



Scribbles

California Writers Club • Central Coast Writers Branch
www.centralcoastwriters.org • December 2010

Theme of this Edition:

**The Beauty &
Brilliance of Brevity**



LARRY WILDE . . .

**Dedicated,
Confident,
Persistent
And
Lucky**

by C. Jonathan Shoemaker

Our November speaker, Larry Wilde, comedian, author, publisher and motivational humorist, kept us laughing the whole evening. With his contagious smile and laugh, he entertained us with stories about his quest to learn the secret of how to succeed as a comedian.

So, what makes a comedian successful? Why not ask one? Why not ask the best?

Well, there's a trick to that. It means knowing the right people; and that means being active in the trade, being dedicated, confident and persistent; but most of all, being very, very lucky.

Larry told us that to be a successful writer you need three things: talent, drive and luck; and the greatest of these is luck. Through the people he met in his persistent rise in show business, he managed to meet and interview seventeen of the greatest comedians of the Twentieth Century: Woody Allen, Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Shelley Berman, Joey Bishop, George Burns, Johnny Carson, Maurice Chevalier, Phyllis Diller, Jimmy Durante, Dick Gregory, Bob Hope, George Jessel, Jerry Lewis, Jerry Seinfeld, Danny Thomas and Ed Wynn. Luck!

After managing, by way of a variety of techniques and happenstances, to gain access, he lugged his reel-to-reel tape recorder into the offices of the funniest people in show biz and gleaned a true harvest of information and tricks of the trade. Luck!

The book that resulted from his dedication, confidence and persistence is *Great Comedians Talk about Comedy*. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* says that it is "An ambitious undertaking ... the first written attempt to gain some insight into the technical aspects of humor right from the mouths of the celebrated jesters who specialize in it. A real prize." According to the *Chicago Tribune*, "Wilde has extracted the cream of comedy concepts from the top comedians and turned them into a classic collection of interviews."

Central Coast Writers
invites you and your guest to our

ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON



**Sunday, December 12
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Hosted by
Pat and Dan Matuszweski
4280 Peninsula Point Drive
Seaside, CA**

**Entrée and beverages will be provided.
Please bring a side dish, bread,
salad or dessert to serve 8-10 people.
If you are "green" you may wish to bring your own non-
disposable silverware and plate.**

**For directions and further information visit our web site at
www.centralcoastwriters.org**

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**It Takes a Long Time
for a Windbag
to be Brief**

Lord Polonius states in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* that 'brevity is the soul of wit,' though Polonius himself was actually quite a windbag. My column's Spartan 300 word limit is built-in protection against the sin of windbaggy, so why does it take me so long to write the damn thing?

I like to write songs, all of which have far fewer than 300 words, but it might take me a month or more to write one of them, from start to finish. The shorter the piece, the more pressure there is for every word and phrase to count as much as possible.

Numerous elements need to be considered including word meanings and/or multiple meanings, rhyme, rhythm, resonances, emotional tone, plot, story arc, theme, and the relationship between the feel of the lyrics and the music that goes with them.

Often a good bit of trial and error is involved before the lines fall into shape.

It seems to take an inordinately long time to complete the necessary thinking, stewing and hewing involved, especially when you see how brief the final product is.

Alas, garrulous Polonius was unable to embody the soul of wit when he spoke. He made the mistake of letting his lengthy and messy thought processes pour uncensored out of his mouth, and his reward was a sword through the belly. Hamlet was a merciless editor.



**Kudos to Ken Jones & Kemberlee Shortland
for the fabulous new look of our web site.
www.centralcoastwriters.org**

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THE ELECTRONIC INKPOT... by Wanda Sue Parrott

Editor's Final Edition and Fond Farewell

Time does, indeed, pass swiftly when you're having fun or struggling, and my year as editor of *Scribbles* was a combination of both. I love the team of writers with whom I had the privilege of working, but not my inability to grasp electronic mechanics of desktop publishing. Thus, a task that might take a computer-literate editor 40 seconds to perform often took me as long as 40 hours. Reality of the e-age coupled with my cronehood led to the decision to resign as editor of *Scribbles* at the end of its first year as an online publication. I cannot compete with progress, and am grateful to have helped Harold Grice realize his vision for an online newsletter of *Scribbles*' format and purpose. I now trade the editor's hat for that of Contest Chair. Since "Brevity" is the theme for December, happy holidays and thanks to you all—you know who "all" means, starting with my good friend, former publisher Patricia Hamilton! *Wanda Sue Parrott is co-founder of the National Annual Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition for American Poets age 50 and older, and winner of the 2010 IRWIN Award for best visionary book campaign for THE LAST INDIAN ON THE TRAIL OF TEARS. See www.amykitchenerfdn.org .*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scribbles is an online publication. Readers may submit e-mail letters with "Scribbles Mail" in the subject line. To request *Scribbles* by U. S. mail, use "Snail Mail" as your subject. Send correspondence to:

ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net

SELF-PUBLISHING FAIR: South Bay Writers is proud to present "The New 'Book' Model: How to Write, Publish & Promote Your Book" with Dan Poynter, followed by a Self-Publishing Fair, Sat., Jan. 15, 2011, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., The Lookout Restaurant, 605 Macara Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085. Continental breakfast and lunch included. Early Bird (before 12/30) CWC members: \$45; Non-members: \$55. After 12/30 & at door: CWC members: \$55; Non-members: \$65. Register and pay by credit card (Paypal) at www.southbaywriters.com. Via e-mail

MEET THE INCOMING EDITOR

Cheri Love



We welcome Cheri Love to the role of editor of *Scribbles* as of January 2011. She is an attorney and the *Monterey Good Life Examiner* whose blog posts can be Googled at *Cheri Love Examiner*. E-mail is cherilove@pacbell.net

BRAGGING RIGHTS IN BRIEF . . .

Please share news about your writing-related achievements by e-mail sent to Bragging Rights at ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net

These excerpts, continued from November *Scribbles*, are on-the-spot writings that appear in "*Wake Up Your Writing Genius*" published by Andrei Aleinikov, Ph.D., who gave permission to reprint special short selections. Written in less than 5 minutes at our March 2010 meeting, they show the brilliance in brevity.

Imagination. . . I could raise children and feed all hungry people on this planet. If even I do it only in my imagination, it still makes me feel like worth living... give yourself wings, go and fly. Ludmila Austin

What is Creativity? . . . I unblocked my legs and arms and discovered that there was sex after 50. . . Chris Frenzen

Elevated Dreams. . . It takes courage to examine the thoughts hidden by the scars of life and abuse of living as expected. Harold E. Grice

The Tattoo Heart. . . tattoos that seemed to dance such a happy song that he chose one for his arm and he called it the Happy Tattoo Heart. As he walked out the door a feeling of happiness overcame him! He was happy once again! Nancy Jacobs

The Difficult Passage. . . I looked into the mirror of my life in an attempt to develop a memoir and saw only the cream. Dave LaRoche

The Tail Wags the Dog. . . Writing involves a forward collapse of the spine. . . The flow of ideas is an ink defense, a rabbit warren to fool the mind into thinking the words will soon arrive. Donna Luder

Doors Lightly. . . Door of equality is never in existence. . . Judi Marquardt

Continued on page 4



HONORING THE LIFE AND POETRY OF MARILYN MONROE

Poetry by CCW members may be submitted to Nancy Jacobs, Editor
 ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net

This poem by Marilyn Monroe about her third husband, Arthur Miller, was featured in *Vanity Fair* magazine, November 2010. The other poem was my response. Marilyn was an icon of the 20th century. Her films entertained millions of people and continue to do so, yet her personal life was a tragedy. I choose to remember her in *Clash by Night*, filmed on Cannery Row during the heyday of the sardine factories and most likely at Pop Ernst's, a restaurant on the Monterey Wharf which is no longer there. Her light-hearted performance was memorable, and she was cute and energetic and full of hope. We should schedule to watch this film and enjoy some nostalgic history of Monterey and also celebrate Marilyn's short life.

Your poetry editor, Nancy Jacobs

my love sleeps besides me--
 in the faint light--I see his manly jaw
 give way--and the mouth of his
 boyhood returns
 with the softness softer
 its sensitiveness trembling
 in stillness
 his eyes must have looked out
 wondrously from the cave of the little
 boy--when the things he did not
 understand--
 he forgot
 but will he look like this when he is dead
 oh unbearable fact inevitable
 yet sooner would I rather his love die
 than/or him



from untitled scribbles by Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn

Ever so beautiful
 Ever so translucent
 But love escapes

Carnal knowledge
 Ever growing with each affair
 Loving the wrong man

Never seeing the right man
 That truly cared for her
 A tragic end

Creative, innovative, talented
 Forever an image of her insecure fragile beauty
 Captured on the silver screen

Before her time she entered
 the eternal sleep of the
 Valley of the Dolls. *by Nancy Jacobs*

BRAGGING RIGHTS excerpts from "Wake Up Your Writing Genius" continued from page 3

Sing Your Words

Sing your words. . . Blue sky tickles your finger and
 electricity smells like newly brown grass.

Michaelina Nowicki

Olive Holes

*The delicate olives fell from the round can onto the
 imaginary banquet table. My delicate toes sought the tunnel
 that had been drilled by a despot machine into the top of
 each slippery olive delight. First one hesitant toe. . . then the
 next, until ten toes possessed lovely black olive hats.*

Jean Moritz

Writing Infinity

Endless holes, vanishing on the horizon. . .

Janet Tezak

Sex after Death

Murphy's astral form hovered above me, waiting as my
 lissome corpse cooled in the creepy casket.

"Come, my love," his face said with no words.

"I shall," said I in my posthumous hoarse voice.

He answered, "Your crypt or mine?"

Wanda Sue Parrott

The Writer

*Pounding at the gates of literature, the man bruised his
 knuckles so badly he couldn't write. The heaven of
 inspiration clouded over. The answer had been in his hand.
 The answer is always in the doing, not in the being. He was
 pure two-legged inspiration, a walking reservoir of potential.*

Michael Thomas

Grey Manners

My grey hair turns white, when I write. White lightning—
 each flash a searing knife of truth that slices my egg-shaped
 head in two. Then the thunder showers boom like tubas of
 hope. . .

David Rasch

Continued on page 6

WAKE UP YOUR WRITING GENIUS
 Initiated by Andrei Aleinikov
 Proceeds benefit Central Coast Writers
 \$9.95 from
 www.academyofgenius.com

MEMBER PROFILE . . .

C. JONATHAN SHOEMAKER

A
"Jack"
of All
Trades

by Michelle Smith



If you've ever attended a CCW meeting or read our newsletter, chances are you've seen or heard of columnist Jonathan Shoemaker. Each month, Jonathan writes a witty column titled *If the Shoe Fits*, providing critical advice about the writing process to our members.

But what some newcomers may not know is that Jonathan is a founding CCW member who met years ago with Ken Jones (CCW's webmaster and photographer) "over coffee and goodies" at the now defunct Thunderbird Bookstore to discuss the formation of our local chapter.

A retired high school teacher who taught for thirty-two years, Jonathan first started writing at age three. "I made up two-verse, four-line rhymes about birds and trees," Jonathan says. "[Now] I write poems and self-improvement pieces. My major project is a book about improving the quality of learning in the public schools."

While Jonathan has self-published four books of poems (*Poems of Living, Loving and Learning; A Lifetime of Love; The Journey Inward; and Life on the Links in Pacific Grove*), his passion also extends to the tee boxes and fairways of the Monterey Peninsula. A competitive golfer, Jonathan has even written an instructional golf book titled *Jugglingolf*.

In addition to serving in the U.S. Army, Jonathan has worn several interesting hats (or is that shoes?). Years ago he was employed as a driving range supervisor at Spyglass Hill Golf Course where he once encountered a much younger Tiger Woods.

He's worked in the logging industry, as a taxi driver, a waiter and a longshoreman. He set bowling pins, drove a school bus and played banjo as a folk singer.

Because Jonathan has diverse interests, he writes less often than he would like. Yet he doesn't want his writing to "detract from living and

sharing." He writes whenever he finds time to do so, and most of that time is spent in his garden.

If you want to hone your craft, Jonathan says, "Write every day. Proof and rewrite. Listen to feedback. Listen, watch and write what you feel. Don't hold back. Listen to feedback. Proof and rewrite. Write every day."

One gets the feeling that Jonathan is a strong proponent of those writing tools that we can all use. And he's happy to share his knowledge in the true spirit of an educator, as he does with his monthly column.

So whatever Jonathan's shoes of choice—whether safety boots, bowling shoes, or a pair of soft-spike golf shoes—if the darn things fit his size 15s, you can be pretty sure he's willing to don a pair and see where they take him.

Maybe right back into that garden of his!

"Be well, and do good work."

HINT FICTION

Depart in Peace

by C. Jonathan Shoemaker

With his dying breath, he asked her, "Did the children escape?"

"Yes, you were successful. They're safe."

"Then it was worth it."

"Look! He's smiling."

Michelle Smith is a semi-retired physician and freelance writer whose articles have been published in a variety of magazines. A member of The Authors Guild, the National Writers Union and the National League of American Pen Women, Michelle is completing the final revision of her first novel, *Hide and Seek*. Visit her web site at <http://theebonyquill.com>.



HINT FICTION

Insulin Shock

by Michelle Smith

"We found an insulin syringe stuck in her abdomen."

"Looks like an accidental overdose?"

"Not sure about 'accidental.' Both hands were tied behind her back."

HINT FICTION

Old Year vs. New Year

by Harry Freiermuth

Wolfgang thinks of his Old New Years' scars from Germany in Hitler's time.

He compares them to President Obama's New Year's promising resolutions.

He smiles.

MARKET OF THE MONTH December Guidelines

Since this edition of *Scribbles* focuses on brevity, your retiring old editor chose this free “contest /market” as her final-edition challenge to all readers. Please join me by entering enter one or more of these events. Anyone up for pooling our winnings and celebrating with pizza? *WSP*

Monterey County Weekly's 101-WORD SHORT STORY CONTEST

68 Williams Ave., Seaside, CA 93955
Or submit by e-mail to: mail@mcweekly.com

NO ENTRY FEES—WINNERS TO BE PUBLISHED IN DEC. 30 EDITION
1st Prize: \$101 2nd and 3rd Prizes: Complimentary Dinners

DEADLINE: 8 p.m., Wed., Dec. 8, 2010

IDENTIFICATION: Each page must contain your name, address & phone

ENTRY LIMIT: 3 per person
Each entry must contain one of these words or phrases:
Leon Panetta; That's not normal; Truth

Rules of the Game: Stories may contain fewer, but no more, than 101 words. If a hyphenated word can be broken into two or more free-standing words it will be counted as two or more words. Abbreviations are counted as one word. (CA or California is one word.) Contractions are counted as one word. (Isn't is one word; is not is two.) Titles are not counted and are not necessary. The Monterey County Weekly reserves the right to re-title stories. No poems allowed. Entries submitted by snail mail must be on 8-1/2 x 11 in. paper.

CAN YOU BEAT THIS 101-WORD STORY?

Husband Down

A husband and wife shop at Wal-Mart. He puts a case of Budweiser beer in their cart.

“What do you think you're doing?” she asks.

“They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans.”

“Put them back, we can't afford them,” she demands.

A few aisles further on, the woman puts a \$20 jar of face cream in the basket.

“What do you think you're doing?” the husband asks.

“My face cream makes me look beautiful.”

He retorts, “So does 24 cans of Budweiser and it's half the price.”

On the PA system: “Clean up on aisle 25. We have a husband down.” *via the Internet, Author Unknown*

(If it sounds like a joke and it reads like a joke, it probably is a joke, a great form of short fiction with Opening, Middle & Punchy Ending.)

Whisper n Thunder Hint Fiction Contest

Online Native American Magazine

<http://www.whispernthunder.org>

Tell a story in 25 words or less; force the reader to fill in the blanks by challenging his/her imagination.

NO ENTRY FEE

1st Place: \$75 2nd Place: \$50 3rd Place: \$35

RULES: submit via e-mail to bkfidlin@hotmail.com, one story per e-mail. In subject line write Holiday Cash Contest. Include your name & e-address in body of the e-mail containing your story.

Deadline: Sun., Dec. 5

Winners will be announced Fri., Dec. 10

MORE BRAGS. . . Georgia Hubley has stories in the newly released anthologies: *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Family Matters*, *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Gift of Christmas*, and *The Coffee Shop Chronicles, Vol. One: Oh, the Places I Have Bean*. *Continued* →

Michelle Smith has recently had two stories published in the *Monterey County Herald*. : They are: Travel Well With the Help of VNA (*Who's Counting?* Summer 2010), and Unleash Your Inner Fashionista, (*Who's Counting?* Fall/Winter 2010).

WRITING FROM YOUR SOUL WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 29th 9 a.m.--12 p.m.
in Carmel \$40

Call Susan Scott 831-646-9111 to register.
A fun and productive unusual writing experience.

"This was fantastic! I don't think of myself as a writer, but I had a fabulous time! I look forward to doing it again."

John H., 2010

INFO EXCHANGE

For CCW members only. Submit items by the 23rd of the month before month of publication to ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net

CRITIQUE, OPEN MIC & BOOK SIGNINGS

CCW Critique Group--Interested in joining a CCW critique group? Send name, e-address and phone to ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net or to "CCW Critique", P. O. Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Salinas Area Critique Group--If interested, please contact Susan Horcajo at 831-422-1974 or e-mail at susanhorcajo@hotmail.com.

"SatChat" Critique--Sat., Dec. 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Juice & Java, 599 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Harold Grice, ookaayy@sbcglobal.net

Local Writers Open Mic & Happy Hour--Thurs., Dec. 16, 5:30-7 p.m., Alternative Café, Seaside.

Writers from CSUMB's Osher Life Long Learning Institute program to read. Contact Pat Hanson at www.invisiblegrandparent.com.

Murlie Hanson reading and signing *The Christmas Tooth Fairy*, Sun., Dec. 12, 1:30 p.m., National Steinbeck Center, One Main St., Salinas. Info from 831-775-4721.

NOTICES

Search is on for "Examiners"--Cheri Love is Monterey Good Life Examiner (blogger) for the old San Francisco Examiner's new entirely online, national presence written by citizen journalists known as "Examiners." Contact Cheri at cherilove@pacbell.net or 831-375-6186 or Google "Cheri Love Examiner".

Editor's Final Challenge:

CAN YOU BEAT THIS?

by Wanda Sue Parrott

When I discovered the *Washington Post* had hopped onto the brevity bandwagon by running a 25-word Hint Fiction contest, I entered a story and challenged the regular contributors to *Scribbles* to write short pieces for this edition. It was not an easy challenge! But it is a good one every writer should practice in today's age of brevity.

All over the country similar short story contests are springing up, although some allow as many as 30 words. The event I entered closed 11/30, but you can find open contests online by Googling "flash fiction" or "hint fiction." Words in titles don't count.

What's good about skimping? It makes both writer and reader think tight. It can be fleshed out into a short story, play, novel or movie script. The plot type for my Hint Fiction is called "Biter Bit" in which the criminal is done in by the same method or weapon used to commit the crime. Study my story, then write your own. When you win big bucks, I challenge you to invite me to lunch! If I win, you'll see it in *Scribbles*!

An Almost-Perfect Crime

Slashing Santa's throat with her sucked-sharp candy cane, Baglady Bertha skimmed cash from his kettle, chuckled and split.

She choked to death on peppermint.

The ho ho ho ho ho ho End

NEW MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Central Coast Writers warmly welcomes new members:

Clarissa Conn, Pebble Beach

Jane Fleming, Salinas

Arlen Grossman, Del Rey Oaks

Flo Snyder, Carmel

YOU ARE INVITED TO A HOLIDAY TOAST

The SF/Peninsula Branch of California Writers Club cordially invites you to a Holiday Open House honoring Bay Area Literary Agents And Publishers including Verna Dreisbach and Gordon Warnock and Launching Fault Zone: Words from the Edge --our new anthology of short stories

Saturday, December 11th 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The Peninsula Regent,
One Baldwin (at El Camino Real), San Mateo, CA

\$20 CWC members, \$25 Non-members
Reservations at www.cwcpenninsula.org (click on Holiday Party) or Call 650-615-8331



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

SUN., DECEMBER 12, 2010
 1 p.m.-- 4 p.m.

Holiday Potluck for CCW
 members & Guests



See details on page 1 and the web site

www.centralcoastwriters.org

SPRING 2011 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Entry Fees: \$5 per poem for non-members; only \$3 per poem for CCW members.
 \$15 per story for non-members; only \$9 per story for CCW members.
 \$500 Award for Poetry *Deadline 1/15/11* \$500 Award for Short Story
 See Rules online at www.centralcoastwriters.org

MEETINGS

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month except in August and December. Meetings are held at the Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave., Monterey, Calif. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for optional dinner. Program begins at 6:30 p.m., with speaker at 7 p.m. The Central Coast Writers is a branch of the California Writers Club, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All meetings are free and open to the public. For last-minute changes and other details, check the CCW web site at www.centralcoastwriters.org.

If the Shoe Fits . . .

ACHIEVING THE GOAL

By C. Jonathan Shoemaker

We aspiring writers are on a journey toward a destination. Whether it be fame, fortune or maybe just recognition, we are traveling along a path that we have chosen to follow. It is said that life is a journey rather than a destination. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you." I think that this advice is important to heed. By making the most of ourselves, we not only advance toward the destination, but we can enjoy the journey as we progress.

When we are writing, we delve within ourselves to extract some of the best experiences and memories from our past and reflect upon mistakes we have made, see them with fresh, more experienced eyes and resolve to act more wisely in the future.

Thus, we more clearly know how to direct the actions of our protagonists and, at the same time, provide ourselves a smoother path to travel toward our destination. He who concentrates solely on the destination doesn't really enjoy the scenery as he travels down the road. I think that it is important to enjoy the trip and leave till later to deal with what happens when we reach the destination.

When our protagonist deals with feelings of guilt or resentment and resolves a situation, it is a healing process for us. When we deal with emotions of joy or grief in our work we can feel deep pleasure and compassion as we write. Our readers also benefit in similar ways.

My greatest pleasure as a writer was hearing one of my readers quote lines from one of my poems, thanking me for those words that made a difference in her life. Albert Einstein said, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

Ric Masten, not despite, but because of his cancer, touched many people with his life and work, especially with his song, "Let It Be A Dance." The will to create and the yearning for closure give us a reason to forge beyond frustration and possible failure.

Richard Bach said, "Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: if you're alive, it isn't."

The Story behind this Photo of a Butterfly by my car

Monarch

It settled on my cap. I don't know why.
 It probably mistook me for a tree.
 The beautiful Monarch butterfly
 rode twelve golf holes with me.

And on the drive home it continued to cling;
 nor did I endeavor to brush it away.
 When I hung up my cap is when it flew off
 to settle back down in a cypress tree.



Be well, and do good work.

Jonathan