



Scribbles

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

Tuesday, September 20

Hometown Setting by Lindsay Hatton

Lindsay Hatton will talk about the opportunities and challenges of setting a work of fiction in a location that is both personally meaningful and internationally beloved. Her debut novel, [Monterey Bay](#), takes the reader back to the Monterey and Cannery Row of 1940 with her teenage protagonist, Margot Fiske, drawing from the lore of that heady time and her own teenage experiences.

Hatton is a graduate of Williams College. She holds an MFA from the Creative Writing Program at New York University. She currently resides in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but was born and raised in Monterey, where she spent many fascinating and formative summers working behind the scenes at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.



Coming on October 20 — Book'toberfest!



Share your published work at the October CCW meeting! Details to come in your favorite email inbox.

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Summer into Fall

I often start my monthly letter with a look forward, at what's on the horizon for the club, or with something witty or profound—what's that you say? You haven't noticed witty or profound? Huh. That's strange. Well, that's all right, this month I'm trying for something different anyway—this month I'm going for earnest. I am proud and humbled to be a part of such a fantastic group. If you missed our summer members' event, I have to say I feel a little bad for you. It was truly stupendous, and I'm not one for hyperbole. If I try to recount everything that made the event great I'll take up the entire newsletter, so I'll hit a few highlights: location, food, and teamwork.

The Space: Once again Leslie opened her lovely home to our club, and once again it was perfect.

The Eats: Harold and Sam Grice—as always, your efforts MADE the event. Everything was grilled to perfection, and the handmade grills are artwork.

The Camaraderie: Each and every member of the Executive Committee, plus some lovely volunteers, in some way pitched in to prove that many hands make light work.

Thank you one and all! I can hardly wait for next year!

And, now, for some of that looking forward—there are a lot of things coming up for our little club, starting with the September meeting. I'll be interested to hear Lindsay Hatton McClelland talk about setting fiction in a real place—check out the [website](#) for a link to a recent article about her work. In October we're hosting a workshop on Social Media, and with so many options out there I'm sure we could all use a little guidance (there are a few spaces left, so if you haven't signed up yet there's still time. You'll find a way to register on the [CCW website](#)). Our October meeting is Book'toberfest! Expect an email from me soon with more details—the teaser, for new members, is: in October we are the speakers! Come out and hear some of our members read from their newly published works. There is also an opportunity for members to sell books at our October meeting.

Wow, I sort of feel as though we've not really had summer yet, and my rambling has taken us almost to Thanksgiving. Oh my, how time flies. I'd better end now, before we hit Christmas... (Ooh, there is that fabulous members-only holiday party coming up though... how exciting...).

Until we meet again, happy writing!
Laurie

CCW Membership

As of the end of July, CCW has the most renewals of any branch, reports Joyce Krieg. And more exciting news—we are currently the third largest branch in the state (at 171 members), having finally surpassed Sacramento. The only branches larger than CCW are South Bay, with 203 members, and Redwood, with an amazing 347! Of course, these numbers will change significantly when everyone turns in their final renewal figures but for now, we've earned a bronze medal!

August BBQ Photos

CCW's 2016 BBQ and picnic was our biggest and best ever. On a perfect sunny August afternoon, some 70 club members and guests gathered at the Monterey home of Leslie and Hugo Patiño where Harold and Sam Grice once again grilled a fabulous selection of meats and vegetables. A big thank you to all the folks who helped set up beforehand and to those who cleaned up afterwards!



Sam, Laurie, Harold



In the Garden



Trish Watson



Diana Paul & Karyn Witmer-Gow



Deanna Ross



Harold, Joyce, Laurie



Jeanne Gavrin



Jim & Gayle Lubeck



Sandra Balzo & Guest Jim Barath



Suzi Storman



Susanna Denes & Jack Peterson



Diana Paul & Janet Tezak



Grillin' Sam Grice



Grillin' Harold Grice



Jack Erickson & Laurie Sheehan

Photos by Clarissa Conn

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

**Liz Kendall David Michael Olsen
John Sheehan David Subocz Rose Marie Zurkan**



Member Congratulations!

T.C. Zmak cordially invites you to the Book Release Party for *RISING* on Saturday, September 17, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Pierce Ranch Vineyards tasting room, at 499 Wave Street in Monterey. Get a coupon for \$1 off a glass of wine when you purchase a *RISING* or *DARK SURF* paperback (valid only during the event). Of the day's sales, 20% will go to [Surfrider Monterey](http://SurfriderMonterey.com). *RISING*, the second novel in the DARK SURF series, will be available at DarkSurf.com and on Amazon beginning Sept. 13.

CCW Workshop: Social Media Marketing for Writers

**Saturday, October 15, 2016. Registration starts at 8:30; 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

Writing Reminder

Ongoing "let's get together and just write" gathering Tuesday mornings 9:30-11 a.m. at Crema, 481 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Free and open to writers of all levels and interests. No critiquing, no sharing, just an opportunity to devote time to our writing with other like-minded creative individuals.

Support The California Writers Club, High Desert Branch
Make your purchases during our
Barnes & Noble Book Fair
September 17 through September 22, 2016
Buy in-store at any Barnes & Noble Bookseller
anywhere or
Online at www.BN.com
Use Voucher #11903309
in promo field upon checkout



Announcements continued

California Writers Club News

You should have an email with a link to the August edition of the CWC Bulletin, comprising news from most of the 21 CWC branches. If you could not open that nifty flip-page version, the Bulletin is also in PDF format [here](#).

The California Writers Club publishes the annual *Literary Review* featuring members' poetry, short stories and essays. As members of CCW, you should have received your printed copy in the U.S. Mail. When you finish reading your copy, why not bring it to one of our meetings to pass along to new members?

Also, the Literary Review 2017 edition will be accepting submissions beginning Thursday, September 1, 2016, through November 30, 2016. For guidelines, visit calwriters.org under the "Publications" banner.

San Fernando Branch member **Ray Malus** received the Ina Coolbrith Award at the July 24 Central Board meeting. The organization's highest honor, it recognizes exemplary service at the state level. In 2011, Ray received the CWC's Jack London Award for service at the branch level. In his own branch, he wears many hats. On the state level, he created and developed the Member Record Management System (MRMS) for recording membership data and simplifying data entry. Since then he has provided user support, responding to suggestions and requests for filing needs, and adding enhancements. Bob Isbill of the High Desert Branch nominated Ray for the award. You can read more about it on page 19 of *The Bulletin*, which you should have received by email.

Networking Aloud: A Writers Open Mike

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 6:00 to 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.

September 13 features one of our long-time readers to share his beautiful book [Lo! Jacaranda](#) (Trafford Publishing), illustrated with scintillating paintings done by the author **Father Harry Freiermuth** and his mother. Jacaranda is a young, Spanish-Gypsy woman in 1760s Spain, born and raised as the daughter of a wealthy ranchero owner. Her gypsy heritage is revealed before her wedding and the Spanish Inquisition condemns her to be burnt at the stake. Get this page-turner to follow the twists and turns of a fascinating work by 90-year-old CCW member, Father Harry.



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.

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

Magic of Memoir 2016 Conference

Brooke Warner and Linda Joy Myers are offering CCW members a special discount to the Magic of Memoir Conference. You can attend for a cost of \$379 instead of the regular cost of \$499. The discount registration page: magicofmemoir.com/early-bird-registration. The conference is on October 15-16 at the Marriott Hotel in Oakland. Warner and Myers also have two expert panels with renown memoirists and three agents. Read all about it on their site: magicofmemoir.com. Questions? Write brooke@warnercoaching.com.

Write & Play in Carmel-by-the-Sea

For a week in Carmel-by-the-Sea, Melanie Bishop offers a writing retreat from October 2 through 7, 2016. Classes consist of shared readings, discussion and craft exercises, applicable to both fiction and creative nonfiction. For details, see vagabondshouseinn.com/MelanieBishop.html.



“The One Hundred Year Writer”

Michael Callahan

“I am single, retired, and seventy-eight years old, and it feels like I’ve been writing for one hundred years.”

At first, Michael Callahan appeared to be a man of few words. But to say he feels like he’s been writing a hundred years contradicts that notion. Indeed, he was inspired to write because, “for some unfathomable reason, people seemed to like my writing,” he says.

It turns out Michael has written several plays and biographies, most of which are fictional. And he’s had nineteen plays produced across the U.S. and in Australia.

A writer, actor, and director who lives in Lompoc, Michael refers to himself as an “aspiring novelist then and playwright now. I prefer writing fiction because I can make things happen the way they should but never do.”

Although he’s been writing for several years, Michael’s background is grounded in mathematics. After earning a B.A. in the discipline, he worked for twenty years as a computer consultant. Some of his government projects included the Space Shuttle, navigation systems for military aircraft (before GPS), telemetry systems for test aircraft at Edwards and Vandenberg AFBs, war simulation models (“It was always fun to start World War III”), and radar defense systems.

But Michael’s current passion is far less technical and one into which he hopes to inject more humor. Given his background as a mathematician, that may be a lofty goal. But he is one to persevere. In spite of being “totally unorganized” when it comes to his writing schedule, Michael has seen his plays published, including his one-act [The Town Meeting](#), published by Heuer Publishing, his short plays, *The Escape* and *The Happy Hangman*, published by Brooklyn Publishers, and “Going Ape,” an essay published in *Adventurous Traveler’s Guide*.

A CCW member for about a year now, Michael says, “My literary dream was to one day become good enough to be called a ‘hack writer.’ Haven’t made it yet. All I can hope for now is posthumous fame.”

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



Lawrence Ferlinghetti



The icon of the Beat Generation, Lawrence Ferlinghetti is still alive at 97 and still owns [City Lights Bookstore](#)! This renowned American poet, painter, liberal activist, cofounder of City Lights Booksellers and Publishers, who was born March 24, 1919, in Bronxville, New York, continues to write. He is working on a stream of consciousness novel. Ferlinghetti thinks people are more isolated today, which he attributes to the computer age.

On his North Beach apartment walls are his doctorate from the Sorbonne, a Paul Gauguin print, and an assortment of poetry readings from his younger days. He attended Columbia university where his professors were a dream: T. S. Eliot, Carl Sandburg, Ernest Hemingway, and John Dos Passos among them. All these famous poets and authors influenced his work. Ferlinghetti is excellent at composing poems in lyric form, as well as a superb narrative style.

A Navy Lieutenant commander during World War II, his tours of duty included Normandy, France, and the ruins of Nagasaki, Japan. The horrors of Nagasaki made him a pacifist.

Ferlinghetti was part of the Beat Generation that began in the 1950's with a small and tightly knit group of young writers who exhibited a carefree, fresh approach to writing. They were pitted against the establishment of the times, establishing a legacy of anti-authoritarian politics and rebelliousness, which is still found in the City Lights Bookstore.

In 1956, Ferlinghetti and Allen Ginsberg published "Howl," sexually explicit and a critique of American materialism. After his arrest for selling obscene literature, the trial attracted worldwide attention. Fortunately, redeeming qualities in the book led to his release.

In 1958 Ferlinghetti published *A Coney Island of the Mind*. An excerpt reads:

constantly risking absurdity and death
whenever he performs
above the heads
of his audience
the poet like an acrobat
climbs on rime
to a high wire of his own making

This book sold more than a million copies, making Ferlinghetti the best-selling poet of the 20th century. Strangely, he is more recognized for his City Lights Bookstore than for his poems. Two famous poems, "Two Scavengers in a Truck" and "Two Beautiful People in a Mercedes" are study requirements in England and Wales.

Lawrence Ferlinghetti was married to Selden Kirby Smith from 1951 to 1976. He received numerous awards in the U.S. and Italy, and was San Francisco's Poet Laureate for two years. He is credited with two movies: *Obscene* and *Little Italy*.

The Changing Light By Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The light of San Francisco
is a sea light
an island light
And the light of fog
blanketing the hills
drifting in at night
through the Golden Gate
to lie on the city at dawn
And then the halcyon late mornings
after the fog burns off
and the sun paints white houses
with the sea light of Greece
with sharp clean shadows
making the town look like
it had just been painted

But the wind comes up at four o'clock
sweeping the hills

And then the veil of light of early evening

And then another scrim
when the new night fog
floats in

And in that vale of light
the city drifts
anchorless upon the ocean

From *How to Paint Sunlight* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti.
© 2000 by Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



CONTESTS

Los Gatos Writers Week Short Story Contest

Website: losgatoslistowelwritersweek.submittable.com/submit/56042

Deadline: September 9, 2016

Entry Fee: \$15.00; one entry per author; see website for submission requirements.

Prize: \$1000.00 for a work of short fiction under 5000 words

Aura Estrada Short Story Contest sponsored by the *Boston Review*

Website: bostonreview.net/contests#FictionContest

Deadline: October 3, 2016

Entry Fee: \$20.00

Prizes: Grand Prize: \$1500.00 for previously unpublished work of no more than 5000 words. Winner and runners up may be published in the *Boston Review* and all submitters are awarded a six-month subscription to the *Review*.

Judge: Min Jin Lee

Contest Rules: Entries must be previously unpublished, see guidelines for Contest Rules and submission requirements.

The 3-Day Novel Contest

Website: 3daynovel.com/

Deadline: September 2, 2016

Entry Fee: \$50.00; see website for submission guidelines and rules.

Prize: Winner will receive publication and notoriety.

Rules: Contest runs from September 3 to 5; work must be written on those dates per contest rules.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Northern California Writer's Retreat: Five days of writing workshops, wine and yoga

Website: norcalwritersretreat.com/#apply

Location: Sequoia Retreat Center, Ben Lomond, CA

Date: March 15 through March 19, 2017

Requirements: Fiction submissions. Accepting submissions July 15, 2016 - December 1, 2016

Deadline & Cost: \$12.00 for submissions. Food and Lodging: \$1997.00 - \$2197.00 for early registrants, \$2157.00 - 2397.00 for all others. Fees include conference plus 5 days of lodging, meals, champagne and drinks, snacks and events. Conference limited to 14 writers. Early bird registration ends September 1, 2016. See website for details.

Writing in Freedom Daylong Writing Retreat with Roxan McDonald

Location: A lovely country home between Aptos and Watsonville; address given upon registration.

Date: Saturday, September 24, 2016. Limited Enrollment.

Cost: \$110.00

Contact: Roxan McDonald: Roxanmcdonaldconsulting@gmail.com

Los Gatos Listowel Writers' Week Festival 2016

The First Annual Writers' Week Festival in Los Gatos, CA, will celebrate writers in the tradition of Ireland's famous Writers' week in Listowel, Ireland. The weeklong events include daily workshops, readings and celebrations of all things writing, including spotlights on genres and famous California authors. Some free events.

Website: writersweeklosgatos.com

Location: Los Gatos, CA (various venues)

Dates: October 6 - 9, 2016



Let Your Work Speak for Itself

In our poetry group at the Sally Griffin Center, it was clearly understood that a poem need not be prefaced by an explanation of its meaning or how it came into being. A poem should stand on its own in expressing a feeling or idea.

Similarly, prose is best presented in a way that the readers feel or understand plot line, personalities, environment and irony without the author sitting next to us as we read, supplying prolonged details that s/he was not able to reveal in context; or giving us an expository introductory chapter or two, to prepare us for the setting and for the type of people we are about to meet.

I once had a professor who made a point of giving us detailed lectures on O’Henry, Whitman, Poe and others before having us read their work. Knowing what to expect from the author’s style and inclination, how could we be thrilled with curious anticipation?

Out of The Hundred Commandments in the *Book of Writing*,* some can be taken with a grain of salt; like #17, Never change Point of View; or #73, Avoid using Adverbs. The greatest Commandment is “Don’t tell me, show me.”

Writers do have an urge to write beautiful visual descriptive phrases to enhance the readers’ sensation of “being right there.” It need not be curtailed. We may allow our mental picture of the whole fictional environment to flow onto the pages and into our readers’ consciousness. Readers, in turn, may draw from their memories a physical and emotional environment similar to what our protagonist sees and feels.

We can reveal the basic characteristics and values of protagonists through their physical and verbal reactions to various situations, rather than writing “Rachel was upset with how stubborn Charlie was being.”

Okay, so sometimes it’s better to write, “He paused a moment to think,” instead of trying to SHOW it by describing some physical movement on his part.

Of course, while proofreading a reasonable time later, we make sure that the length of the description does not distract from the flow of the action.

Many good authors are able to plunge us into a situation from the very start. Unexpected action and dialogue lure us like bait. They might use a short description of a pastoral (or spooky) environment to prepare the readers for what is about to transpire. You know, the way they use orchestral music to set the mood in motion pictures. The protagonists are in the middle of a situation and we are drawn deeper into it with them. The lure carries us along with increasing tempo...

And then they put a tempting twist at the end of each chapter, which deters us from closing the book for lunch.

Straightforward dialogue, action and suspense seem to be the key to holding the readers’ attention.

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

Jonathan

*You’re right! No such book exists.



Some Things Mom Taught Me

By Brenda Taylor

Mom taught me the importance of taking a nap. She knew when it was time to leave everything and rest awhile. My mom had faith in marriage, family, home and church. She had lots of friends. She was dogmatic about a good decent meal on the table and in having homemade goodies around the house. She made things from scratch because they tasted better and people could tell you made an effort. Mom dressed up for any occasion.

My mom was thrifty and for a while when times were tight she baked bread to save money. I remember cash was low and she used powdered milk to cook and bake with. She was an expert baker and seamstress. One Christmas she said that she stayed awake until sometimes two in the morning to make my Barbie doll clothes. Barbie had a long red silk cocktail dress with a leopard print stole and matching pillbox hat. For any holiday the dining table was laid with home embroidered linens and home tatted linens from my grandmothers. The china was set on the table and the matching silverware was taken out of the felt-lined box that Grandpa had made for Mom. She taught me the proper way to set a table and to place the napkins and glassware where they belonged.

I learned how to play the organ starting at age five. Evidently I inherited a little talent on my dad's side. Mom told me that if she was going to pay for lessons I needed to practice. I was good enough to play for a couple of preludes and postludes at church. Mom made me the prettiest dresses for church. Once she made me a beautiful red cape. How I loved my dresses and cape. Mom and I both loved shoes and I still buy shoes sometimes because I hear her whisper to enjoy wearing beautiful shoes while I can.

Mom taught me the importance of getting your hair done and looking good. She would make regular hair appointments and dad never said anything. It was most likely because mom managed the checkbook and paid all the bills. We were able to buy a good camper, go to Disneyland, go to the zoo, buy a boat, go on vacations, eat out on occasion, both go to college, have a nice car, go on special school trips and give generously to the church. They managed their money well and there were no outstanding bills, in fact, I wish so much that they would have traveled more. Mom loved to travel. Mom taught me to save and plan ahead. She showed me how to enjoy myself and love my home, family, husband and friends.

She loved to entertain at home. Mom generously prepared appetizers, meals, and desserts. She gave in life more than she received. She gave a lot in energy and compassion. She knitted baby caps for the newborns at the hospital. She knitted blankets and did embroidery for quilts.

We both loved perfume, cosmetics and jewelry. When mom was at home her little walking cart always contained a hairbrush, lipstick, perfume, a nail file, nail polish, a miniature candy bar or two, a bottle of water, a book, the phone and some neighbors' phone numbers. When she got ready to see St. Peter, she wore Red Door and had her nails and lips nicely done. Her hair was done just right and she had jewelry on.

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

The Galápagos, 4



South Plaza Island and Santa Cruz Island

Continuing our cruise through the Galápagos Islands (see the [June](#), [July](#), and [August Scribbles](#)), we Zodiaked to South Plaza Island. Although small, it is home to a large number of species, including sea lions, land iguanas, marine iguanas, and cliffs full of nesting seabirds, including Audubon's Shearwaters and Nazca Boobies.



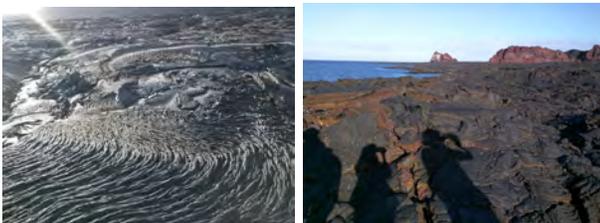
Much of the island is covered with Sesuvium, a succulent plant species that is green to yellowish in the wet season and bright red in the dry season.

A forest of large, prickly pear cactus provides food for the land iguanas. Our local prickly pear have shallow roots and little in the way of a trunk, but there the trunks resemble those of trees.

Lava flows of Sullivan Bay

Santiago Island consists of two overlapping volcanoes, has an area of 226 sq miles and a maximum altitude of 2,976 feet, atop the northwestern shield volcano. In spite of the lava, there are many species are on the island's southeast side, including Darwin Finches and Galápagos Hawks.

At Sullivan Bay, we hiked on a recent (1897) *pahoehoe* lava flow, which has a smooth, billowy, undulating, or ropy surface (unlike *aa*, which is stony and rough). Although 1897 may not sound recent, in geological terms, it is. The lava is black and will oxidize to red over time.



Next month: The Galápagos Genovese Island.

Lana

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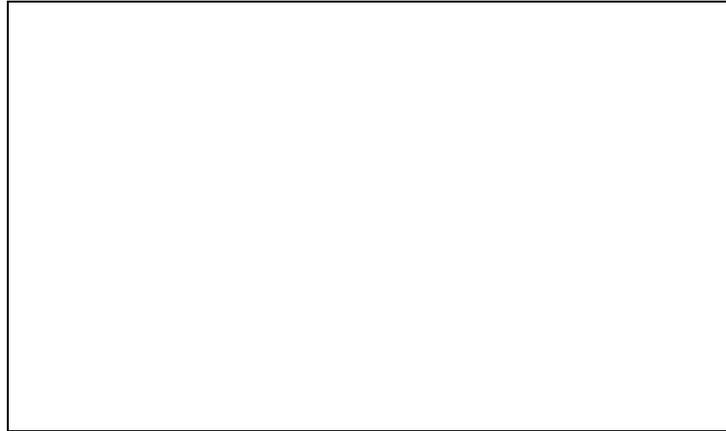
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You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:

centralcoastwriters.org



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



September 20

Hometown Setting

by Lindsay Hatton

5:30 p.m. - CHECK-IN and DINNER

6:30 p.m. - MEETING

Point Pinos Grill
79 Asilomar Boulevard
Pacific Grove