



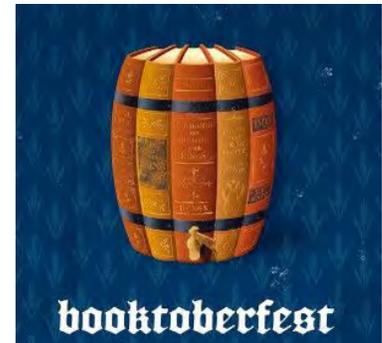
Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch
centralcoastwriters.org
October 2016

Tuesday, October 18

The CCW Annual Booktoberfest!

You are invited to read a 5-minute piece.
Contact Laurie Sheehan to get on the list.
Details on page 2 after the CCW President’s
Letter.



Coming on November 15

Stuart Horwitz

Editor **Stuart Horwitz** will discuss a method to complete your book in three drafts: how to write it, revise it, and complete it without losing your love for the project. His presentation will consider the best outlook and direction for each draft in order to increase efficiency, satisfaction, and engagement with both the writing process and the final product.

Mr. Horwitz is the founder and principal of Book Architecture, a firm of independent editors based in Providence (BookArchitecture.com). Their clients have reached the best-seller list in both fiction and nonfiction, and have appeared on *Oprah!*, *The Today Show*, *The Tonight Show*, and in the most prestigious journals in their respective fields. His first book *Blueprint Your Bestseller* (Penguin/Perigee) was named one of 2013’s best books about writing by *The Writer* magazine. His second book, *Book Architecture: How to Plot and Outline Without Using a Formula*, appeared in 2015, and his third in the Book Architecture trilogy, *Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: How to Write a Book, Revise a Book, and Complete a Book While You Still Love It*, was released in June of 2016.

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Tempus Fugit—Carpe Diem

On the first day of October the official Pacific Grove sunrise is 7:03 a.m., and sunset is 6:52 p.m. That giant orange orb in the sky, that was so elusive over the summer, offered us some lovely days in September, but it is now making its annual, steady march toward the horizon. True daylight is shorter by about an hour on October 1st as compared to September 1st. So, why am I telling you this? Each year I find it necessary to adjust my mindset as the days become shorter. I'll admit to becoming a bit disheartened when I leave for work in the dark and come home in the dark—it's a reminder that time is passing. But, it's also a reminder to make the most of every day.

We've been working behind the scenes to make sure your writers club offers ways to keep you entertained as the days become shorter, starting with the Social Networking Workshop on October 15th.

Look for more information in *Scribbles* and on the website, but here are a few great reasons for writers to use social media: new ways to market, how to reach your best audience, how other authors are often willing to "link" to you (and you can repay the favor). I also believe that social media skills make for better writers. The clear, concise nature of social media helps hone our skills. As with most things, social media can be a thing done well or a thing done ill. I'm excited to find out how to make this tool work for my needs!

Then, on October the 18th, we'll have our annual Booktoberfest! Come out and support our own members as they read from their newly published works. All our authors, whether reading aloud on the 18th or not, are also invited to put their books on display. If you have a book, I encourage you to participate. Don't worry about selling books (although you can); just put them out there and talk about them. This, in and of itself, is an indispensable skill. One of our members, and self-proclaimed "shy girl," Sandy Balzo, told me she feels that "Most authors are socialized introverts." I get it. If you've seen me run one of our general meetings you likely believe me to be a gregarious extrovert—well, I'm not. But, I do have obligations that I take seriously, which often include putting myself in front of a crowd—offering myself up for judgment. I don't like it, but it's a skill I'm learning. And, by the way, Sandy's 12th published book comes out this fall. Maybe she'll give us some pointers in October!

Most of the topics in this letter translate to grabbing opportunities as they arise. You've likely heard the saying "*Tempus Fugit*," often translated as "time flies." When Virgil wrote that sentiment in *Georgics*, he stated "*fugit irreparabile tempus*," directly translated as "it escapes, irretrievable time." Maybe it's the Yoda-esque quality of the translation, but I like it better than our modern version. Maybe I'll post it on the fridge as a reminder to "*carpe diem*"?

Until we meet again, happy writing!

Laurie

Sign up for **Booktoberfest**! Eight to ten of our own authors take the stage for a few minutes and share a reading from their recently published works. If the list fills up, Laurie will start a waiting list.

Here are the guidelines:

1. Be a current member of Central Coast Writers in good standing.
2. Read from a work that has been published within the past year.
3. Priority goes to those members who have not read at Booktoberfest in the past few years.
4. Readers will have approximately 5 minutes of reading time.

Contact Laurie Sheehan at erudite@me.com to get on the Booktoberfest list!



Hometown Setting — Lindsay Hatton

If your hometown's the setting, nostalgia is likely to be present in your novel, but what form will it take? Will your tone be skeptical like Joan Didion's, optimistic like Walt Disney's, or vacillating between the two like John Steinbeck's?

Lindsay Hatton, author of the novel [Monterey Bay](#) explored this dilemma in her September presentation to CCW. Her fictional tale takes place in 1940 and 1993, alternating between her character as a teenager and as a mature woman living on the Monterey Peninsula. Hatton herself was born here in 1979, long after the sardine boom, but before the opening of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. As she grew up the bucolic nature of the area changed with the onslaught of tourists, as did her experience of her hometown.

Like Didion, Hatton moved east; like Walt Disney, she never became disenchanted with her hometown; but like Steinbeck, the voice of her nostalgia vacillates. Hatton's 15-year-old character Margot Fiske benefits from the memory of Hatton's own teenage years and her attitude toward the place where she grew up: complex, contradictory, and deep.

In the novel, protagonist Margot Fiske comes to the area with her businessman father. A precocious 15, she falls in with the crowd on Cannery Row and in love with biologist Ed Ricketts. In later life, Margot becomes the fictional founder of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Hatton said she created the alternate founding legend for the aquarium in order to insert intrigue, heartbreak and revenge to match the character she created.

As for the extensive research that informed her novel, Hatton said she learned to be selective in what she read. She chose primary sources over biographies, which she said are generally written with an angle in mind. Poring over materials such as Ricketts' logs and Steinbeck's letters, she found the "conduit into their brains" that helped her "see how they might have spoken to each other and to others around them."



Five-minute Reader Kymberlie Ingalls



Speaker Lindsay Hatton
Photographs by Clarissa Conn



Members T.C. Zmak and Christina Sierra-Jones

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW member:

Sara Michas-Martin



Member Congratulations!

Indie Author Day is at Harrison Memorial Library on Saturday, October 8, from 9:30 to noon, with a panel discussion of local authors, including [Robin Gregory](#), [Phyllis Entis](#), [Kathryn Gualtieri](#), Paul Fridlund of Pilgrim's Way bookstore, and CCW member and Publisher [Patricia Hamilton](#) of Park Place Publications. The panel discussion is from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., followed by questions from the audience. From 11 to noon is an online discussion with writers, agents and other industry leaders around the country. All are welcome. [Harrison Memorial Library](#) Reading Room, Ocean & Lincoln, Carmel.

CCW Workshop: Social Media Marketing for Writers

Saturday, October 15, 2016. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.; workshop is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cost is \$40 for members, \$60 for non-members. [Sign up early!](#)

You probably have several social media accounts to promote your work, but chances are you may not know what to do with them. What social media sites should you be on? What should you post? When? How often? Should you pay for Facebook ads? And how does your website fit in? Does it matter how many people like your page? And is social media different for fiction writers, non-fiction writers, and poets? In this workshop, you'll find out the answers to these questions and much, much more. At the end of the session, you'll have the beginnings of a workable social media marketing plan that's specific to you and your work as well as the confidence to put it into play.

Shelly King is the author of [The Moment of Everything](#) (Hachette/Grand Central Publishing) as well as many short stories. Before she became a full-time novelist, she worked for a large high-tech company as a social media strategist and information architect. As a writer, she continues to use the strategies and concepts she learned in high tech to promote her work.

This workshop will fill up fast. A sign-up form to mail in is on our CCW website:
centralcoastwriters.org/images/misc/ccw-october-social-media-workshop-info.pdf

Writer's Digest Novel Writing Conference

Los Angeles, Oct 28-30, 2016

At the Writer's Digest Novel Writing Conference, hear from celebrated writers such as Garth Stein, Jane Smiley, and Christopher Rice. CWC members can take \$25 off registration when you use the code CWC16. Note that the cost of registration goes up as the date gets closer, so even though the discount would apply right along, anyone interested might think about signing up ASAP. For further details: novel.writersdigestconference.com.

A Literary Liaison between California Writers Club and *Writer's Digest*

Thanks to the work of PR Chair Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, the state entity has arranged a deal with *Writer's Digest* to offer a \$25.00 discount to CWC members to their upcoming Novel Writing Conference October 28-30 in Los Angeles. To apply for the discount, sign up online at novel.writersdigestconference.com, and then enter the promo code CWC16. [Submitted via Joyce Krieg's CWC "From the President's Desk."]

Announcements continued

Networking Aloud: A Writers Open Mike

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (2nd Tuesday of each month)

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

Submitted monthly by Pat Hanson

A “love offering\$” monthly event open to the public. Come early & sign up for a five- to seven-minute reading from any genre: prose, screenplay, poetry & essay that follows 15 minutes from a featured published reader. Only applause, no critique allowed.

Adela Najarro, Ph.D., the author of two poetry collections, [Split Geography](#) and [Twice Told Over](#), will be up first October 11. She is the English instructor at Cabrillo College for the Puente Project, a program designed to support Latinidad. Her extended family’s emigration from Nicaragua to San Francisco began in the 1940’s and concluded in the 1980’s when the last of the family settled in the Los Angeles area. adelanajarro.com.

On November 15, **Daian Hennington** MSW, LCSW, a student of nature, culture, and the spirit, will open our session reading from her just released [Your Wilder Nature: A Field Guide to Tracking Soul](#). She calls herself a guide into the borderlands of the nature of the psyche. Raised in Berkeley, she was initiated into her own wilder nature on a solo backpacking trip from Tahoe to Yosemite at the age of seventeen. As a practicing clinical social worker and eco-therapist, she has brought the healing benefits of nature into the clinical relationship for over two decades. Daian lives in the northern reaches of the Carmel River Watershed and offers workshops for self-exploration in the wildlands of California.

Questions or to be featured in the future: Pat Hanson 831-601-9195 or co-emcee Janice Rocke 831-521-0375.

CCW Volunteer Needed **FOUND** for Newsletter Mailing

Thank you to Gary Parker and his daughter Erin Davis for stepping into Heather Lazare’s volunteer position of picking up the printed copies *Scribbles* from Copy King in Monterey, then addressing, stamping, and mailing them. Heather needs (and deserves) the time to become acquainted with the new baby she’s been hauling around, due in November. Thanks, Gary and Erin!

In Memoriam



We are sorry to announce that Martin Dodd, one of Central Coast Writers founding members, has passed away. A lot of our long-time members remember him as one of the original members when the club chartered in July of 2002. He was an early editor of *Scribbles*. He was the founder—and for several years the chair—of a short story and poetry contest sponsored by CCW. The latter was a key element in CCW’s early success. The contest helped put us on the map with the local literary community, raising the club’s image and credibility. And, on a more practical note, it helped raise some much-needed funds, always a crucial issue when a club is just getting off the ground.

Here is the Salinas *Californian* obituary:

thecalifornian.com/story/news/local/2016/08/30/dodd-left-behind-much-footprints/89608564

[Thanks to Joyce Krieg. -Ed.]



“Mayhem and Mystery Beyond the Four Walls”

Fran Vardamis

Fran’s blog is located at timerunningout.wordpress.com.

An only child, Fran Vardamis was inspired to write by her parents and teachers, a passion that flourished after she earned a B.A. in English literature from Queens College in New York City. She also studied medieval literature at Manhattan College and completed German and Greek language courses at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. In addition, Fran studied Norwegian at Oslo University and at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington DC.

Calling upon her expertise in language and literature, Fran writes historical and detective novels set in noteworthy eras and intriguing locations around the globe. The fifth novel in her detective series, [*Time Running Out*](#) (published by Silk Label Books and released in 2012) features Greek detective, Yannis Lavonis.

“The plot formula of a good detective story is basic to human experience,” Fran says, “right from Cain and Abel to the latest TV scandal. After all, isn’t Hamlet basically a detective story?”

Fran’s most recent published work, [*Rainbow Year*](#), is a historical novel and memoir set in Brooklyn between June 1944 and August 1945, the final year of WWII. Having recently visited “the old neighborhood,” she’s contemplating a follow-up epic about “white flight,” urban decay, and ultimate renewal. “The ethnicity of the 40s has changed,” Fran says, “but the old neighborhood has become one of the trendiest sections of the city.”

Fran has also written about contemporary issues plaguing modern Greece, including terrorism (*Russian Doll*), the influx of refugees (*Ancestral Voices* and *Pity the Children*), and the collapse of the Greek economy (*Time Running Out*). Presently, she’s revising a “time-travelling novel that’s crying out for research on the Amalfi Coast and other delightful places where, you can be sure, mayhem and mystery coexist beneath the placid surface of the Mediterranean.” She also edited the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation’s newsletter for fifteen years (torhouse.org).

Getting published “depends on luck and timing,” Fran says. “Knowing people in the business helps as well.” But with careful editing of your manuscript, opportunities to get into print with minimal cost exist through Kindle, she adds. “If the writer is willing to devote time, energy, and some bucks to promotion, there’s no limit.”

Fran joined our organization in 2003 soon after making a guest presentation about her life as a writer. “When the four walls become oppressive, I enjoy the fellowship at CCW,” she says. “The meetings inspire me to keep working in new and creative ways.”

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



Maya Angelou



One associates the word activist with the name Maya Angelou, but she was much more than that. She was a poet, writer, and singer. Maya was born Marguerite Annie Johnson on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, and died on May 28, 2014, in Winston Salem, North Carolina. How can one define such a multitalented woman? Perhaps one of her own wonderful quotes will help: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya was an amazing woman in that she was able to survive her early life. She experienced severe racial discrimination but her faith got her through. At age seven she was raped by her mother's boyfriend. Her life turned around when she moved to San Francisco from Chicago.

There, she won a scholarship to study dance and drama. She became the first woman cable conductor in San Francisco. At 16 she had an out of wedlock son who she named Guy.

In 1952 she married a Greek sailor, Anastasios Angelopoulos. The marriage did not last but her career took off as a cabaret singer. She was able to tour Europe performing in *Porgy and Bess* from 1952 to 1955.

Dr. Martin Luther King in 1959 requested that Maya become the northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She was honored by all of the U. S. Presidents. Bill Clinton had her recite a poem at his inauguration titled "On the Pulse of Morning."

Maya's writing style ranges from complex symbolic ideas to easy straightforward concepts. She writes in story form in easy-to-understand style and words. A full range of emotions is shown in her writing. But her outstanding quality is honesty.

Some of her volumes of poetry are: *A Brave and Startling Truth* (Random House, 1995), *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou*, *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey*, *I Shall Not Be Moved*, and *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie*, nominated for The Pulitzer Prize.



On the Pulse of Morning By Maya Angelou

A Rock, A River, A Tree
Hosts to species long since departed,
Marked the mastodon,
The dinosaur, who left dried tokens
Of their sojourn here
On our planet floor,
Any broad alarm of their hastening doom
Is lost in the gloom of dust and ages.

But today, the Rock cries out to us, clearly, forcefully,
Come, you may stand upon my
Back and face your distant destiny,
But seek no haven in my shadow,
I will give you no hiding place down here.

You, created only a little lower than
The angels, have crouched too long in
The bruising darkness
Have lain too long
Facedown in ignorance,
Your mouths spilling words
Armed for slaughter.

The Rock cries out to us today,
You may stand upon me,
But do not hide your face.
[...]

(Read the complete poem [here](#).)

As the Pen Flows
By C. Jonathan Shoemaker

A New Lease on Life

Juan had crawled at least a mile,
to be sure he'd not been seen.
Now he lay upon the bank
of a steep, dried up ravine.

Distant hills, with sparse green shrubs
on golden fields of tall parched grass,
softened in a sunset haze
as he paused for time to pass.

The man had said, "Wait until dark.
And I don't know you, if you're caught."
There was danger helping others.
I don't blame the guy, he thought.
I won't tell them that he helped.
He's good enough to lend a hand.
Juan slid down and closed his eyes
and thought of life in the promised land.

After dark, he scrambled low,
quickly crawled beneath the truck,
tied his legs and waist to steel,
secured the ropes, and cinched them up.

The driver put the truck in gear,
slowly pulled up to the gate,
engine idling, inching forward.
Hope there's not too long a wait.

There was nothing he could do
but to lie without a sound,
moving slowly past the guards,
just a foot above the ground.

Hours later, dawn awoke him.
In his thigh, an aching grew
as he lay there in the bushes
by the roadside, wet with dew.
No idea how I got here.
Must have gone without a hitch.
But my leg feels like it's burning.
How'd I end up in this ditch?

He stood up and brushed away
the weeds that caught around his feet.
Then he saw his leg was burned
and blistered from the tailpipe's heat.

Must have passed out from the pain,
and he left me here for dead.
And he turned and started walking
toward the job that lay ahead.



CONTESTS

2016 Joy Harjo Poetry Award, Barry Lopez Nonfiction Award, and Rick DeMarinis Short Story Award

Deadline: October 15, 2016, sponsored by *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts*. **Entry Fee:** \$18.00

Website: cutthroatmag.com/contest.html

E-mail address and info: cutthroatmag@gmail.com or call 1-970- 903-7914.

Judges: Poetry: Marilyn Nelson; Short Story: Michael Martone; Nonfiction: Rick Bass.

Prizes: 1st prize: \$1250.00 in each genre and publication, 2nd prize: \$250.00 and publication

Submissions: See website for guidelines, snail mail accepted, online submissions preferred. Submit up to three unpublished poems (100-line limit each), one unpublished short story or creative nonfiction piece (5000-word limit), any subject or style, postmarked between July 15 and October 15, 2016.

John Steinbeck Award for fiction, Gabriele Rico Award for nonfiction, and the Edwin Markham Prize for Poetry. Sponsored by *Reed Magazine, The West's Oldest Literary Journal*, San José State University.

Deadlines: Entries accepted between June 1 and November 1, 2016.

Entry Fee: \$15.00 per entry for each contest, A work up to 5,000 words for fiction, up to 5,000 words for non-fiction, up to five poems per entry.

Website: reedmag.org/submit. See the website for submission guidelines.

Prizes: John Steinbeck Award: \$1000, publication, and a copy of *Reed*; Gabriele Rico Challenge for non-fiction: \$1333, publication, and a copy of *Reed*; Edwin Markham Poetry Prize: \$1000, publication, and a copy of *Reed*.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Patrice Vecchione Workshops

Three Workshops in October:

“Dressed & Undressed Workshop—Bring Your Words to Life.” Three Wednesday sessions, including final show in Carmel. OLLI@Ryan Ranch. Fee: \$70

Poetry Workshop, Monterey Public Library, October 15, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Free.

Poetry Workshop, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Monday October 24, 7:00 p.m. Free.

Website: patricevecchione.com/events/workshops; patrice@patricevecchione.com, 831-206- 2475.discuss what's at work in their writing and review our own.

Social Media Marketing with Shelly King—A CCW Sponsored Workshop

Location: Sam Karas Room, Monterey Peninsula College

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2016. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so enter ASAP.

Register by Mail: CCW members \$40.00, non-members \$60.00, checks to “CCW Branch at CWC.” Mail to: CCW Social Media Workshop, P.O. Box 997, Pacific Grove CA 93950. Include name, address, city/state, zip, email, and phone number. Or use the entry form [here](#).

Free Guided Autobiography Classes

Location: Little House in Jewell Park, Pacific Grove

Date: Third Thursdays monthly, next class on October 20, 2016

Deadline: Open now, registration required. **Cost:** Free

Contact: keepersofourculture.com. Participants will join Patricia Hamilton to write and share stories about their lives in Pacific Grove using the Guided Autobiography Method for Memoir. Nine themes will be presented, a different one per class. A book will be published of class stories in 2017.



We Are Not Alone

In *Illusions: Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah* (1977), Richard Bach says, “How do you know if your mission in life is finished? If you’re still alive, it isn’t.”

My brother-in-law Martin, passed on close to the second anniversary of my wife Sandra’s passing. At that time, my niece reminded me, “Even if we are apart, we are together in grief and joy. Despite many years or miles apart, we are not alone. Apart, but not alone.”

And now, close to two years later, we have lost Martin Dodd, one of our 24 charter members. Those three dedicated people spent their lives helping others, and set high standards for all who know them.

I know little of Martin Dodd’s life aside from his activities as a CCW member and from reading his obituary, but I have learned to respect him highly. Right from the start, Martin contributed selflessly to our CWC branch over the years. His energy and dedication were an inspiration to all of us. In our first critique group, his diplomatic suggestions were professional and inspiring. When the branch needed money, he took charge of our poetry and short story contests to raise funds for the club. He served on the board and was Vice President under Ken Jones (2004-2005). He was co-editor of *Scribbles*, in 2003 with Laura Emerson (formerly Harris) and with Ken Jones in 2004.

I suppose that anyone might come close to the point of saying, “Aagh, it’s hopeless.” But when no hope was left in sight for Martin Dodd in his personal life, he found hope by providing hope for others; especially to help the homeless, the helpless and others who were desperate to lead a productive life.

My granddaughter once sighed, “Why do I even try?” My response was, “Because if you give up, it doesn’t help anybody.” Yes, although we write in solitude, we are not alone. We have things to say that other people might need to hear. And we have friends who can and want to help us express our thoughts and feelings. From the founding handful who met at the Thunderbird Bookstore, to those who have come along with fresh blood and sweat, to those now joining and participating, we have true friends who are willing to advise us and encourage us.

We are members of a communicative culture, gathering ideas and sending them forth from our own point of view to a few—or maybe to thousands. By caring and expressing, we send our words across time and distance to inspire hope and energy to those we love and to others whom we may never even know. Yes, C. S. Lewis, “We read to know we are not alone.” But we write because we know we’re not alone.

**Be well,
and do good.**

Jonathan

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

The Galápagos, 5



CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Genovese Island

For previous stories, see the [June](#), [July](#), [August](#), and [September](#) *Scribbles*.

Arriving at our last island, *Isla Genovesa*, we were confronted with the Prince Phillip's Steps, a rough-hewn rock staircase reaching from the water 82 feet to the cliffs. At the top is a wooded area, where we walked within 2 and 3 feet of many nesting birds, who were not in the least disturbed by us. A few had eggs and some fluffy nestlings.



Red-footed booby



Nazca boobies



We waded calf-deep through a wide rivulet, where several dinner-plate sized rays brushed by in the shallow water.

The jewel of the Galápagos, Genovese Island's greenery is home to three species of frigatebirds, Red-footed and Blue-footed boobies, the Nazca booby, and finches, among others. During mating season, the magnificent frigatebird male sports an inflatable bright red pouch under his beak. Although quite attractive to the ladies, it looks uncomfortable!



A short-eared owl on Genovese nests in the cliffs, sleeping by night and hunting by day, avoiding some predators.

The Galápagos Islands are a fiercely protected environment. Many species were intentionally taken there without regard to the impact they might have. Goats were controlled, as shown in this article: [The Traitorous Goats of the Galápagos Islands](#).

That's it for the Galápagos stories! **-Lana**

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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

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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



October 18
Booktoberfest
5:30 p.m. - CHECK-IN and DINNER
6:30 p.m. - MEETING
Point Pinos Grill
79 Asilomar Boulevard
Pacific Grove