



Scribbles

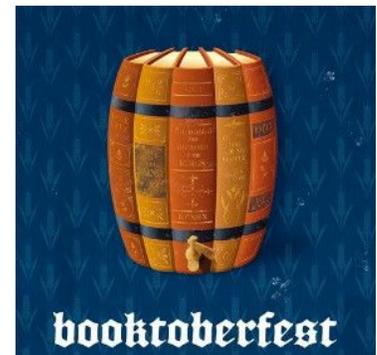
California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch

www.centralcoastwriters.org

October 2015

October 20 Booktoberfest!

Don't miss this one, where our own CCW members read from their published works. Come ready to relax and listen and enjoy. Books! October! Festival! Booktoberfest!



Coming on November 17 Andy Ross: The Agent Experience

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

Former owner of the legendary Cody's Books in Berkeley, Ross opened his literary agency in 2008. His agency represents books in a wide range of non-fiction genres, as well as literary, commercial, historical, crime, upmarket women's fiction, and YA fiction.

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

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Dirndl Time!

By Laurie Sheehan

I hope everyone is enjoying the crisp Autumn nip in the air. September 23rd came and went, the final day of Summer, the Autumnal equinox, or “equal night.” On this day each year the center of the sun sets exactly 12 hours after it rose. I always hope that maybe some sort of metaphysical balance will be bestowed upon me on this day... but no. Maybe I’m not quite as tuned in to the cosmos as I believe? Or, maybe I’m just not breathing into my chi correctly? Ooh, maybe spending more time writing will help! I’ll give that a try and let you know.

And, speaking of writing, never fear – the Point Pinos Grill has beer! How does beer connect to writing you might ask? Well, for our CCW Oktoberfest celebration, of course! Oh, wait, what’s that you say? Not Oktoberfest? Oh, right, BOOKTOBERFEST! I’m excited to say that we have had a fabulous response to our call for readers – to me this means that we have a membership that is thriving, writing, publishing, and willing to crow over the accomplishment – and it is quite an accomplishment!

This will be my first opportunity to attend Booktoberfest, and I’m truly looking forward to hearing some of our members read from their published works. We’ll also be setting up tables for book displays and sales. Book sales are not limited to readers only. I’m inviting any member with a published book, traditionally or self-published, to take part in the sale. If you would like to display and/or sell your book please email me at erudite@mac.com.

I hope to see you all at Booktoberfest – and, since this isn’t Oktoberfest, don’t expect to see me in a Dirndl...

Until we meet again, I wish you happy writing!

Laurie

From the September meeting:



New member Mary Flodin, author of the novel, *Fruit of the Devil*



New member Linda Kane



Joyce Krieg holds a picture of the original CCW Board members: Ken Jones, Carol Kauffman, and Pat Matuszewski. (See In Memoriam on page 6.)

Busman draws standing-room-only crowd



Debra Busman drew a standing-room-only crowd in September, as she introduced her debut novel, *like a woman*, and discussed social action writing. In her presentation, Busman listed three benefits of social action writing: it can break silence, speak out against injustice and connect folks who want to stand in alliance, she said.

“One of the things I’ve learned is we know so little of one another’s lives. As humans and writers we’ve got to get to know each other,” Busman said.

She also suggested writers question what they see and don’t see. She used the example of driving through the neighborhoods of a city: are we seeing the homeless mother who has bedded her child in a nest of used tires? Are we seeing the five families living in one garage? The nine-bedroom houses that stand empty except for vacations?

“What is underneath the thick walls of practiced silence?” she asked.

As director of and teacher in the Creative Writing and Social Action Program at CSUMB, Busman said she encourages students to claim their unique voices as writers. Stories, including those of discrimination and of sexual and emotional abuse, often emerge in such detail, Busman said, that she sometimes wishes she had not encouraged students to write so vividly. Busman called the CSUMB program, which offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Communication, a “rock star” in its field.

The LA Times described her book, about teenage girls coming of age in the streets of Los Angeles, as “gritty but tender: charming in its immodesty and sinewy as a junkyard dog.”



Debra Busman answers members’ questions



Diane and Rick Busman help with brisk book sales

Announcements

Membership News

Welcome to our new CCW members:

Frankie Appling **Linda Lee Kane**
Mary Flodin **Carol Kaplan**
Lisa Gardner **McKenzie (Mac) Moss**
Pat Gardner **Vanessa Smith**

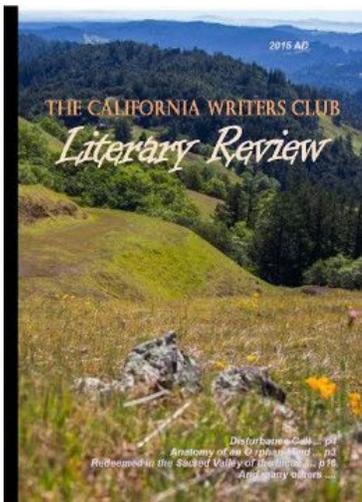


Member Congratulations!

Diana Y. Paul's debut novel, *Things Unsaid*, releases on October 13 (She Writes Press), with pre-orders available now. Diana is also writing a monthly column for the *San Diego Book Review*, called "First Words," and welcomes your replies to her online articles, sharing your experiences at www.sandiegobookreview.com.

Long-time member **Joyce Krieg** announces the re-launch of her personal website, www.joycek.com. Joyce notes that she developed the entire site pretty much by herself, doing the HTML coding "by scratch" and creating the lively, colorful home page banner in PhotoShop. Our own Dorothy Vriend took the photo of Joyce hiding behind the composition book.

Carol Marquart has written a play called "Who Was Mabel Dodge Luhan?" She is casting it and will present it as a one-hour staged reading at the Monterey Peninsula College Lecture Series at 1:30 p.m. on November 18. Admission is free. Mark your calendars! More info to come in the November *Scribbles*.



The California Writers Club Literary Review

If it hasn't already arrived in your mailbox, you'll soon receive the latest edition of the Literary Review. Now in its fourth year, it's on its way to establishing itself as a CWC institution. Sadly, costs are rising. In order to maintain a quality publication while balancing our budget, we have instituted a submission fee beginning with the next issue. Going forward, \$10 per submitter must accompany each submission of up to two pieces submitted at the same time, payable by Paypal or by check. Find submission guidelines and payment details on the CWC website, www.calwriters.org. The deadline is November 30, and we look forward to reviewing your fine writing.

— David George, CWC Central Board President

CCW T-shirts

If you are a CCW member and would like a dandy CCW t-shirt, Leslie Patiño will have them at Booktoberfest. Send Leslie, lnpatino@comcast.net, an email to reserve your size. A \$13 donation is suggested to help defray costs.

Thinking of Writing a Memoir?

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

[Announcements - continued from page 4](#)

Write Short Fiction for Fun and Profit Workshop

Author Michael Bracken delivers a day-long, hands-on workshop designed to provide the tools necessary to write publishable short stories. Craft short story plots, create compelling opening scenes, and gain mastery of scene construction, dialog, and description. See more at: <http://southbaywriters.com/wordpress/#sthash.j1fl6wlt.dpuf>

Saturday, November 14, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

Price/Early Bird: CWC Members \$60 / Non-members \$75 / Students with ID \$30 (through November 13)

Price/At Door: CWC Members \$65 / Non-members \$80 / Students with ID \$30 (November 14)

Networking Aloud: A Writers Open Mike

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

When: 2nd Tuesdays, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

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

(Across from Trader Joe's & Bus Station)

Our free monthly event open to the public **every second Tuesday: NETWORKING ALOUD: A WRITERS OPEN MIKE**. Come early & sign up for a five-to-seven minute reading from any genre: prose, screenplay, poetry, or essay, following 15 minutes from a featured published reader. We applaud one another, no critique allowed. Bring your work in progress, we want to hear your VOICE.

On **October 13th**, we will feature **Debra Busman**, fiction/creative nonfiction writer and Associate Professor at California State University Monterey Bay where she co-directs the Creative Writing and Social Action Program. Co-editor of the award-winning anthology *Fire and Ink: An Anthology of Social Action Writing*, her work has been published in *Combined Destinies: Whites Share Grief Around Racism*, *Street Lit: Representing the Urban Landscape*, *The LA Review*, and more. She will be reading from her new novel *like a woman*. www.debrabusman.com

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

Contact CCW member Pat Hanson for more information at phanson@csumb.edu or (831) 601-9195.

The Carmel Foundation Players

Member Harriet Lynn is seeking participants to join the new senior theatre company The Carmel Foundation Players. Please attend the free introductory program on Thursday, October 9, 2015, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Carmel Foundation in Blanchard A to meet and learn more from the director, Harriet Lynn, Producer/Artistic Director of the Heritage Theatre Artists' Consortium. The first production will be an original oral history performance, "Carmel Life Stories" to premiere December 3rd. Contact Harriet Lynn at 443-630-5312 or hlynn@umbc.edu. Details are in the Carmel Foundation October 2015 newsletter at:

www.carmelfoundation.org/pdf/CF_Newsletter.pdf

In Memoriam



Central Coast Writers lost three members over the summer months:

MILTON CALLAS, RESA FOSS, CAROL BROWN KAUFFMANN

Many of us remember Milton Callas and his son Bryan. Until a few months ago, they were very loyal members, coming to every meeting, always sitting in the same place—by the window in the northwest corner at Point Pinos Grill. Milton was 94 years old when he died July 30th at home in Pacific Grove. Milton had a long career as an English teacher at Salinas Union High School. He always wanted to create a novel based on his experiences teaching at Soledad prison. He did complete a book titled *Castle in the Sky*, about his years working as a guide at Hearst Castle during school vacations. He was an avid gardener and reader, a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and volunteered at local historical adobes. His family is requesting donations to the Sally Griffin Center.

Resa Foss, one of our newer members, died on September 5 in her home in Seaside. Resa dedicated her life to education, as a teacher, as an advocate for teachers' rights and benefits through the teachers' union, and as an elected member of the Board of Education for the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. A quote from her obituary: "Resa was a strong, kind, and caring woman. She cared deeply and fiercely about those she loved and the causes that meant the most to her. She was committed to her family and her many close and dear friends with whom she loved to spend her time, and she dedicated countless hours to volunteer causes." The family requests that donations be made in Resa's honor to The Gathering Place, a refuge for homeless women on the Monterey peninsula.

The news of the death of Carol Brown Kauffmann hit particularly hard for the long-time members of CCW. Carol was one of our founding members, tracing her involvement from the 1990s when writers from our area were making the trip up to San Jose for the nearest meetings of California Writers Club, signing up for the conference that CWC used to sponsor at Asilomar, and attending a critique group at the old Thunderbird bookstore. In the spirit of "let's put on a show in the old barn" the next thing you knew, this small group—Carol, Jonathan Shoemaker, Pat Hanson, Patricia Hamilton, Peter Hoss, Laura Emerson, Fran Vadamis, Harold Grice, Anita Alan, Walter Gourlay—had started a branch of California Writers Club right here on the Monterey peninsula. Carol served as treasurer from our chartering in July of 2002 until June of 2008.

Carol had a very illustrious career in Atlanta before moving to Pebble Beach. In 1978 along with her husband Norman, Carol co-founded Norcom, Inc., a school supply manufacturing company. Carol was one of the first three businesswomen asked to join the Rotary Club of Atlanta. Carol was the co-author of a handbook for parents and teachers of special needs children, she interviewed Holocaust survivors as part of Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation Project, was president of the Junior League of Atlanta and editor of their magazine. In addition to Central Coast Writers, Carol served on numerous boards, including the Georgia Council of Child Abuse, The Georgia Academy, The Historic Oakland Foundation, the Atlanta Women's Fund of the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation and the Mary Brown Fund of Atlanta. When Carol retired as treasurer in 2008, she just sort of disappeared, though she always kept her membership in CCW current. We got the news of her passing more or less by accident, emails forwarded from one person to the next until one message finally ended up in the mailbox at the Central Coast Writers website. There was nothing in the local papers, only in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, with a mention of a memorial service honoring both Carol and her husband, who died in 2013, scheduled for October 4th in Atlanta.

— Contributed by Joyce Krieg



The Power of Intelligence

Menko Rose

Menko Rose has had plenty of unique experiences to inform his fifty years of writing. He worked as a dairy farm laborer, he counseled at methadone clinics, and he was a securities analyst on Wall Street. Also a rifleman with the 90th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge, Menko earned a Purple Heart and three battle stars for his service.

During World War II, Menko sustained two head injuries that recrudesced in the early 1960s after he was rear-ended by a truck. While recovering, he learned relaxation techniques and tactics to manage the negative aspects of impulse and fear. He trained in memory and reading skills development, and then set out on a path to discover methods to increase intelligence. After years of studying techniques to improve learning ability, Menko founded and offered the first iteration of Skilligence Workshops at the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in Seaside. Designed for veterans returning from military service, the workshops assist with reintegration into civilian life where a “confusing, challenging and abrupt change in culture” is often encountered.

Menko’s desire to overcome the enduring effects of his head injuries led him to pursue writing. With a B.A. in economics from Cornell University under his belt, he earned an M.S. in education counseling from Cal State University at Hayward after writing “Modification of Manifested Intelligence Through Relaxation Training in the Classroom” for his thesis. He also obtained a Ph.C. in learning from the University of Washington and was licensed in marriage, family and child therapy.

Having lectured extensively on the improvability of human intelligence, Menko wrote a manual for instructors titled “Skilligence Workshops.” He’s also had published in journals and newspapers several articles and letters he wrote about world federalism and has lectured on the subject at conventions on three continents. While his writings serve as a platform to further his cause of ending wars, Menko’s ultimate goal is to publish a “broadly read” self-help book on ways to increase intelligence.

“Read widely and write and write and write,” Menko says to his fellow writers. “Join writers workshops. Imitate a couple of your favorite writers, and then integrate them into your own unique style.”

The current series of Skilligence Workshops commenced September 12th and runs for twelve weeks. Visit www.skilligenceworkshops.com for additional information.

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





CONTESTS

Anderbo – Tenth Annual RRoFiHe Trophy Short Story Prize

Deadline: October 15, 2015

Entry Fee: \$00.00-Free, no reading fees.

Website: www.anderbo.com/anderbo1/no-fee-rrofihe-trophy2015.html. Formatting details on website.

E-mail address: All submissions addressed to: editors@anderbo.com with RROFIHE TROPHY in the subject line. Limit one submission per author. Story manuscript entry is to be sent within the body of the email – **no attachments!** All stories must be previously unpublished on Anderbo. Authors retain all rights. One story per author limit, 3500 to 5000 words per story.

Prize: \$500.00, Trophy, announcement and publication at www.anderbo.com.

Sequestum Literature and Art

Fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. Open only to new writers – anyone yet to publish a book-length manuscript.

Deadline: October 15, 2015

Entry Fee: \$15.00

Website: www.sequestum.org/

Prize: First prize receives \$200, plus publication in our Spring '16 issue. Runner up prize(s) of \$25-\$50 cash, plus publication.

William R. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grants Program

Deadline: November 1, 2015

Entry Fee: \$00.00-Free

Website: www.malicedomestic.org/grants.html, submissions/questions: www.malicegrants@comcast.net

Prize: A prize/grant of \$2500.00 plus comprehensive registration for next Malice Domestic convention and two nights convention hotel stay will be awarded to an author who is previously unpublished in the malice domestic genre. Submission requirements on website.

Glimmer Train Very Short Fiction Award Contest

Deadline: October 31, 2015

Entry Fee: \$18.00 per submission for up to four submissions

Website: www.gtsdev.com/pages/guidelines/very_short_fiction_guidelines.php

Prize: 1st place wins \$1,500, publication in Glimmer Train Stories, and 20 copies of that issue. 2nd place wins \$500, 3rd place wins \$300. Other prizes available, go to website for full prize lists and guidelines.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Emerald City Writers' Conference, sponsored by Greater Seattle Romance Writers of America

Location: Westin Hotel, Bellevue, WA. Westin conference hotel rates end when sold out.

Date: October 16-18, 2015

Deadline: Registration closes October 1, 2015, or when sold out.

Fee: \$299.00, additional fees are required for add-on events offered at registration.

Website: <http://gsrwa.org/ecwc/conference/>

Laura's Mexican Writing Fiesta. A week-long, small group, immersion-writing workshop. Focuses on non-fiction/memoir/travel/autobiography.

Location: Group will stay in a refurbished 300 yr. old villa in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Date: October 30 - Nov. 6, 2015, including Day of the Dead events

Cost: \$2500.00 per person, not including airfare and transportation

Website: www.laurafraser.com, click on "Writing Fiestas."



You Never Know

It is a mystery how and why our words affect other people. Someone remembered a passage in the August 2014 *Scribbles* that I wrote when my brother-in-law passed on (about being apart but not alone). She sent the passage to her father.

Yes, although we write in solitude, we are not alone. Writers have something inside them that needs to be said; that needs to be read. We have things to communicate that other people might need to hear. The other day I greeted a panhandler. He said, "Mister, thank you!" I said, "What for?" "That smile and greeting is worth more than a \$20 bill."

There is great power in our words and actions that affects people deeply. One thoughtless word can deeply scar the self-image of a child. One thoughtful word can open the door to a world of unimagined possibilities.

Many teachers remember conversations that resulted in a child's decision to "do the right thing." The decision was made by the child, but often spurred by a word that the teacher said, which revealed admiration or respect for that student, resulting in the youth's self confidence and determination. A change of self-image or acknowledgment of one's value can help to forge a new lifestyle that outweighs a previous lack of self-esteem. A mass murderer might have made different choices had others treated him as a person of value.

Many adults have stopped to thank me for their positive development after having me for a teacher. Heck! I offered very little advice, but I did encourage them to explore their options and showed respect for their opinions. One married the girl and got a job. Some moved out of the "hood" and started a new life. One decided not to commit suicide. Others decided to go ahead and finish school so they could help others.

People evaluate alternatives while they are reading our work. They might think, "Hey! I could do that." Or "Something ought to be done about that!" Our novels, short stories and poems expose problems and possible solutions or consequences.

Literature evolved from fables, epic sagas and folk tales to teach a lesson; or were put to music and rhyme to make them easier to remember. Arthur Schopenhauer said, "The finest thought runs the risk of being irrevocably forgotten if we do not write it down."

Down through history, stories have been passed from generation to generation — from fairytales and nursery rhymes to Shakespeare, Longfellow, O. Henry, Hermann Hesse, Anne Frank, Maurice Sendak, Robert Heinlein, Neil Diamond, Stieg Larsson, and J. K. Rowling — presenting ideas, concepts and values for our consideration, which may affect our attitudes — possibly our lives. They write from varying points of view and in different genres, but the ideas they pass on to us are germane to our lives and needs. If we pass forward what we know and what we believe, we are doing our share.

Be well, and do good work.
Jonathan

The Last Word

By Lana Bryan

The Playwright's the Thing



Bob Whitsitt and I attend a lot of plays. We subscribe to three series a year: A.C.T. in San Francisco, The San Jose Stage, and TheatreWorks. That's 18. The annual 11 plays at the Ashland Shakespeare Festival raise the total to 29. And some local ones, two so far this year: 31 and counting. (We promise to do better locally.)

Except that Bob was the invisible Harvey in high school, neither of us is an actor. So, why so many plays? How do plays and playwrights differ from novels and novelists, poetry and poets, and other types of writing and their writers? All bleed from their foreheads as they stare at the blank page or screen. All are alone in their heads with their characters and their characters' vagaries. All have to turn over their offspring to strangers to decide if they are pretty enough for the public eye.

Playwrights, however, after writing "The End," take their babies beyond publication to yet others to nurture and raise. Artistic directors who decide to produce, directors who will interpret, and finally, actors who will breathe life into the words. A playwright must trust everyone involved to give the baby its best life.

A book is kept fondly, but inertly, on the shelf and reread at will. A play is alive in a two- or three-hour performance over a few days, weeks, months, or even years. But each unique performance is ephemeral. It feeds on the audience's response and so may fall flat or be a triumph, from one day to the next. You can't hold onto it, whether you are the director or an audience member. The director goes away after opening night. The audience members rarely return to see a play again.

The playwright's baby grows, not unlike a human, to become something similar to its parent, but also influenced by others along the way.

Happy reading – and writing!
-Lana

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Scribbles is published by: Central Coast Writers,
Post Office Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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CCW Website

www.centralcoastwriters.org

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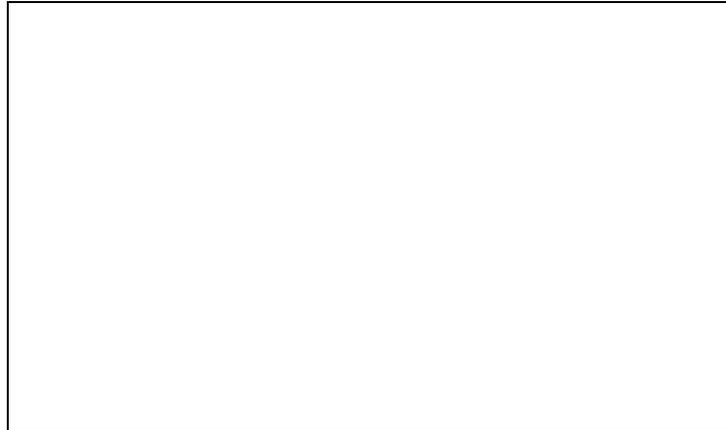
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Not yet a member of CCW?

You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:
centralcoastwriters.org



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Pacific Grove, CA 93950



October 20 Booktoberfest!

5:30 p.m. - DINNER

6:30 p.m. - MEETING

Point Pinos Grill

79 Asilomar Boulevard

Pacific Grove