



Scribbles

California Writers Club - Central Coast Writers Branch
www.centralcoastwriters.org
 September 2011

Nina Amir: "5 Things Every Writer Needs To Know To Get Published."



Nina will discuss great ideas, pitches, platforms, and proposals, and the all-important chutzpah at our September meeting! She'll cover everything you need to land an agent and publish your book as well as touching on how these topics relate to self-publishing.

Nina has edited or written for more than 45 publications and self-published nine short books. Her essays have been published in five anthologies. She writes five blogs and serves as the national Jewish Issues and Self-Improvement Examiner at Examiner.com.

She also has a proven track record as a book editor. One of her clients' books, *Enlightened Leadership*, was published verbatim by Simon & Schuster (Fireside) and sold over 200,000 copies. Another, *Radical Forgiveness*, won a 1998 *Writer's Digest* Self-Published Book Award, went on to sell over 115,000 copies, and was later purchased by the Sounds True multimedia publishing company.

Note:

*Our September 20 meeting
 will again be at the
 Crazy Horse Restaurant
 (Bay Park Hotel)*

Dinner at 5:15; Program at 6:30

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bragging Rights	5, 12
Club Business	2-3, 5
Contests	10
Editor's Corner	14
"If the Shoe Fits"	13
Local Events	9, 15
Member Profile	11
Picnic Highlights	6
Poetry Corner	7
Question of the Month	5
The Prez Says	2
Workshops, Conferences & Retreats	4, 12

The Prez Sez by Joyce Krieg



"Honoring the Need to Create"

Not the message I expected to hear on my machine when I arrived home from work the other day, that's for sure. A former member of my critique group was dead, unexpectedly, at 58.

You may have heard of the writers' group I belong to. It's the one that's been around for almost twenty years, affectionately referred to as "Hugo's Group" in honor of our founder.

Irving, as I shall call him, had been one of our long-time members. It was he who eased my way past the velvet ropes that guarded this closed circle of writers, first by poaching me from another group, and then by convincing "Hugo's Group" that I was the real deal and to let me in.

I was impressed with Irving from the start. Like me, he wrote popular, mass market mysteries and suspense, breezy and fun, with a slight touch of noir. His goal, he told us, was to write a book a year, and for a long while he did just that.

Seven or eight years ago, Irving began his long, slow decline. He'd disappear from the group for months at a time. His writing – on the rare occasions when he actually produced – took on a bitter tone. His critiques became sloppy and disjointed, to the point where the rest of us tuned him out.

Then one day he was simply gone. Stopped coming to the group for good, no explanation, no goodbye.

Until that message on my answering machine.

What happened to Irving? No one knows for sure, at least not as of this writing. We'd heard rumors in recent years of illicit substances, scrapes with the law during trips abroad, hedonistic behavior. So it could have been anything.

But sometimes I wonder . . . is it because he stopped writing? I happen to believe we humans are hard-wired for creativity, a craving as imperative as shelter, companionship, and expensive, dark chocolate. Did Irving write his own death sentence when he stopped honoring that need to create?

I'm reminded of the slogan, "Do Something Creative Every Day." It belongs to one of my all-time favorite stores, Paper Source in San Jose's Santana Row and other upscale venues throughout the country. I'm adopting that as my own personal directive, even if on some days it means writing just one line.

And I'll never stop showing up on Sunday afternoons for Hugo's Group.

***Wanted:** Friendly, enthusiastic volunteer willing to take charge of CCW's monthly door prize drawing.*

You'll be lining up prizes, selling tickets at our monthly meetings, helping to conduct the drawing, and taking responsibility for the drawing spinner and roll of tickets.

If interested, get in touch with CCW President Joyce Krieg, joycek@redshift.com, or leave message at 831-649-6171.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER!

Laurie Sheehan

Laurie lives in Pacific Grove and is writing a mystery.

[SIGN UP NOW FOR BOOKTOBERFEST!](#)

So you've published a book – now what?

Now is not the time to be shy! If you're the author of a newly-published book, you've got to get the word out and share the good news. CCW has a fun, easy and free way to do just that.

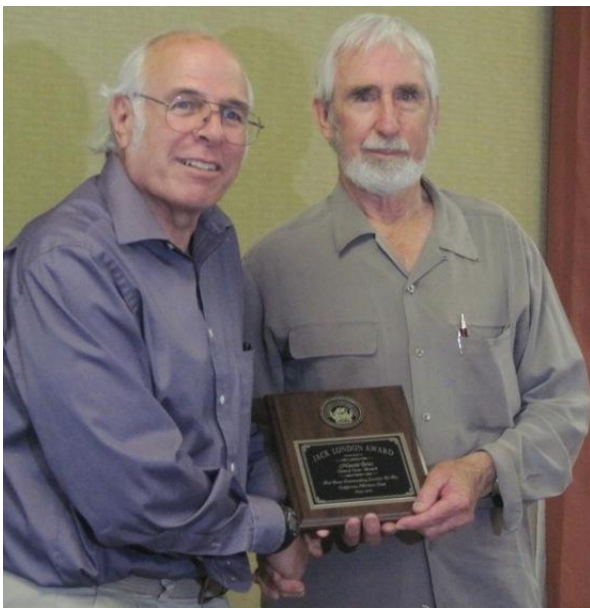
Booktoberfest is the one meeting out of the year in which we feature our own members instead of bringing in a guest speaker from the outside. This is your chance to take the spotlight and to share your book with your fellow CCW members.

This year's Booktoberfest will be at our October 18 meeting.

If you've published a book by any means (traditional, independent, e-books, etc.) in the past couple of years, you're invited to take part in Booktoberfest. The number of members who want to participate will dictate the amount of time each member receives. If we have, say, a dozen members, that means each will get five minutes in a 60-minute program. Fewer interested members equals more time for each, while more members equals less time – you get the picture.

You may use the time pretty much any way you like: reading from your work, telling us about your book and the publication process, or a combination thereof. You'll also have the opportunity to display and sell your books.

If you're interested in being one of the featured authors at Booktoberfest please send an email to CCW President Joyce Krieg, joycek@redshift.com, or leave a message at 649-6171. Please, no phone calls after 8:00 p.m.



CWC President Bob Garfinkle (left) presents the Jack London Award to our own Harold Grice at the CWC annual meeting in Oakland on July 31. Harold was one of 17 members from CWC branches around the state who were honored for outstanding volunteer service to their branches.

Harold served two years as our branch President, continues to serve as Workshop Chair, and is always willing to step in and help where needed, whether its presiding over the grill at our summer picnic, or donating wine to our holiday potluck.

Congratulations, Harold!

"NORA PROFIT'S BOOT CAMP III: WHAT'S THE FOCUS STATEMENT?"

by Wanda Sue Parrott

Nora Profit's third Boot Camp for Writers took such an unexpected turn that I won't ever watch another movie without asking "What's the focus statement? What is the film trying to prove?"

Why? Because a movie literarily stole the show, much to everyone's surprise, including Nora's. Her presentation started at 9:00 a.m. Over coffee and muffins, Nora asked the eight people present "What are you writing your book to prove?"

She said every author should ask: "What is my proof statement?" Every scene in a book should involve the proof statement. If a chapter or scene veers from the subject the author wishes to prove, it should be cut from the manuscript, regardless of how painful deletion might be to the author. If you have no proof statement, get one!

Before a writer begins to create a scene, he or she should practice this exercise: "Ask yourself what you want Nora (reader) to think. Then ask what you want Nora (reader) to feel." The answer to thinking can be written in a sentence, but feeling must be answered with one word, such as "sad," "confused," "unhappy," or "curious."

"The deeper your story, the more you need theme, motif and symbolism . . . Theme is a broad idea in a literary work, as a message or lesson conveyed by written text. Motif is a recurring idea or theme. Symbolism is a representation of an abstract idea." Nora said the first 15-minutes of a film equal the first chapter of a novel.

Everyone squeezed around Nora's laptop to glimpse the opening of Ron Howard's 1994 movie *The Paper*. By the time the luncheon sandwiches from Bruno's arrived, we'd voted to see the whole movie in lieu of Nora's verbal presentation, so we ate lunch like moviegoers gobble popcorn.

Sunset Center hooked the computer to a projector so everyone could see the film on screen, and the balance of the workshop revolved around Nora's stopping and restarting the movie in order to hold group discussions about the proof statement that's as important for a film as a novel.

As soon as the clock struck 4:00, a fellow writer and I headed for a theater to see the blockbuster movie "The Help." Thanks to Nora Profit's inspiration, we are still debating what its focus statement is and asking "Which is best, the movie or the book?"

(Nora Profit, founder of The Writing Loft, is author of *Ten Glaring Mistakes Amateur Writers Make . . . and How to Avoid Them*. \$21 from The Writing Loft, 6397 Graham Road, Paradise, CA 95969 or www.thewritingloft.com.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR / QUESTION OF THE MONTH:
Would you like to join a writing group?

Garyth Ann Evans writes "I'd like to know if there is a writing support group or critique group or a one-on-one partnered writer among our CCW members. Do you know if we have any groups currently going on?" Janet Tezak asked me the same question at our picnic.

I know there are others who are interested in joining a writing group. How about this? If you, too, are interested, email me the following: (1) your name; (2) your preferred genre(s); (3) whether you would prefer to meet weekdays, weeknights, or weekends; (4) whether you anticipate publishing traditionally, self-publishing, or not publishing; and (5) preferably, a picture so that we can easily identify you. If you aren't particular about genre, simply say fiction or nonfiction.

I'll print the list in the October or November issue, and you can make some connections on your own. Hopefully we'll have a really long list! Cheri Love: ccwscribbles@sbcglobal.net.

FREE BLACK INK CARTRIDGE worth \$20+ for Canon iP1800 printer

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at 899-5887 or amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

"Over My Dead Body mystery magazine has published my story, "Anniversary Cruise," at <http://www.overmydeadbody.com/index2.htm>.

Martin Dodd

"My latest published article came out in the August issue of *Health Matters*, a *Monterey Herald* magazine publication. It is titled 'An Eye for An Eye' and discusses vision correction surgery."

Michelle Smith-Johansen

RENEWAL REMINDER

September 30 is **the deadline** to renew your CCW membership! If you've misplaced your renewal packet, simply:

1. Make out a check payable to "CCW Branch of CWC" for \$45.
2. Include a note alerting us as to any changes in your mailing address, phone number, or email address. Also let us know whether you wish to receive our newsletter, *Scribbles*, in paper format via U.S. mail, or in electronic format.
3. Put check and note in envelope, address it to Central Coast Writers, Post Office Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, stamp, and mail.

PIX FROM OUR ANNUAL PICNIC (As always, thank you, Ken Jones!)



**Murlie Wins Drawing;
Can Eat for a Week!**



**Wanda Studies Feral Chef
(Seriously, thanks so much, Sam.)**



**Janet, Allison, Susan & Harold
Sharing their Creations**



**Incredible . . . *Guests* Bruce
& Judy Cowan Playing for Us**

Stylish!



POETRY CORNER

About me. I am not famous but I loved poetry, literature and art as a young woman. Writing was something I loved to do. At some point I lost my direction and gave art and writing up for quite a long time. But it has found me once again. Writing, being easier than art.

My focus is always on ordinary people sprinkled with insights every now and then. I believe that poetry is for everyone and that Poet Laureates should represent all views and styles of writing.

I wrote this poem about the closing of a cement plant. Not particularly exciting but still a part of the fabric of life. I am, perhaps, still a little rough but my muse is coming back slowly.

"Cement Dust"

Dust covers

People, buildings, fields

Wind carries

Dust into sometimes

Strange places

Still men go to work

Happy to have a job

Boots and lunch pails clanging

They rush to begin the day that

Began with a desire to end the day

Home cooked meals

Chicken cacciatore, salad, wine, bread

Sons stuffing themselves

Girls giggling and jiggling

Homes alive with motion and life

Tomorrow brings another day of toil

Engineers, laborers

Workers lucky to maintain towers

Others mixing and packing cement

For railroad transport

Now abandoned, once thriving

Many lives sustained

Only a huge dusty silhouette remains

Hulking over the landscape

Like a scene from a Sci-Fi thriller

Memories remain

Fluttering like butterflies

Listen carefully

Hear the distant past

Faint chatterings, perhaps in

Mexican/Italian

Gently fading memories

Laughter of playing children

Fathers clanging to work in boots

Carrying lunch pails

As the fog gently rolls in

Lives lived

Many, many moments

Lives gone

Forever etched in the sands of time

One last time cement dust falls.

Before I leave, please note: **Wanda Sue Parrot is presenting, at www.amykitchenerfdn.org, a National Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition. Please go to the site and follow the instructions to enter.**

Your Poetry Editor: Nancy Jacobs.

HOW TO WRITE 3-LINE POEMS THAT PAY

by Wanda Sue Parrott, Contest Administrator

Moneymaking is easier if you know what you're doing. A shortcut to literary dollars lies in writing three-line poems.

How much money are we talking about? Typically, \$25 to \$100 for first place; \$15 to \$75 for second; \$10 to \$50 for third. So, how do you start?

1. Use a legal pad for 3-liner scribbling. Write and revise until you finish twenty poems in each format.
2. Type the best ones into your computer and save them.
3. Start submitting by researching "Poetry Contests" online; then, select those that offer specialty categories such as "12 lines or less" or "short rhymed poems" or "haiku/senryu."

I have spent more than twenty years running poetry contests, and swear it's true that good haiku are hard to find! In fact, what Americans call haiku are usually senryu poems—or simply one long sentence of prose broken up into three lines. That's because haiku and senryu are look-alike poetry forms. Don't be fooled! Each line should stand alone, yet wrap to the next. Easy? Nah, but once mastered, you'll win!

The basic structure is three lines. Haiku deals with nature and the nature of being; senryu deals with life, the foibles of humanity. Use no title, no capitalization (except for proper nouns) and no punctuation. Typical line/syllable count is: 5-7-5. To get the most mileage from so few words, avoid repeating articles such as "a" and "the" or using empty words like "so" and "very."

Here is one I wrote:

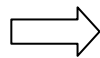
when my lights go out
please post this sign on the door
she kept a clean house

My advice? *Haiku is harder to write than senryu, so stick with senryu.*

Also try the Tercet and Triplet forms. Lee Ann Russell, judge in the 2012 Spring Writing Contest sponsored by Central Coast Writers, includes them in *How to Write Poetry—Ballad to Villanelle*:

TERCET

Lines: 3
Syllables: optional
Rhyme Scheme: a-a-a or a-b-a

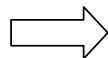


"Dusk!"

Twilight shimmers on the shore
Creeping toward the velvet night
Closing sunlight's golden door

TRIPLET

Lines: 3
Syllables: optional
Rhyme Scheme: a-a-a



"In the Beginning"

While traveling o'er this lovely land
of mountains high and beach's sand
We recognize His loving hand.

(continued from page 8)

The two latter poems are similar, except Tercet allows the poet choice—to rhyme only lines 1 and 3, whereas the Triplet locks in all three lines with the same rhyme. According to Lee Ann, you should not mix metaphors or poetry formats; in other words, if you enter it as a particular poetic form, be sure it conforms to the rules.

Three liners can also earn money as jingles in commercials, and as greeting card verse in which Line 1 appears on the front and the rhyming couplet inside the card delivers the sender's sentiment/message.

LOCAL EVENTS

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute ("OLLI") at CSUMB

offers an incredible array of writing courses and experiences "for adults age 50 and better." Classes include:

The OLLI Writers' Circle (starts 9/8)

Poetry and Health (starts 9/9)

Write the Morning Away (starts 9/10)

Your Favorite Banned Literature (starts 10/5)

Courses are filling fast, and OLLI is well on the way to a goal of 160 new members this fall, and 500 members annually, to officially apply for a large endowment that could make OLLI a permanent fixture on the Peninsula.

Go to <http://olli.csUMB.edu/courses> and become a member yourself or encourage a friend sign up right now.



The Friends of the
Pacific Grove Library
presents

Rebecca Costa

discussing her book:

The Watchman's Rattle: Thinking Our Way Out of Extinction

Thursday, September 15
Pacific Grove Library
550 Central Avenue

(This is the book Rebecca discussed when she spoke at our May meeting.)

Rebecca's book will be available for purchase at the event. The suggested donation to benefit the Library is \$10. Refreshments are included. For more information call 648-5762 or go to www.pacificgrove.lib.ca.us.

LOCAL RESOURCES

**Books at the
Monterey Library
on writing,
particularly journals:**

- *A Walk Between Heaven And Earth : A Personal Journal On Writing And The Creative Process*, by Burghild Nina Holzer
- *The Writer's Journal : 40 Contemporary Authors And Their Journals*, edited by Sheila Bender
- *A Writer's Notebook*, by Somerset Maugham
- *At A Journal Workshop : Writing To Access The Power Of The Unconscious And Evoke Creative Ability*, by Ira Proqoff

CONTESTS, MORE CONTESTS!

Open to Interpretation

Open to Interpretation brings together photographers and writers in an exciting and innovative book project. The collaborative project brings together photographers, poets and writers. Each book begins with a themed call for photos; the chosen photos then become the literary inspiration for the writers' submissions. The book matches each winning photo with two stories or poems that offer different interpretations of the image.

The photographs for the Water's Edge theme have been chosen, from over 1500 images submitted by 290 photographers from 22 countries and 33 states. Now it's time for writers and poets to interpret the images.

Submission Fee: \$10 per manuscript

Deadline for submission: **October 20, 2011.**

Results Announced: November 19, 2011

Awards: \$300 Jurors Selection Award

For full details, see

www.open2interpretation.com/.

Missouri 21st Annual Editors' Prize Competition for Fiction, Poetry, And Nonfiction

First-place winners in each category receive a prize of \$5,000, plus a feature in the Spring issue and paid travel to the gala reading and reception. Contest finalists will receive cash prizes and have their work considered for publication as well.

This opportunity is open to both emerging and established writers. All writers submitting to our contest receive a one-year subscription to *The Missouri Review*.

We accept submissions online or by mail. The postmark deadline is October 1st, and winners will be announced in **January, 2012**. You can find more information about the contest at www.missourireview.com/tmrsubmissions/editors-prize-contest/.

Prose and Poetry Prizes 2011 from *The New Writer* magazine (English) Closing date: November 30

Now in its 15th year, one of the major annual international competitions for short stories, microfiction, single poems, poetry collections, essays, and articles offers cash prizes as well as publication for the prize-winning writers, in *The Collection*, a special edition of *The New Writer* magazine which is published each July.

Further information, including guidelines and entry fees, can be found at <http://www.thenewwriter.com/prizes.htm>. Back copies are available at the TNW website: <http://www.thenewwriter.com/subscribe.htm>.

MEMBER PROFILE

Susan Horcajo *“A Cultural Revelation”*

Susan Horcajo wrote poetry as a teenager and then gravitated to writing in the field of multi-lingual and multicultural education.

“[Writing] has always been a way for me to ‘get things off my chest’ and take action,” Susan says. “I was influenced as a foreign language student by the radical writings of Germans like Kafka, and South American literature like *Cien Anos de Soledad*.”

Susan’s varied work environments undoubtedly informed her writing.

“I began my working life as a cook and hotel desk clerk. I worked in a German hotel when I was eighteen, making drinks and ice cream dishes. I helped scientists in Zimbabwe write up research reports on beer making, bread making and brick making. I was a lowly cafeteria worker, pouring tea in an ugly smock in an east London train station (by day) . . . while partying all night with my crazy Australian traveler friends in the London disco scene of the 1980s.”

Susan earned a double B.A. in Spanish and German and an M.A. in Intercultural Communication and Development from CSUH. She also earned an Ed.D in International Transcultural Studies with an emphasis in Bilingual Education from Columbia University. Susan has published a few articles on bilingual education, and her doctoral dissertation, “Indigenous Language Use and Primary Science Teaching in a Post-

Colonial Society: The Case of Shona in Zimbabwe,” was published in 2009.

Although Susan has been teaching for the last ten years, she says she’s ready to dedicate more time to writing and research. Her three greatest aspirations are to write about indigenous and bilingual education; thirty years of travel through Europe, New York and Zimbabwe; and short stories from a “third world point of view with strong, individual characters in critical situations.”

But Susan refuses to be the solitary figure writing out of anguish. “Writing can be a lonely endeavor,” she says. “But the flipside is that it’s almost always for the enjoyment or benefit of others. So you can never write in a vacuum. Having speakers, activities, etc. with a group like CCW is absolutely crucial, and I hope that CCW will have a lot more activities where writers can work cooperatively and constructively.”

Susan’s advice for other writers? Get your ideas down on paper and “then structure [them] so they’re connected and flow. Focus on one or two major themes and be ready to give up the many other ideas that will come to mind. Finally, accept critical feedback from friends whose opinion and expertise you admire and respect. . . . The feedback I got from others has helped me gain confidence and keep on writing.”



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

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

"I will be giving a class through the CSUMB OLLI program on September 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The class is called "Poetry and Health."

- Patrick Flanigan

See page 9 for more information on the OLLI program.

TONY HILLERMAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

November 10 - 12, 2011, Santa Fe

The program opens with a pre-conference workshop with Willa Award-winning author Sandi Ault on the craft of writing.

Instructors include:

Douglas Preston
David Morrell
Hampton Sides
Jo-Ann Mapson

Throughout the conference, Sean Murphy and Tania Casselle will meet with those attendees who have requested manuscript critiques.

We also will announce the winners of our contests, the Tony Hillerman Prize and our mystery short story contest.

www.wordharvest.com
wordharvest@wordharvest.com

SOUTH BAY WRITERS is proud to present:

**"HOW TO GET IN ON THE EBOOK REVOLUTION:
Produce, Distribute & Sell Your EBook"
with MARK COKER**

October 29, 2011

8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m

The Lookout Restaurant
605 Macara Avenue, Sunnyvale

Early Bird (until midnight October 14, 2010): CWC members: \$45. **After Oct. 14:** CWC members: \$55. Continental breakfast and lunch included.

Mark Coker is the founder of Smashwords, the "leading ebook publishing and distribution platform serving indie authors and small publishers." Mark is also the co-author of *Boob Tube*, a novel that explores the dark side of Hollywood celebrity, and the author of the *Smashwords Book Marketing Guide* and *Smashwords Style Guide*.

Contact Information: Nina Amir, 408-353-1943 or at cpywrtcom@aol.com.

**"Howl at the Moon" Writers' Conference,
presented by the CWC High Desert branch**

Saturday, October 1st

The very interesting-sounding presenters, Jen Grisanti, Linda Cowgill, Devorah Cutler-Rubenstein, and Marilyn R. Atlas, all have screenwriting backgrounds, though the conference is intended for all writers.

See <http://hdcwc.org/HATMWritersConference2011.aspx> for more information, including a lot of details about the presenters.

IF THE SHOE FITS . . .



"A BOOK YOU CAN'T PUT DOWN"

Well, I just could not put the book down.

Joe and Amelia Werner saw me as I was marshalling at the Pacific Grove Golf Links and flagged me down. Joe strode toward me, smiling broadly, as his wife rose from the driver side of the golf cart with her arms wide open toward me. I hadn't seen them for two years. We enjoyed a warm reunion talking about what had transpired during their absence, traveling and playing golf when they weren't in their home in Memphis, Tennessee. As before, Joe and I traded books that each of us have written.

Two years ago, Joe gave me a copy of *The Tinsmith's Son*, a bittersweet memoir describing his growing up during the Depression, the city of Memphis, and the "high-steppers" and the "down-and-outers." I enjoyed the book, could visualize the tinsmith's shop and Skid Row, where the shop was located, and felt as if I knew the people he wrote about.

This year, he gave me a copy of his novel *Skid Row*.^{*} I have carried it with me reading every time I had a chance, going from one character to the next, vividly experiencing their joy and anguish during those hard times. Many were crushed by hard times and booze, but others, despite tragic situations, were able to maintain their dignity and compassion.

True, it is a work of fiction, but Joe's characters are so real, their emotions and trials so gripping, that I feel that I have known these people and have gone through those times at their side.

Despite the fact that Joe breaks every rule we learn in composition classes and seminars, his book is an exemplary page-turner. After reading his work, I have the feeling that I must write from the heart. I must put my experiences on paper and those of my friends and my students.

Some things need to be read. And so, they need to be written.

What is it in your life that society needs to know?

^{*} *The latest about Joe:* Pacific Grove is holding its annual Art, Wine and Music Walk on September 9th and will feature a book signing with Joe. He'll be signing *Skid Row* at the event, according to Rhonda Navarro of Monterey Rentals, one of the event supporters. His web site is <http://joewerner.com>.

Be well,
and do good work,
C. Jonathan Shoemaker



IT'S COMING!!

**The Central Coast Writers Branch
of the
California Writers Club
announces its**

Spring 2012 Writing Contest

**POETRY AND PROSE WINNERS
WILL BE PUBLISHED AND RECEIVE \$250 EACH**

THERE WILL BE FOUR CASH AWARDS, ONE PER CATEGORY:

POETRY (Rhymed and Unrhymed) 50 lines maximum.

Rhymed includes internal and end rhymes in traditional forms such as couplets, sonnets, villanelles, etc.

Unrhymed includes blank verse, free verse, prose poems, haiku, senryu, etc.

PROSE (Non-fiction & Short Fiction) 2500 words maximum.

Non-fiction can be true personal essays, opinion pieces, blog posts/columns, articles and feature stories.

Fiction must be tales in the genre of author's choice (mystery, western, confession, romance, sci-fi).

*This notice serves as a heads up to all members of
California Writers Club
and Central Coast Writers
so you can start early to choose and prepare your entries.*

*The August 2011 edition of Scribbles will carry complete details
about how to enter and the rules.*

Details will also be posted on the CCW website in August.

www.centralcoastwriters.org

Wanda Sue Parrott, 2012 Contest Administrator

EDITOR'S CORNER



I am not over-fond of washing dishes, hanging up my clothes, or assembling, each month, the ever-increasing number of nutritional supplements that I need to live a sufficiently-lengthy life. None of these activities, alone, draw me to themselves. The desire to remain married helps me at least consider doing the first two, but it is listening to recorded books that truly turns them into magical hours.

Right now, I am listening to Natalie Goldberg's *Long Quiet Highway*. The subtitle is *A Memoir on Zen in America and the Writing Life*. Having read Goldberg's work before, I was willing to spend the time devoted to Zen in order to absorb her thoughts on writing, and life itself. So far, only the first chapter has been explicitly about Zen, though I do believe I may be absorbing an indirect lesson.

I highly recommend this experience. Apparently this audiobook differs from the "regular" book, which is subtitled *Waking Up in America*. To paraphrase a well-known saying, she has a voice made for print – flat as the prairie – but listening to her read her own work is worth it.

I particularly liked a quotation from Raymond Carver's *A New Path to the Waterfall* that she included: "Forgive me if I'm thrilled at the idea, but just now I thought that every poem I write ought to be called 'Happiness.'"

Wasn't it nice to read about and from Nancy herself, in The Poetry Corner? Remember, the primary purpose of *Scribbles* is to publish your writing. Join in, and send me your work!

Cheri

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Central Board Representative: Joyce Krieg

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Editor-Publisher: Cheri Love

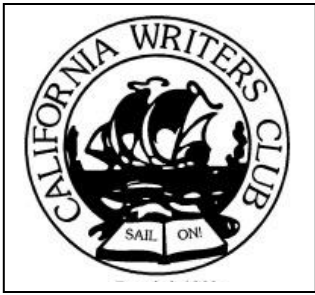
Columnists:

Nancy Jacobs: "Poet's Corner"
C. Jonathan Shoemaker: "If the Shoe Fits"
Michelle Smith: "Member Profiles"

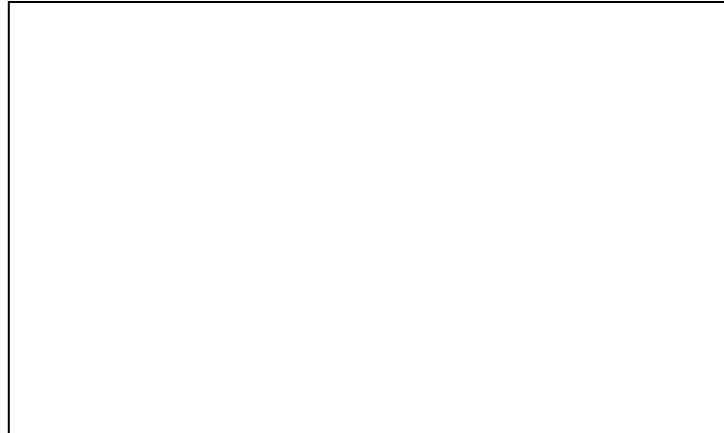
Reviews: C. Jonathan Shoemaker

Photographer: Ken Jones

Contests: Wanda Sue Parrott



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



WRITERS OPEN MIKE

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Alternative Café, 1230 Fremont Street, Seaside

On **Thursday September 15th**, the featured reader will be songwriter, photographer and storyteller **Catherine Badin**. She writes poetry, short stories, and essays and has had features in *Carmel Magazine*, the *Carmel Pine Cone* and the *Cedar Street Times*. She also contributes to *The Foolish Times*, a monthly humor magazine. Her poetry has been published in *Saturday Afternoon*, a yearly anthology of L.A. poets.

On **Thursday, October 20th** the featured reader will be **Rabia Erduman**, hypnotherapist, body worker, tantra teacher, and hospice volunteer, reading from her book *Veils Of Separation*, a journey through the landscapes of inner life in fairy tale form.

Thursday, November 17th will open with a 15-minute monologue by writer, and actress **Carol Marquart**, entitled *Bette Davis Will Now Take Your Questions*.

The **December 17th** event will feature members of **CSUMB's OLLI Writers Circles**.

Want to be featured? E-mail Phanson@csumb.edu with a short bio or call 601-9195.