.com (Editor for Park Place Publications).

Write Short Fiction for Fun and Profit Workshop

Author Michael Bracken delivers a day-long, hands-on workshop designed to provide the tools necessary to write publishable short stories. Craft short story plots, create compelling opening scenes, and gain mastery of scene construction, dialog, and description.

Saturday, November 14, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

See more at: <http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/#sthash.j1fl6wlt.dpuf>

Networking Aloud: A Writers Open Mike

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(2nd Tuesdays of the month)

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

(Across from Trader Joe's & Bus Station)

Our free monthly event 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. Bring your work in progress, we want to hear your voice.

On **November 10**, we will hear from **Debra Smith**, whose pseudonym is **dj jameson smith**. Debra is a writer, blogger, photographer and artist. She has written a 3-book fantasy series, *Secrets Beyond Scymaria*, (pronounced Si-mar-e-a), and will read from her first book, where readers are drawn into the drama of troublesome middle school classmates, dealings with a sinister professor, and a new-found friendship with a most unusual creature. Though written to entice reluctant readers, this series will also intrigue the most voracious of readers.

Tuesday, **December 8**, will feature realtor **Richard Warren** reading from his recent independently published *Hello Moon, For the Child in All of Us*, beautifully illustrated by Jill Fressinier. In this short and profound storybook, Eve wakes up and engages the moon in dialogue, answering in several ways the moon's question "Do you know who you are?" Richard and Jill hope this book, equally inspiring to both children and adults, will find a place in your heart. Come early and do your holiday shopping by supporting our sponsor Old Capitol Books. Their selection of new and used books and toys for children of all ages is growing.

Featured readers needed for 2016 – Contact phanson@csumb.edu

Direct questions to Pat Hanson at [831-601-9195](tel:831-601-9195) or co-emcee Janice Rocke at [831-521-0375](tel:831-521-0375).



Synopsis of an Upcoming Staged Reading

Who Was Mabel Dodge Luhan?

By Carol Marquart

Who was Mabel Dodge Luhan? A Victorian debutante who turned Bohemian, she was not beautiful, but she had money and she knew how to use it. In her own words, Mabel was “a mover and a shaker” during the early 20th century. What did Mabel want? To become “The New Woman.” To create a perfect world where everyone lives in peace and harmony with each other and the land. Only she needed a man of superior intellect and artistic vision to help her create this perfect world. Who would that man be? John Reed, the Revolutionary Socialist? Tony Luhan, a full blooded Pueblo Indian, who would become her fourth and last husband? D.H. Lawrence, who she coaxed to come out to Taos and be “the voice of the land”? Robinson Jeffers, the Carmel poet, who would become her new “Messiah”?

Mabel’s life began in Buffalo, New York. She moved to Florence, Italy, with her second husband where she became “The Renaissance Lady.” Then on to New York, where Mabel presided over her famous Bohemian Salon, and finally to Taos, New Mexico, where she met and married her fourth husband, Tony Luhan (pictured above with Mabel). In Taos, Mabel credits herself for inspiring great artists, the likes of Willa Cather, Ansel Adams, Georgia O’Keeffe and Robinson Jeffers.

Mabel Dodge Luhan was not loved by everyone. Her son, John Evans, detested her. D. H. Lawrence called her “a fake Pocahontas and a castrator.” Dr. Brill, her Freudian analyst, advised her to “start scrubbing floors and get some kind of religion.” Still she was friends with many famous people of her time: Lincoln Steffens, Gertrude Stein and even Una Jeffers. It is impossible to dismiss Mabel as a footnote in the lives of famous people, although many people have. She was, by herself, a force to be reckoned with. An independent woman, she funded and promoted many important causes including the cultural and political advancement of the American Indian in the Southwest. She is still remembered in Taos to this day. [“Awakening in Taos: The Remarkable Story of Mabel Dodge Luhan”](#) is a documentary being filmed by Mark Gordon and will be featured as a PBS Special.

WHO WAS MABEL DODGE LUHAN? is a free one-hour staged reading to be produced at the Monterey Peninsula College Lecture Series at 1:30 p.m. on November 18. I love researching and recreating real people in real time. – Carol Marquart



“Say Something Unique” Albin Winters

Albin Winters’ interest in writing blossomed at an early age. “While in grammar school, I wrote a one-act play, [but] my short-lived career as a dramatist was superseded by music,” he says. Albin studied violin, counterpoint and classical harmony in college, but his professional career led him in an “unexpected direction away from [his] creative instincts.” He became a program manager for a Fortune 500 company where he encountered “lots of daily drama ... and much boredom.” Since 1998, however, he’s owned a small fine/rare print art gallery that revived his “latent desire to write.”

“A friend lent me two novels related to art,” Albin recalls. “I found them both tedious and flat. As so many of us do after reading a disappointing novel, I thought, ‘I can do better than that,’ and then I set out to prove it to myself.”

Albin wrote a novel titled *The Workshop’s Keeper*, a tale about “a young art conservator and her elderly mentor who become embroiled in the search for a legendary de Medici treasure, drawing a foundering art dealer, an ambitious professor and an ambiguous and somewhat dubious art broker into their sphere.” In addition, he’s almost completed *The Lydian Interval*, “a story about a gifted young student pianist who becomes an accidental historian when he finds a trove of lost Beethoven notes and letters, which reveal the identity of the *Immortal Beloved*....”

Reflecting on the publication process, Albin notes that “all aspiring writers know the first publication is the most difficult. Compounding that reality is today’s conflicted publishing industry, which is engaged in a great technology vs. tradition struggle.” Albin suggests we pursue certain key tenets of the writing process while also thinking outside the box. “Visualize the arc of your narrative, and then write every day,” he says. “Read, but read critically and from a diverse selection of authors in time and place. Accept creative criticism, but don’t succumb to aping an authority’s stylistic mandates. ... It’s okay to have a favorite writer, but find your own voice. Hopping onto a current in-style bandwagon may find a writer some short-lived success, but to be a long-distance literary writer, you must find your spot and say something unique.”

A CCW member for three years, Albin is proud to be part of our club. He is seeking agent representation for *The Workshop’s Keeper*, and his website can be found at theworkshopkeeper.com.

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



Illia Thompson



Illia Thompson is a member of CCW. She writes articles, advises on writing memoirs and writes freeform poetry. Illia has self published her own books, such as *Gracious Seasons*, *Heart Frames*, and *Along the Memoir Way*. *Gracious Seasons* was inspired during the time of her second husband's illness and eventual death.

It was a beautiful sunny day as I drove on the road where Illia lives in Carmel Valley. The numbers are not in correct order on her street. I had to call Illia who came out in a blue dress, which made her house so much easier to find. She warmly greeted me and we walked into her spacious house whose walls are adorned with colorful oils created by a very talented Illia.

Illia came to America from Portugal when she was six years old. Her family lived in New York until 1961, at which time they moved to California. One of her teachers inspired and encouraged Illia to pursue writing. Illia became a teacher. She has taught at Monterey Peninsula College. She also follows the work of Pat Vecchione and the Monterey Bay Poetry Consortium. Illia has received an award from the *Reader's Digest* for her work.

She has been married twice. Her first husband was stolen by another woman; however, Illia is not bitter because her second marriage was perfect. Losing her first husband was a blessing in disguise. Her second husband began Blackthorne hot tubs and spas. The family still has the business even though the husband has passed away.

She got involved with Mae Waldroup who owned the Thunderbird Bookstore. There she met Harold Grice and others who formed CCW from the Thunderbird group.

Illia sparkles when she talks about her writing. She loves fluidity, loves to shorten sentences in poetry, and loves creativity.

Nature, awakening, and light verse are her favorites. She loves to be playful with words and she loves words and the combination of words. She said that when she writes poetry she is offering a single flower instead of the whole bouquet.

She offers lessons to those who are interested. You can reach her at 831-659-5210 or at her email address in the CCW membership roster.

August 21, 2015

small bird, perhaps a wren

flies into a wall of windows

falls unto tiled patio

wings spread limply

head askew

no sign of life

until touched

by human hands and hearts

then feathers barely flutter

beak almost speaks

before resembled self

takes flight into summer warmth.

By Illia Thompson



CONTESTS

Tennessee Williams Poetry Contest

Deadline: November 15, 2015

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per submission, unlimited entries, see website for submission guidelines.

Website: tennesseewilliams.net/2015-16-poetry-contest

Prize: Grand Prize \$1500.00, a VIP pass (value \$500) to the festival, public reading of work at the next festival, and publication in *Louisiana Cultural Vistas Magazine*, other prizes for top nine finalists. Contest open to unpublished, emerging writers, who have not published work with ISBN numbers in the poetry genre. Submission of 2 to 4 unpublished poems with combined length of 400 lines. Judge: Yusef Komunyakaa

Tennessee Williams Fiction Contest

Deadline: November 30, 2015 for unpublished short story

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per submission, up to four submissions, see website for submission guidelines.

Website: tennesseewilliams.net/2015-16-fiction-contest

Prize: 1st Place wins \$1,500, airfare to New Orleans, a room in the French Quarter for festival, and a VIP pass (value \$500) to the next Festival event, public reading at a literary panel at the next festival, and publication in *Louisiana Literature*. Contest for unpublished authors. Judge: Claire Vaye Watkins.

Fountain Magazine—Fountain Magazine Essay Contest

Deadline: November 30, 2015

Entry Fee: \$00.00-Free, no reading fees, visit website for submission guidelines.

Theme: The Defining Theme of Our Age. How do you think history will record the 21st century? Essays are expected to be factual, but with an inspirational style that will feed both our reason and soul. Contest open to all writers worldwide. Essay word count must be between 1,500 and 2,500 words. Essays must be submitted through the contest page at fountainmagazine.com/essaycontest

Prizes: 1st Place - \$1,500, 2nd Place - \$750, 3rd Place - \$300, Two Honorable Mentions - \$200 each.

The California Historical Society 2016 Book Award

Deadline: May 1, 2016

Theme: California History, specifically an important contribution by deepening public understanding of some aspect of California history. The award carries a \$5,000 advance for the winning manuscript and publication by CHS/Heyday, with an awards ceremony, promotion, and an author tour throughout the state. For more information contest, visit heydaybooks.com/chsbookaward/.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Elizabeth Gilbert Live

Date: November 7, 2015

Website: lizgilbertevent.com to purchase tickets

Location: Join the author of *Eat, Pray, Love* at the Napa Meritage Resort and Spa for a day of creativity and community. This event is expected to sell out, so buy tickets soon.

Cost: \$397.00 includes gourmet lunch, workshop, on-stage conversation/Q&A, wine reception, book signing, raffle, prizes. Percentage of proceeds benefit Bay Area Writers in the Schools Programs.



You'll Never Know What You Can Achieve... If You Don't Take the Initiative.

Incredible! How can a writer reach so deeply into the very heart of the reader? Her style? Her topic? Her intimate knowledge of the material, and the courage to speak frankly about things that others are hesitant to write about? How did she manage to gather so much information and cobble it into an compelling story about one character?

Maybe it's a combination of these and more that caused me to be drawn into *Like a Woman* by Debra Busman, our September speaker. Debra dares to describe situations and incidents that are seldom discussed. She reveals problems in our society that folks are uneasily aware of but tend to look the other way. She describes with intimate knowledge situations that I became aware of during confidential conversations with many of my students over 32 years of teaching. Her tender way of revealing the effect that an unwholesome environment had upon her principal character reminded me of the trials of some of my students. The strength of character she portrayed in the young girl may well serve as an example to many readers to follow one's heart—despite seemingly insurmountable odds—to help those in need; people, animals, loved ones and even those who are doing you great harm.

After I finished reading about the child, she was still on my mind; this spunky girl with the helpful heart. I find that I've missed her. I grew to know and love my students. Now I feel that I know her, but she's gone. There's so much more for her to do. I keep thinking about her, wanting her to be happy.

There are so many situations in the book that the average writer might hesitate to put into print, but if we are to stand up for the justice and equality that we say that we believe in, we must have the courage to fully express what needs to be said. We needn't worry about what others expect. We say it anyway if that's what we want to say. Joan Rivers said, "Take every chance and every opportunity that you can. Don't say I can't or I shouldn't or I'm too tired."

Yes, I did write stories about the injustices my students suffered and the inequalities in our educational system and society as a whole, but no one deemed them worth printing. I finally gave up.

Debra told us, "One of the things I've learned is we know so little of one another's lives. As humans and writers we've got to get to know each other." Oh yes. She's right! I can't just let it go. Maybe we are the guardians of society. Who will speak up for what we believe in?

Helen Keller said, "Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."

Be well, and do good.

Jonathan

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

Little Free Libraries



As a High School Librarian, I would do (nearly) anything to entice the kids to check out books. To the burly farm boys reluctant to read, the suggestion that their parents probably would not approve of this book or that one was often successful in piquing their interest. (It had to be true, though, or I'd lose them forever!)

I was so pleased to find my first Little Free Library in San José a few years ago. Recently, I passed by a new one in Pacific Grove. The movement is only six years old, started by a Wisconsin man to honor his schoolteacher mother, a lover of books. It has burgeoned to 30,000 micro-libraries in the U.S., with a goal of 100,000.

It's a simple idea. Anyone can build and stock a Little Free Library and become its steward. The operation is casual. Anyone in the neighborhood can stop by and take a book or two, or leave a book or two, either at the same time or later. As the website says, "Little Library book exchanges function on the honor system; everyone contributes to ensure there are always quality books inside. This way, we all win!" Books for children, young adults, and adults are all welcome.

It is fun to look at the world [map](#) on the non-profit's website. It shows nine Little Free Libraries in Pacific Grove, nine in Carmel and Carmel Valley, two in Seaside, and one in Monterey (what?). These [pictures](#) show the variety and imagination used to build a Little Library.

On littlefreelibrary.org, the mission statement reads: "To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations."

And their goal: "To build 2,510 Little Free Libraries—as many as Andrew Carnegie—and keep going." They have certainly met and exceeded the goal. Nice.

Happy reading – and writing!

-Lana

CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Laurie Sheehan
Vice President	Sharon Tucker
Secretary	Joyce Krieg
Treasurer	Clarissa Conn
Programs Chair	Dorothy Vriend
CCW Workshops	VACANT
Membership	Christine Sleeter
Publicity	Leslie Patiño
Hospitality	Sarah Pruitt
Newsletter	Lana Bryan
Webmaster	Ken Jones
Assistant Webmaster	Kemberlee Shortland
Central Board Representative	Joyce Krieg

Scribbles is the official monthly publication for members of Central Coast Writers, a branch of California Writers Club, a registered non-profit corporation. All material is copyrighted ©2015 by California Writers Club and may not be reproduced without permission. Opinions expressed under individual bylines do not necessarily represent an official position of, or endorsement by, Central Coast Writers or California Writers Club.

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
Dorothy Vriend	Monthly Speaker

CCW Website

centralcoastwriters.org

For anything *Scribbles* related:

Contact *Scribbles* editor Lana Bryan:

lane.bryan@writeteam.com

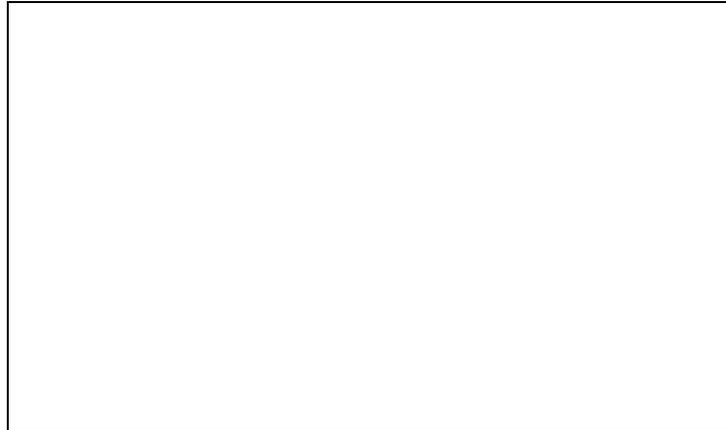
Not yet a member of CCW?

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



November 17

Andy Ross: The Agent Experience

5:30 p.m. - DINNER

6:30 p.m. - MEETING

Point Pinos Grill

79 Asilomar Boulevard

Pacific Grove

