



Scribbles

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

Kemble Scott: *Advice from the Front Lines—the Future of Books*



Photo by Joyce Krieg

It was a packed house at the Casa Munras, on May 18, that heard Scott James deliver a well-organized message of hope. He spoke of improbabilities that every writer dreams of: free publishing, millions of readers, and publishers who believe that the person who writes the book should earn more of the monetary proceeds than anyone else.

Scott wants us to remember that “everything matters, everything is connected and everything adds up over time.” He told us how he went from “an unknown” to top billing in a very short period of time.

He and two other authors whom he recommended were the first to be published online by Scribd. “The Scribd kids – there’s twenty-five of them and they’re all about twenty-five years old – figured out how to do the same thing with written documents as YouTube did with videos.” They found a way that readers could go to their website and read written materials easily – and free.

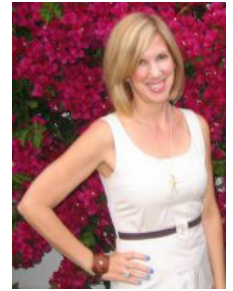
I am not sure of the details, but they even found a way for the author to be paid for the online publication. In this way, they went from sharing online to opening an online bookstore. They asked Scott to be their first author under his pen name, Kemble Scott.

Kemble—continued on page 10

MEETINGS

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Avenue, Monterey. We open the doors at 5:30 p.m. for optional dinner; the program starts at 6:30 p.m. with the speaker beginning at 7:00 p.m. For last-minute changes, check the Web site: www.centralcoastwriters.org

Maria Garcia Teutsch: *What an Editor Wants to See from You*



Maria Garcia Teutsch will be the featured speaker at the June meeting of the Central Coast Writers Club meeting on Tuesday, June 15.

Ms. Teutsch is a writer, editor, teacher and the poetry judge for the CCW Writing Contest, and will speak on the topic: What an Editor Wants to See from You (or, “How do I get this overworked and often underpaid person to notice my work?”)

The talk will address a range of issues related to submitting written work for publication, from the perspective of an experienced writer and editor.

Ms. Teutsch is a poet living in Santa Cruz, California. She is an MFA candidate in poetry at New England College. She teaches poetry and creative writing at Hartnell College in Salinas, where she also serves as editor of the *Homestead Review* literary journal, now in its 10th year of publication. In addition to the *Homestead Review*, she serves as

Maria—continued on page 7

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The Prez Sez...

by Harold Grice

I hate to harangue, but . . .

Hey, members, I don't want to harangue. I think it unseemly for a grown man to grovel or harangue, so let us say I am remarking. Nay, best way yet to put it--questioning.

I ask, "Have you enjoyed the speakers?" and "Have you enjoyed the meetings?"

Need it be asked, "Don't you think the dynamics of the meetings are tops?" And, "Is the forum exploring all genre of the craft?"

Also, "Isn't this club holding up to a standard of interest and information in the form of enjoyment that is the mark of a great club?"

Yes! CCW has become this because of involvement of individuals willing to give. They take enjoyment, satisfaction and a great dose of pride from a job well done. They are the "givers."

Every organization has givers, and a quota of "takers". . . ones who enjoy the programs, information and camaraderie to the fullest extent, but come up short when it comes to giving of themselves in service.

So the real question here is: who are CCW's givers and takers?

THE PITCH: Become a giver; the club needs a member to fill one office on the slate of candidates on this page. Note whose name is given as temporary vice presidential candidate. He is holding the slot until the right party says yes. I am not pleading, but... If you are willing to serve, contact me at ookaayy@yahoo.com. Please. Thank you.

Contact Harold at ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Slate of Candidates Announced

Candidates for CCW 2010-2011 year offices are:

President: David Rasch

Vice-president: Harold E. Grice, Pro Tempore

Secretary/Treasurer: Deanne Gwinn

Nominations may also be made by CCW's members.

To place a name on the ballot, contact nominating committee chair Harold Grice at ookaayy@yahoo.com

Please plan to attend the meeting June 15 to vote.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President -- Harold Grice

Vice President -- David Rasch

Secretary/Treasurer -- Deanne Gwinn

Programs -- David Rasch

Membership -- Ludmila Austin

Public Relations -- Joyce Krieg

Hospitality Committee -- Judi Marquardt, Chair, and Fawn Mackey, Co-chair

Newsletter -- Harold Grice, Editor-in-Chief

Patricia Hamilton, Publisher

Wanda Sue Parrott, Editor

Production/distribution -- Cristy Shauck

Photographer and Webmaster -- Ken Jones

Contest Committee -- Cristy Shauck, Chair

Central Board Representative -- Joyce Krieg

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Lori Kearney: "Pizza and Prose"

C. Jonathan Shoemaker: "If the Shoe Fits"

Michelle Smith: "Member Profiles"

G. M. Weger: "Still in Pursuit of the Dream"

Contests: Cristy Shauck

Events Editor: David Rasch

Reviews Editor: C. Jonathan Shoemaker

Correspondent: Donna Marbach

The Electronic Inkpot

Shortcut to Success: the Story Stanza

by Wanda Sue Parrott, Editor

Inventing the amazing 100-word Story Stanza was one of my best literary experiments. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

By employing the three steps to write poems, stand-alone short-shorts or series of scenes, one of my classes enjoyed 100 percent success, as all 26 aspiring writers got paid before the first semester ended. Some got bylines and/or copies only; one man received a rooster-shaped rain gauge and \$3; a woman got a \$35,000 option on her screenplay based on Story Stanza sequences.

In 2007-2008, I won \$25 to \$100 for every Story Stanza (off color and otherwise) entered in Flash Fiction contests. Three of them follow. Study the style, then write your own. Why? Today's new *Reader's Digest* pays \$100 to \$300 for jokes and true stories that fit the Story Stanza scheme. See RD guidelines on page 8. Tip: Save the off-color pieces for contests or friends.

Only in New Mexico

"If that drug advertised on TV really works when the right time comes, then I'm gonna find out," Morris said. At sixty, the pint-sized ranch-hand remained single because women found him repulsive.

He called an escort service in Santa Fe, said he was a rich oilman, and requested a tall blonde with sense of hu-

mor. He swallowed a pill, then hit the highway in his truck. The right time soon happened. Morris's ears elongated, his tongue erected, and his head swelled. His heart burst.

Morris made the evening newscast: *Alien body found near Roswell in burned wreckage of unidentified earthcraft.*



Fortune 500

Making his fortune was Kitaler Zygniac's goal. After arriving at Ellis Island by boat, the young Czechoslovakian shined bankers' shoes in Manhattan, opening a checking account with his first twenty-five dollars.

He then cashed a check in like amount at an Italian grocery, deposited it, wrote another check for fifty dollars cash, deposited it, and continued this routine until Friday morning. "Kite" then withdrew the five hundred dollars his account showed. That afternoon the bank crash of 1929 happened. Others lost fortunes, but he'd made a small one.

Today he's an urban legend known as America's first Czech kiter.

Wanda Sue Parrott, Monterey, co-founded the National Annual Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition for American poets 50 and older; www.amykitchenerfdn.org, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com, 831-899-5887.

Letters to the Editor

Scribbles is an online publication. Readers who wish to submit letters or questions, or members who want to receive a hard-copy by U. S. Postal Service "snail mail," should submit e-mail with the code words "Mail Scribbles" on the subject line to our editorial inbox at ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net.

Carpool rides, anyone? Does CCW have a committee that arranges rides for older writer/members who love to attend meetings, but no longer can drive at night? If yes, please count me in. I am willing to pay for gas. That reminds me: are there plans for carpooling to any events to be put on by other branches, such as the East of Eden conference or special events in the Bay Area? *Granny from Seaside*

Editor: There is no carpooling committee right now, Gran-

ny, but we are open to hearing from members interested in forming one. Two potential day trips this summer are the picnic (see invitation on page 4) and sail into the bay (see information on page 9). All interested persons may e-mail ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net.

Patricia Hamilton, Scribbles publisher and owner of Park Place Publications, has been helping writers self-publish books since 1982. Her free consult takes you from manuscript to printed book, with details on who does what, how long it takes, and how much it costs to get there. She's in Turkey for the month of June, launching her career as a photo-journalist. *Info: publishingbiz@sbcglobal.net*



A Glorious Tradition Returns



At the dawn of the Twentieth Century, Jack London and his literary pals often gathered at the home of Joaquin Miller in the Oakland hills for picnics and conversation. In 1909, those informal outdoor literary salons – “a blanket and a basket of chow” – evolved into the California Writers Club. For many years, CWC honored its heritage by maintaining the tradition of an annual picnic at Joaquin Miller Park. On July 10, 2010, you are invited to join your fellow CWC members as we revive the tradition of food and fellowship in the majestic setting of Joaquin Miller Park.

Gentle-to-ambitious walks in Writers Memorial Grove • Potluck • See Joaquin Miller's home •

Visit Woodminster Amphitheater and The Cascades

Saturday, July 10, 2010 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Fire Circle at Joaquin Miller Park, 3594 Sanborn Drive, Oakland

Admission is free; reservations are requested. Contact your Central Board representative.

If you Like to Write, Why Not Try Blogging?

CCW's Joyce Krieg is our California Writers Club's Central Board Representative. Her e-mail address is joyce@joycek.com

I am the most skeptical person in the world when it comes to get-rich-quick schemes, especially when they involve the Internet. But I made an exception when one of our sister CWC branches, South Bay, sponsored a workshop on making bucks with a blog.

The presenter, South Bay member Bill Belew, claims to be paying his not-unsubstantial Silicon Valley mortgage on the money he makes blogging. Intrigued, I signed up.

A blog is short for “web log” and is basically an Internet journal where the user adds new posts and readers submit comments. Did you see the movie *Julie and Julia*? That's what the Amy Adams character was doing: blogging about her experiences cooking her way through the *Julia Child* cookbook.

Bill Belew's bottom line: anyone can be a successful blogger. You don't need advanced computer skills if you use a platform like Wordpress (which is free!). The topic doesn't matter – if you're passionate about it, other people will be interested.

You don't need world class literary skills – you just have to like to write. Because that's the real key to success: updating your blog frequently. As in four or five posts daily. Now, before you panic, those are short updates, 100 to 150 words. Still, you need to commit to doing this for a year to 18 months before you start getting enough readers that advertisers are interested in your blog.

I figure – hey, I like to write, and I'm certainly opinionated enough that I can easily crank out what amounts to 500 to 800 words a day. So I'm definitely going to give it a try.

Meanwhile, your CCW Executive Committee is thinking about asking Bill Belew to put on his blogging workshop for CCW members. If you're interested, please let me know at joyce@joycek.com.



MEMBER PROFILE:

Judy Zhu

Award-winning author inspires other to learn



International Affairs ... U.S. Embassy ... Defense Language Institute—all conjure up trappings of a great espionage novel. Throw in a background in law, and you'd think you're about to read the latest John Grisham bestseller.

But what we really have is another example of what makes Central Coast Writers Branch of the California Writers Club a unique collection of individuals.

A CCW member since February 2009, Judy Zhu is an international award-winning writer and poet who arrived in the U.S. in 2000 to attend graduate school. After obtaining a B.A. in English from Foreign Affairs College in Beijing (now China Foreign Affairs University) and B.A. in law from Peking University, Judy went on to get an M.A. in Teaching a Foreign Language from Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) and M.A. in Conference Interpretation (Chinese-English), also from MIIS.

Judy's employment history is just as impressive. As a senior interpreter for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, her expertise was utilized in World Trade Organization negotiations. She taught Chinese at MIIS, and also at Defense Language Institute (DLI) Foreign Language Center in Monterey. She received the Provost Teaching Excellence Award from DLI and is currently employed there as Diagnostic Assessment Specialist, where she trains and certifies all language teachers on language assessment. Judy also teaches seminars and workshops on Chinese culture.

"I love my job as a teacher-trainer," Judy says. "I also enjoy teaching Chinese language and culture. It might sound funny, but I see teaching Chinese and culture as one of my hobbies."

With such proficiency in language studies, it would seem natural for Judy to want to pursue writing. Inspired by her mother and elementary school teacher, as well as reading, Judy says two motivations underlie her desire to write: "A need to express (poetry) and a desire to share (story or knowledge)."

Judy's work has been published since she was a mere fourteen years of age. Her genres are poetry (mostly Chinese), prose, short stories and non-fiction. Her publications

include *Modern Chinese Cultural Encounters Vol I: Studying and Traveling in China* (published in English) and more than 300 Chinese poems and prose published in Chinese newspapers, magazines and books. Some of Judy's work was also broadcast by Chinese radio stations.

Not surprisingly, Judy's work has been honored with several awards. At age fifteen she won third place in the International Chinese Poetry Contest. In 1997 she won first place in the National Family Story Writing Contest. Two years later, she won first place in the Beijing Daily Writing Contest.

For Judy, the writing process is a journey rooted in education, a journey cultivated with peer evaluation and a yearning to teach.

"It feels so good to help people raise cultural awareness and have more effective communication while I continue to grow as an educator," Judy says.

Judy is married to Leif Johnston, a California native and Systems Applications and Product Design Administrator for Computer Science Corporation. Her website, which she designed, is www.chinese-consultant.com.

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. Her website is theebonyquill.com



Copies are still available

"Wake up Your Writing Genius"

Book co-written by attendees
at CCW's March meeting

\$9.95

Order from Andrei G. Aleinikov
International Academy of Genius
Aleini13@comcast.net

Proceeds to benefit
Central Coast Writers

POET'S CORNER

May is the Merry Charming Month

June is named after Juno, goddess of marriage. Many consider being married in June good luck. There are thirty days in June.

The Roman poet Ovid wrote the *Fasti* which explains the origin of June. June comes from the Latin word *juniores* (younger ones) as opposed to *maiores* (elders) for which May is named.

The sun rises in Taurus at the beginning of June; at the end of June the sun rises in the constellation of Gemini. It ends with the astrological sign of cancer. June and May have one thing in common: no other months begin on the same day of the week as June and May during leap year.

June, the rose month, includes: Father's Day, June 20; Flag Day, June 14; first Day of Summer, June 2.

Your Poetry Editor, Nancy Jacobs

A Fistful of Planets

A breath of spindrift cuts
the smell of wood smoke in the air.
Where the sunset meets the ocean,
tints of rose fade into blue
beneath a starry sky.

Jupiter rising, no moon in the sky,
fistful of planets above, to the left,
Venus together with Saturn and Mars.
It's a rare formation. I wish you were here.

Fond memories—lying on our backs,
we watched the stars go by,
I felt your curls crush against my arm
and your warmth against my side.

The onshore breeze is starting to blow,
aroused by the setting sun.
Time to go in and put on some tea
and sit by the hearth to get warm.

C. Jonathan Shoemaker



BRAGGING RIGHTS

Members Put Fort Ord on Literary Map

Please share news about your writing-related achievements--appearances, awards and publications--with other members of CCW by e-mailing "Bragging Rights" at ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net. Only active members of the CCW branch of California Writers Club are eligible.

Gourlay goes international: A short story by CCW founding member Walter Gourlay was selected for publication in *Voice from the Planet*, anthology of short stories from around the world, to be published this fall by Harvard Square Editions.

The anthology includes some thirty stories chosen from more than 300 submissions from six continents. Walter's story "Reunion", a time-travel/fantasy romance, is set in the former Soldier's Club at Ford Ord. It originally appeared in *Monterey Shorts* (Thunderbird Press, Carmel, 2002).

All proceeds from the book will be donated to the award-winning humanitarian organization "Doctors Without Borders" which supplies care in countries that lack adequate medical facilities. Watch for a book signing next fall.

Other stories by Walter have appeared in *Pebbles* (Thunderbird Press, 1999); *Monterey Shorts 2* (FWOMP Publishing, Salinas, 2005) and *The Barmaid, the Bean Counter and the Bungee Jumper* (Thunderbird, 2003).

He's currently writing non-fiction.

Weger's work wins: Gwyn Weger's novel (written as G. M. Weger) *East Garrison* has won the Indie Excellence Award 2010 for Best Regional Fiction. (Ed. Comment: She has earned her pennickname "Pengwyn".)

Thomas takes honor: Mike Thomas' story "Amelia-6" was runner up in Spring 2010 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly Award. More about Mike on page 7.



**Local Authors Live! Special Appearance by
Sidesaddle & Co. • See Page 7**

!!Mark Your Calendar!! LOCAL AUTHORS LIVE!

Sponsored by the *Monterey County Herald*
with Special Appearances by
Dan Green, Emcee, "Authors' Roast"
Sidesaddles & Co., Award-winning
Bluegrass band, and May Waldroup

**Proceeds will benefit
local libraries equally.**

**Saturday, July 24, 2010
Noon to 4 P.M.**

**The Barnyard Shopping Village, Carmel
Authors. Music. Speakers. Raffle. Food. Wine**

Directions: Highway 1 south of Carmel; left at
Carmel Valley Rd.; one block, right at Carmel
Rancho Blvd.; right on Carmel Rancho Lane.

**If you are interested in participating as an
author, request an application from
Flo Snyder at fts@comcast.net**

Maria--continued from page 1

editor in chief of Ping-Pong journal of art and literature,
published by the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur. She has
been widely published in magazines such as *Prairie Schoo-
ner*, *The Southern Poetry Review*, *The Café Review*, *Two Re-
view*, *Otoliths* and *Leaf by Leaf*. Her website is: [http://mari-
ateutsch.blogspot.com](http://mari-
ateutsch.blogspot.com)

The meeting will be held at the Casa Munras Hotel in
Monterey, and there will be a
social and dinner hour from
5:30 - 6:30 pm, followed
by club business and an-
nouncements until 7:00 pm.
Ms. Teutsch will speak from
7:00- 8:00 pm. We hope to see you there!



*by David Rasch,
Vice President
and Program
Chair*

SCRIBBLES SPOTLIGHT SHOWCASE

*This new feature shines light on short original works,
preferably in 100 words or less. This month's column spotlights*

MIKE THOMAS



Excerpt from "The Statue of Giordano Bruno" by Michael Thomas,
Winner of Central Coast Writers 2007 Short Fiction Contest Award

*You had three guidebooks and two maps and the
most common Italian phrases memorized. You were
ready for everything except this getting lost. You try
all the tricks, turn around occasionally to get a look
at things from the other direction, pick out landmarks,
a statue, a cathedral, to come back to. But when you
come back a few minutes later they are gone.*

*Only one statue is faithful: the statue of
Giordano Bruno, filosofo et scrittore, in the Piazza dei
Fiori. He was near the Paradis, your hotel, draped in
a dark marble cowl like a druid or a monk...*

CCW's Michael ("Mike") Thomas, newly retired
contest chair, was featured local writer at the second
Open Mic evening hosted by Gwyn Weger and Pat
Hanson at Paluca Trattoria on Fisherman's Wharf,
Monterey, on May 13. Mike read from a chapter of
his unpublished novel *Betwixt*, which is being con-
sidered for representation by an agent. Mike's work
has appeared in *Mid-American Review*, *Quarterly
West*, *Rosebud*, *Homestead Review*, and other jour-
nals. His short story "Amelia-6", an excerpt from a
novel in progress, was recently named a finalist for
the Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Award for Imagina-
tive Fiction. Mike holds an MFA from the University
of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

MARKET OF THE MONTH

Submission Guidelines

Purpose of this section of Scribbles is to feature publications that buy freelance writers' and photographers' and/or artists' work, as opposed to those that pay with publication credit or free copies. Please share your suggestions for future Guidelines by e-mailing us at ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net.

FEATURED PUBLISHER FOR APRIL

READER'S DIGEST

Box 100, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Electronic submissions accepted—Payment \$50–\$400

Established in 1922, the reorganized Reader's Digest has recently emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy. It provides current events coverage and features essays that reflect contemporary American life.

Reprint Submission Guidelines: Readers are welcome to send in full-length stories from local or regional publications to: Local Reprint Editor, *Reader's Digest*, Box 190, Pleasantville, NY 10570

If the article is online, send a brief synopsis and its URL to: rdeditorial.rdw@readersdigest.com

Please include the source, date of publication and page number, your name, address and telephone number. The first person to contribute a story we reprint will be paid up to \$400.

Joke, Funny Story and Quote Guidelines: Jokes, funny true stories and quotes may be submitted via electronic

form. If selected for publication, you will be paid from \$100 to \$300. For details and to submit, please visit www.rd.com/submitjoke.do.

Original contributions, which should be no more than 500 characters, become our property upon submission. Your submission may be used in all print and electronic media. If it's used on the RD.com website only, you will not get paid for it. If selected, it may be edited.

Article Submissions Guidelines: Original articles are usually assigned to regular contributors. We do not accept or return unpublished manuscripts. We do, however, accept one-page queries that clearly detail the article idea. We look for dramatic narratives, articles about everyday heroes, crime dramas, adventure stories. Do include a separate page of your writing credits. Please email your article proposal queries to articleproposals@readersdigest.com.

"Pizza And Prose" Birth of an Art & Lit Series

By Lori Kearney

During a hiatus from organizing Pizza and Prose events, I'll answer a question I'm asked regularly: how did this series come about?

Once upon a time at a local writer's committee meeting in summer 2006, I ended up with the task of finding a location to hold an author reading. One call led to another and, thanks to the manager of Mr. Toots Coffee House, I found myself in a telephone conversation with Cliff Livingston of

CAVA Wine Bar in Capitola Village.

Cliff invited me to meet in person. I immediately felt right at home. Cliff started coming up with wonderful ways to add to our event and make it more fun and successful. The whole thing turned out to be much more interesting than I imagined, thanks to Cliff and his business partner Zachary Worthington. "Let's do something on a regular basis," Zach said.

"Huh?!?" (or something like that) was my response.

And if they had not continued to ask about it, this would have been one of those great ideas that fall by the wayside. I finally said "Okay, let's do it!" So there we stood in the middle of the bar, trying to think of how it would work and

Lori--continued on page 9

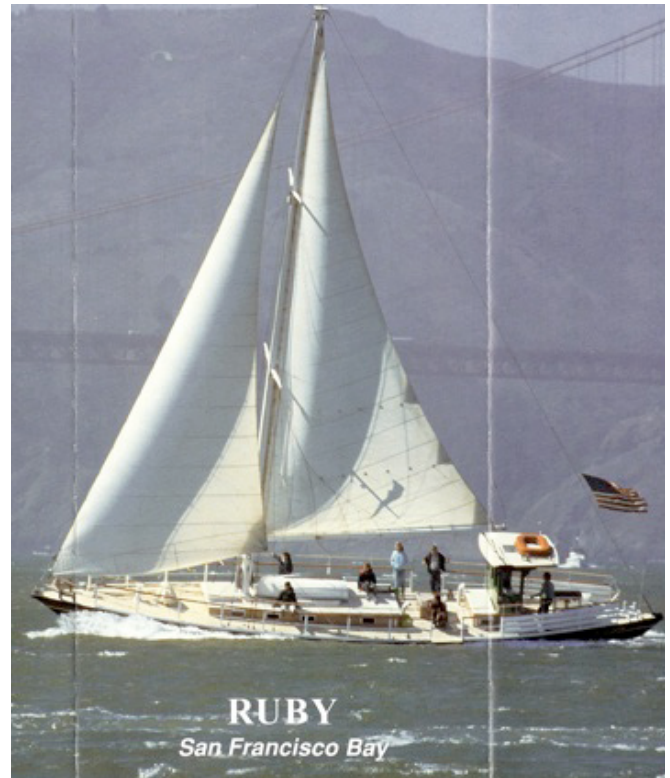
Sail Aboard the Ruby

Join friends and members of CWC
For a Lunch Cruise on the Bay

Sunday, June 20, 2010
12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

(Beer and wine sold separately on board)
Ruby departs from behind the Ramp Restaurant
Foot of Mariposa and Third St., San Francisco
Safe for children and seniors

Send \$35 check made out to Wild Mind Writer,
to Dale King
32 Bloom Lane, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
deking8@msn.com



what to call it. I recall laughing at some pretty silly names till, out of thin air, “Pizza and Prose” came flying out of my mouth and a free community event was born: The Articulate Conception.

The first installment was in March 2007. About a year later the website was born, and until January of this year maintained, by the kind and multi-talented Zach. Before selling his half of the business to Cliff, he helped me transition to webmaster. Although quite unsure of my abilities in this area at first, it turns out I owe him a debt of thanks for challenging me yet again.

A free community event was born: *The Articulate Conception*

I am very grateful to Zach and Cliff for opening their home away from home to the writer’s union for that August 2006 meeting, and for encouraging me to help create something that has become an unexpected labor of love in my life. I am also grateful to Bill Minor and Heath Proskin for creating such a magical evening that first night of this series in March 2007. The audience did not want them to stop. By the end of April I had the rest of the year scheduled and was booking presenters for 2008. Every speaker has been a treat to work with and listen to and I look forward to many more special evenings.

Pizza and Prose has moved from the third Wed. each

month to the third Mon. The response has been beyond my imagination. Although some months I still barely break even, Pizza My Heart, Capitola now donates some of their pies, while the rest of the food and printing costs are generally, well sort of, covered by the monthly wine raffle and National Writers Union.

I have become a card carrying member of California Writer’s Club which prints my P&P reviews in their monthly newsletter. The Capitola Book Cafe helps with supplying books when needed for authors to sign and sell. And I have slowly gotten eeeever-so-slightly more comfortable speaking in front of a crowd in that quaint little wine bar with the cozy fireplace.

I would like to create more of a philanthropic angle for this series. My vision is to develop something that will benefit youth through the arts and literature. Now I need someone to “encourage” me to get my own book published... then we’d be onto something. I might even treat the whole town to pizza, or at least buy a round of sparkling wine at Cava.

Lori Kearney, Pizza and Prose Art & Lit Series, www.pizzaandprose.com, 831-419-4678.

INBOX INKLINGS

Potable quotables excerpted from Scribbles editorial e-mail inbox.

Literary Agents Air Their Gripes

(from Scribbles correspondent Reta Allen):

“Anything cliché such as ‘It was a dark and stormy night’ will turn me off. I hate when a narrator or author addresses the reader (e.g., ‘Gentle reader’).” *Dan Lazar, Writers House*

“I’m really turned off by a protagonist named Isabelle who goes by ‘Izzy.’ No. Really. I am.” *Stephany Evans, FinePrint Literary Management*

“I dislike opening scenes that you think are real (I rep adult genre fiction), then the protagonist wakes up. It makes me feel cheated. And so many writers use this hackneyed device. I dislike lengthy paragraphs of world building and scene setting up front. I usually crave action close to the beginning of the book (and so do readers).” *Laurie McLean, Larsen/Pomada Literary Agents*

“... If everything is explained in the first chapter, I’m probably putting the book down and going to sleep.” *Peter Miller, Peter Miller Literary*

“1. Squinting into the sunlight with a hangover in a crime novel. Good grief—been done a million times. 2. A sci-fi novel that spends the first two pages describing the strange landscape. 3. A trite statement (“Get with the program” or “Houston, we have a problem” or “You go girl” or “Earth to Michael” or “Are we all on the same page?”), said by a weenie sales guy, usually in the opening paragraph. 4. A rape scene in a Christian novel, especially in the first chapter. 5. ‘Years later, Monica would look back and laugh...’ 6. “The [adjective] [adjective] sun rose in the [adjective] [adjective] sky, shedding its [adjective] light across the [adjective] [adjective] [adjective] land.” *Chip MacGregor, MacGregor Literary*

Kemble—continued from page 1

Why did they choose Scott?

They found him on the Internet and Scott had followed his own advice: “Put yourself out there” and dare to be different. He did not go to the major publishers. He stayed local, the San Francisco Bay area, with his book *SoMa* (South of Market) with a limited release and presented his work in independent bookstores only.

When his book became instantly available to 5,000,000 readers worldwide per month with Scribd, the big publishers noticed and contacted him. He was contacted by the New York Times to ask him to work for them as a West Coast columnist in order to increase the number of subscriptions on this coast.

He decided to publish his second novel with a small local publisher, Numina Press, San Rafael, when he realized that she believed that he should be the one to realize most of the profits from his work and that she would get it published within twenty-nine days, “from contract to bookstore.” This novel, *The Sower*, is available online as an e-book at Kindle for \$4.99 “Priced higher because Amazon takes 65% of cover price. Works on Kindle and iPhone.” It is also available at Scribd for \$2.00 “Works on most digital devices: computers, laptops, e-readers, phones, etc.” Out of the two dollars, Scott

receives \$1.60 for each copy sold.

And his cell phone vibrates every time another \$1.60 comes in.

Scott’s sense of humor kept us laughing all evening and his message was truly a joy to hear.

Learn more at www.kemblescott.com

Be well.

By C. Jonathan Shoemaker



SHORTCUT TO SUCCESS:

100-word Story Stanza Formula

Steps: 1. Introduce situation in 15 words; 2. Dramatize it in 70 words; 3. Summarize/conclude in 15 words.

Tips: A--1 situation for simplicity; B--2 characters max.; C--0 vague words like so, very, huge; D--0 adverbs ending in “ly” such as quickly, softly, loudly; E--Use as few articles as possible, such as “a” and “the”; F--Avoid prepositional phrases. (*The Story Stanza formula is a technique developed and taught by Wanda Sue Parrott in Springfield, Missouri.*)

INFO EXCHANGE

Deanne E. Gwinn, Page Editor

The place for CCW members to post notices and ads for free. All items subject to editing. Send to ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net or CCW Info Exchange, P.O. Box 997, Pacific Grove CA 93950.

CONFERENCES & CLASSES

East of Eden Conference, Salinas, Sept. 24-26. Sponsored by South Bay Writers branch of California Writers Club. Complete info, including program, location, contest, awards and cost, and to register, visit: www.southbaywriters.com, and CCW's web site at www.centralcoastwriters.org

"Writing from Your Soul" Workshop, Carmel, Sat., July 31, 9 a.m. to noon. \$40. CCW member Susan Scott, workshop leader, says, "Using short, snappy exercises, you'll ignite your creativity and tap into inner wisdom..." Call Susan at 831-646-911

CONTESTS

Palettes & Quills 2nd Biennial Poetry Chapbook Competition, original manuscripts 15-40 pages. Prize: \$200 + 50 copies. Deadline 9/1/10. Rules from: Donna M. Marbach, 330 Knickerbocker Ave., Rochester, NY 14615, www.palletesnquills.com

Senior Poets Laureate Contest, sponsored by CCW member Wanda Sue Parrott, for poets age 55 and older. Open to all poets. Deadline 6/30/10. California Senior Poet Laureate competes for national \$500 award. See www.amykitchen-erfdn.org.

CRITIQUE, OPEN MIC & BOOK SIGNINGS

"SatChat" Critique, Sat., June 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Juice & Java, 599 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Enjoy breakfast while reading manuscripts every month on the 3rd Saturday. For details, contact Harold Grice at ookaayy@sbcglobal.net

Local Writers Open Mic & Happy Hour, Monterey. Thurs., 6/10/10, 5:30-7 p.m., featuring CCW founding member Martin Dodd and other writers' short readings. At Paluca Trattoria, 6 Old Fisherman's Wharf. Contact Pat Hanson, phanson@csumb.edu.

Pizza and Prose, Capitola. On hiatus in June. See "Pizza and Prose" column, page 8.

Peninsula Branch CWC Open Mic with Jim Harris, San Mateo. Third Wed. of month, 7:30 p.m., at Borders Books and Music, 2925 El Camino Real. Advance sign-up required. Ten writers read for 10 minutes. Contact OpenMic@SFPeninsulaWriters.com.

Local Authors Live!, The Barnyard, Carmel. Sat., July 24, noon-4 p.m. Proceeds benefit local libraries. For details about reserving table (\$50, 1 chair) to display/sell your book(s), contact Flo Snyder by 7/10/10. ftsnyder@comcast.net, 831-626-0577.

Indie Awards Honor Best Self-published Titles

by Gwyn Weger

The National Indie Excellence Awards (NIEA) are designed to bring recognition to titles from independent publishers. The respected and prestigious awards program celebrates excellence in independent publishing.

The competition is judged by an independent panel of experts from all aspects--editing, marketing, publicity, and design--of the publishing industry.

Founder Ellen Reid, a strong proponent of independent publishing, believes it is essential for smaller publishers and authors to have a prestigious platform to receive well-deserved recognition.

"Why is it that in our world today, an independent film producer is a hero while an independent publisher is viewed

as someone who couldn't get a 'real' publisher to take on his or her project? It's time to challenge that mindset," Reid said. "The Indie Excellence Awards review thousands of new books from independent publishers across the USA."

Awards are granted in more than 99 fiction and nonfiction categories. For details, visit: www.indieexcellence.com

Gwyn Weger won the 200 Indie Award for Best Regional Novel.





**CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB
CENTRAL COAST WRITERS BRANCH
P.O. BOX 997
PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950**

June 15, 2010

5:30–6:30 p.m.

Happy Hour/Dinner (Optional)

7 p.m.

Maria Garcia Teutsch

**“What an Editor Wants
to See from You”**

Casa Munras Hotel

700 Munras Ave., Monterey, CA

Singular Common Nouns ending in s:
Add 's unless the next word begins with s:
the hostess's invitation, the hostess' seat;
the witness's answer, the witness' story.
*From The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual,
33rd Edition, Page 162*

If the Shoe Fits . . .

One Word After Another

by C. Jonathan Shoemaker

For those of us who struggle to get our thoughts on paper in a way that others will enjoy reading them, the words of movie producer Irving Thalberg may sound naïve, bordering on ridiculous: “What’s this business of being a writer? It’s just putting one word after another.”

When I was in the third grade I had a similar attitude toward art. I just filled the sheet of paper with different colors. Miss Sauer finally had me reading stories out of the Bible during the time that the rest of the class was “doing art.” I guess she had higher expectations than mine concerning the form and quality of a piece of art.

I have heard it said, “Write a thousand words a day and you become a writer.” True, Stream of Consciousness had its heyday. And Henry Miller gained fame by filling page after page with seemingly inconsequential observations.

What is the point at which a string of words becomes literature?

Jules Feiffer, in his memoir *Backing into Forward*, Doubleday, 2010, explains how he earned success by backing away from what he found threatening or difficult, finally creating in a space where he felt comfortable and successful. He then would allow one idea to follow the other. This became his style of writing. He comments, “One thought or



idea follows another, leading I don’t know where until, moments later, it dawns on me that I know where I’m headed, and it’s the right place.” “Or it may have been headed nowhere, except into the trash, where it had lots of company.” Sometimes, years later, he would think of just the right way to finish the work, pull it out of the trash drawer, finish it and send it in.

He wrote cartoons, plays, screenplays, a novel, children’s books and finally a memoir in this manner.

Ernest Hemingway commented that most of his work ended up in the waste basket and only a small percentage of what he wrote was printed for public viewing.

I think Hemingway and Feiffer reveal the vital secret to being a successful writer. Yes, write one word after another. Let them tumble out as fast as they can fall onto the page. But then cut out everything that is not of the highest quality. Like the master carver in India who takes a formless block of ivory and cuts away everything that doesn’t look like an elephant.

Then set it aside until you can read it with fresh eyes and edit some more. An editor or a critique group can show you even more ways to cut or modify until you have, not just word after word, but thought after thought -- in progressive, meaningful sequence.

Oh, yes. It should also have some value to improve or brighten the lives of those who read it.

Be well and do good work.

Jonathan