



Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch
centralcoastwriters.org

May 2023

May 16, 2023

Advanced Internet Research for Writers

Geri Spieler



How do you start your research process? What words do you use to find information? Do you know how to gauge when a website is genuine? In this presentation, you will learn the main topics of "Online Research Methods," which include several methodologies to equip you with the skills and tools to find accurate information and discern whether it is reliable.

Geri Spieler is the author of [Housewife Assassin: The Woman Who Tried to Kill President Ford](#), an investigative true crime book about Sara Jane Moore, the only woman to attempt an assassination of a US president. She also co-authored the book *San Francisco Values: Common Ground for Getting America Back on Track*. She is president of the San Francisco Peninsula branch of the California Writers Club and has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Forbes*. She has also served as research director for Gartner, a global technology advising company and been a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post* and Truthdig.com, an award-winning investigative reporting website.

June 20, 2023

In a Flash: The Art and Craft of the Short, Short Story

Andrea Firth



In this presentation, learn what flash fiction (and flash nonfiction) writing is and isn't, how it breaks the rules, and why and how flash shorts are "hot" from the first sentence. Discover the keys to the flash form--urgency, conflict, and a twist--and debunk myths about flash, such as it's easier to write and readers have short attention spans.

Andrea A. Firth is a writer, journalist, editor, and educator living in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is an Editor at [Brevity Blog](#) and the co-founder of [Diablo Writers' Workshop](#) where she teaches and provides editorial consulting. Read her work at her [website](#) and find her on [Instagram](#).

WHAT'S INSIDE

CCW President's Letter	2-3
Speaker Report	4
Announcements	5-7
Member Profile	8
Contests and Conferences	9
What's on Your Nightstand?	10
In So Many Words	11
Prompt	12
The Last Word	13



CCW President's Letter By Sarah Pruitt

Greetings and welcome to May. I hope all of you are well, writing, and looking forward to Good Old Days.

May 12 is National Limerick Day, in honor of [Edward Lear](#), born in 1812. Mr. Lear did not invent the limerick but did make it famous. Here are some examples from other authors:

T. S. Eliot is quite at a loss
When clubwomen bustle across
At literary teas
Crying, "What, if you please,
Did you mean by *The Mill On the Floss*?"
W. H. Auden

There was a young man of Herne Bay,
Who was making explosives one day;
He dropped his cigar
In the gunpowder jar.
There WAS a young man of Herne Bay.
Langford Reed

Langford Reed saved the limerick verse,
From being taken away in a hearse.
He made it so clean
Now it's fit for a queen,
Re-established for better or worse.
George Bernard Shaw

In Italy with two of my sisters,
Leaving behind both their misters.
Traveling by barge
We'll be biking the marge.
And, hopefully, will escape blisters.
S.E. Pruitt

Limericks have five lines—lines one, two, and five rhyme, as do three and four. The last line should end in a twist. Celebrate May 12 by writing one. If it is clean and "fit for a queen," I'll put it in my next president's letter.

This month's meeting is on Tuesday, May 16. Our speaker will be Geri Spieler speaking on *Advanced Internet Research for Writers: Skills All Writers Should Know*. Being a history nerd, I check every person and the odd fact I read or hear about on Wikipedia. Yes, I know it could be more reliable. I'm looking forward to hearing what Ms. Spieler will suggest as alternative research sites. Our May meeting is at:

Center for Spiritual Awakening
522 Central Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA

It is across the street from the Pacific Grove Public Library. If you want to help set up, doors open at 5 p.m. Or, any time between 5:30 and 6:15 is an excellent time to arrive. As always, admission is free for members and guests. Don't forget—FREE pizza!

Let me remind you of coming attractions:

As usual, our Literary Salon meets the Sunday after our monthly meeting. This is a place where you can bring a short piece of your writing to share with other members. This month it is Sunday, May 21, from 1-3:00 pm at

Juice n' Java
599 Lighthouse
Pacific Grove, CA

Writers Roundup is a new club event that meets on the last Saturday of odd-numbered months. The Roundup features our members who have expertise in a specific area related to writing, sharing their knowledge in an informal, small group setting. This month's Roundup features Dennis Hamilton on the topic of poetry. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 27, from 1-3:00 pm at the Little House. Little House is in Jewell Park, across the street from the Pacific Grove Public Library, 550 Central Ave., Pacific Grove, CA.

Sarah E. Pruitt
President
Central Coast Writers

The CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, dedicated to educating members and the public-at-large in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.



The ABC's of Editing

Everyone who writes also edits, according to writer and *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Kevin Fisher-Paulson. The key is to know when to write and when to edit. "Like drinking and driving," he said, "you shouldn't do both at the same time." He then offered twelve helpful pieces of editing advice:



1) Never edit while writing. The two skills use different sides of the brain and should be kept separate.

2) Never throw anything away. "Kill your darlings," he said, "but replant them." Use prose you've cut from your work in a different place.

3) Don't be afraid to cut up your work...even with scissors! Fisher-Paulson suggested writers try cutting out the first and last paragraphs of their work and exchanging them. "Editing should be fun," he said. "Play around and try things like changing the POV or cutting out the middle. It will force you to restructure your work."

4) Take readers to the most interesting part of the story in the first paragraph. Once you've hooked them, you can circle back and offer up more details.

5) Everywhere you find versions of "to be" substitute an active verb. This will make your writing more dynamic. For example: "Kevin is a dynamic speaker" vs. "Kevin **demonstrated** dynamic speaking."

6) Kill the adverbs!

7) Circle every noun in your work, then replace them with more specific nouns. "English rose" rather than "flower," for example. You want your writing to be sensory, Fisher-Paulson said. Ask yourself: Can I see something? Hear something? Smell something? "Smell is the sense most associated with memory," he added.

8) When you introduce important characters for the first time, give them a distinctive visual characteristic. When readers encounter them again, they'll have a ready image in their mind.

9) Read a grammar book, but write in your own authentic voice. You have to know the rules before you can break them, Fisher-Paulson said. He recommended: *The Deluxe Intransitive Vampire*; *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*; *Between You & Me*; or *Dreyer's English*.

10) Don't try to grow pumpkins with tomato seeds. In other words, do what you're good at. Change the genre of your writing if it isn't working for you.

11) Make great friends who are willing to read for you and offer critiques. "Writers are a community," Fisher-Paulson said. "The only way to be a great writer is to have people willing to be honest with you about your work." When critiquing others' work, he advised using an "edit sandwich." Begin by saying something nice, offer a critique in the middle, and end with a compliment.

12) Know when to be done with it. Don't edit your work to death. Set a deadline for yourself, then "shut the door" on it.

"Editing is like gardening," Fisher-Paulson concluded. "If you remove what isn't aesthetically pleasing to you, that which is beautiful will remain."

Announcements

New CCW members

Please welcome Richard Riehle, Matt Tracy, Kathryn Kilgore, Rachel Beshoff, John “Randy” Casausand, returning member Jennifer Schmidt.



Writers Roundup

Dennis Hamilton with Share Your Work: Poetry
Saturday, May 20, 1:00—3:00 pm
The Little House in Jewell Park, next to Pacific Grove Library, PG

Sunday Salon

Sunday, May 21, 1:00—3:00 pm
Juice n’ Java, 599 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove

Member Congratulations

Member **Frank R. Southers** just published his tenth novel, a murder mystery entitled *Persons of Interest*. It is available in both paperback and Kindle on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The cover creator was our own Patricia Hamilton.

Member **Christine Sleeter**, with her colleague Francesca López, just published *Critical Race Theory and its Critics*. The book is available through its publisher [Teachers College Press](https://www.teacherscollegepress.com), and through [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

Member **Nicki Ehrlich** has had a great month. Her book *Ellis River* is a finalist in the 35th annual [IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award](https://www.ibpa.org/)[™] program in the category of The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book (Fiction). *Ellis River* is also a finalist for the First Horizon Award for the current Eric Hoffer Award season; the First Horizon Award is given each year to the highest scoring books by debut authors. In addition, her short story “Curly” was named a semi-finalist for the 4th Annual Story Foundation Prize.

Have you published a book within the last month? Won a writing award? Please send information to csleeter@gmail.com.

FREE Website Building Workshop on May 18!

Build your author website! May 18 from 1 - 2:30 pm at the Monterey City Public Library.

If you were present at Brooke Warner's presentation in March, you know that an author website is essential for anyone who dreams of publishing. If you come to our free workshop, you will leave with just that: a simple yet effective website to show agents and readers that you are a modern author worth investigating.

Here's what you absolutely must bring: an email address and a fully charged laptop with its cord. If you want a completed site after the workshop, also bring a digital file with your headshot, digital pictures of your books if you have published, and a short bio.

See you then!

Announcements (Cont.)

Membership Renewal is Coming Up!

It's that time of year again; pollen count is through the roof, whales are migrating, tourist herds are beginning to appear... and it's time to renew your membership with the Central Coast Writers Club. While not as dramatic as some of those other things, renewing your membership is easy and you won't need to take any additional medications. So we got THAT going for us.

The membership year ends on **June 30** each year, and we are opening the renewal period this year on May 1st. We've already sent out a heads-up email to all members about renewing; if you didn't receive an email, it might be because we have an incorrect or outdated email address for you. If that's the case, please notify our Branch Membership Chair Maria Skyttä at mariaskytta@gmail.com so we can correct our records.

Dues are again \$45.00 for the 2023-2024 membership year. There are multiple ways to pay:

- All current members will soon receive an email invoice with a secure payment button embedded in the invoice that allows you to securely pay using credit cards.
- Our CCW website has a link to PayPal and Venmo (<https://centralcoastwriters.org/ccw/membership-information/ccwpayonline.htm>) to pay online.
- You are always welcome to mail a hard copy check made out to "Central Coast Branch CWC" to our P.O. Box at "Central Coast Writers Club, PO Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

We will also be reaching out to former members in the local area encouraging them to consider rejoining our CCW now that in-person meetings have resumed and COVID restrictions have eased.

Your annual membership dues are the primary source of income to the Central Coast Writers Club and allow us to provide an entire year of interesting guest speakers, workshops, events participation, our High School Writing Contest prizes, and more. And don't forget about the free pizza at our monthly meeting!

We are looking forward to another great year with our members and friends!



Announcements (Cont.)

THE CWC BULLETIN: A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

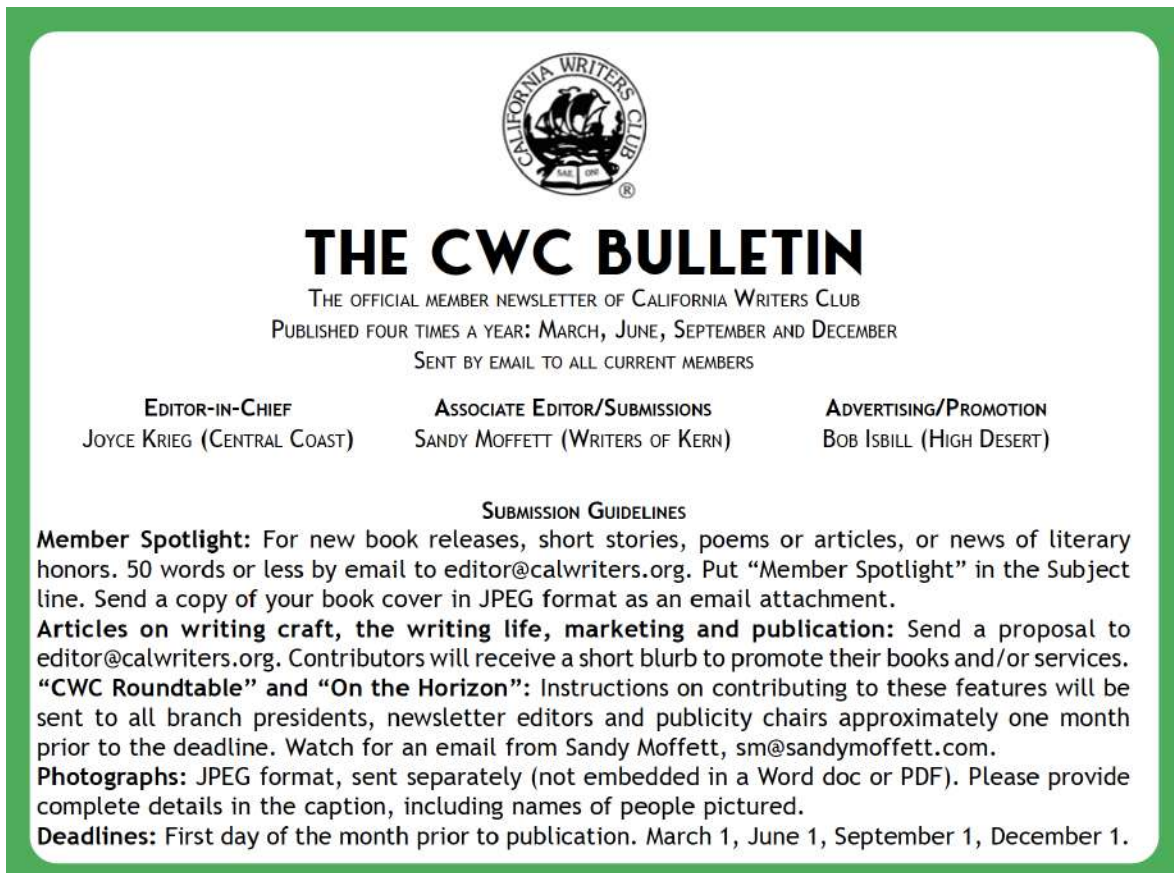
The California Writers Club *Bulletin* is a quarterly newsletter emailed to members of all 22 branches as a PDF attachment. The latest issue was sent on March 22. If you don't recall receiving it, you might want to check your spam folder, or if you're on gmail, the Promotions folder. The current and past issues of the *Bulletin* may also be found at <https://calwriters.org/bulletin>.

The *Bulletin* was extensively revamped and revised a year ago, and is now full of helpful articles on the writing craft, and publishing and marketing. Equally important, there are now several opportunities for members to promote their books and literary achievements.

Announce your latest book release in the Member Spotlight. Also welcome is news of literary achievements: short stories, poems or articles published, plus awards and honors. Send your announcements, 50 words or less, to editor@calwriters.org. Attach a copy of your book cover in JPEG format. Be sure to indicate which branch you belong to. This is a free service to CWC members, so do take advantage of it!

The *Bulletin* is also looking for articles on writing craft, marketing, publication, and the writing life. Word count can be anywhere from 200 for short tidbits to 1200 or so for long pieces. Send a brief proposal to editor@calwriters.org. Contributors receive a short blurb and a photo, so this is a great way to promote your books or your writing-related services.

The deadline for the next issue of CWC's *Bulletin* is **June 1, 2023**, with publication slated for June 15.



The image shows the cover of the CWC Bulletin newsletter. At the top center is the California Writers Club logo, which features a circular emblem with a ship and the text "CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB". Below the logo, the title "THE CWC BULLETIN" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Underneath the title, it says "THE OFFICIAL MEMBER NEWSLETTER OF CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB" and "PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR: MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER". Below that, it states "SENT BY EMAIL TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS". The cover lists three roles: "EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JOYCE KRIEG (CENTRAL COAST)", "ASSOCIATE EDITOR/SUBMISSIONS SANDY MOFFETT (WRITERS OF KERN)", and "ADVERTISING/PROMOTION BOB ISBILL (HIGH DESERT)". At the bottom, there are "SUBMISSION GUIDELINES" which include information about the Member Spotlight, articles on writing craft, CWC Roundtable and On the Horizon, photographs, and deadlines.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JOYCE KRIEG (CENTRAL COAST)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR/SUBMISSIONS
SANDY MOFFETT (WRITERS OF KERN)

ADVERTISING/PROMOTION
BOB ISBILL (HIGH DESERT)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Member Spotlight: For new book releases, short stories, poems or articles, or news of literary honors. 50 words or less by email to editor@calwriters.org. Put "Member Spotlight" in the Subject line. Send a copy of your book cover in JPEG format as an email attachment.

Articles on writing craft, the writing life, marketing and publication: Send a proposal to editor@calwriters.org. Contributors will receive a short blurb to promote their books and/or services.

"CWC Roundtable" and "On the Horizon": Instructions on contributing to these features will be sent to all branch presidents, newsletter editors and publicity chairs approximately one month prior to the deadline. Watch for an email from Sandy Moffett, sm@sandymoffett.com.

Photographs: JPEG format, sent separately (not embedded in a Word doc or PDF). Please provide complete details in the caption, including names of people pictured.

Deadlines: First day of the month prior to publication. March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1.



“The Blue Marble” Ann Clarke

Ann Clarke combined her love of law and the environment into a career that began with a B.A. in geology from Colorado College and an M.S. in geography from the University of Oregon. She followed up with a master’s degree in Forest Science and a doctorate in Forestry and Environmental Studies from Yale University. One week after obtaining her doctorate, she received a J.D. from the University of New Mexico (UNM).

While in law school, Ann was appointed Lead Articles Editor for the UNM *Natural Resources Journal*, the nation’s oldest law school journal that focuses on natural resources law and policy. Her thesis on balancing public use on federal lands with tribal sacred use appeared in *American Indian Law Review*. She authored, edited, and produced the Yale School of Forestry and Environment Studies alumni news and has since published articles in law reviews and various academic and professional journals.

During her federal career, which spanned the FAA, the Forest Service, and NASA, Ann, licensed in D.C., understood the necessity of good writing and speaking skills for successfully crafting internal memos, talking points, and public responses. Two of her most memorable projects were her role as Ames Environmental Chief and her participation in NASA’s Mars Rover environmental review.

“I support conservation of our planet, as it’s our only planet,” Ann says. “We’re very fortunate to live on the right-sized planet at the right distance from a right-sized star (our sun) at this period in our planet’s evolution from a gaseous blob to an organized livable place—the Blue Marble—and to be able to reflect upon our existence in the universe. Pretty cool.”

Ten years ago, after retiring from NASA, Ann moved to Carmel Valley. She remains an active member in the Environmental Law Section of the California Lawyers Association, and she teaches Advanced (Persuasive) Legal Writing to second-year law students in person and online at the Monterey College of Law (MCL). During the summer, she teaches an online class in Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Law at MCL. For both courses, she utilizes cartoons and movie trailers to illustrate grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage principles. These storytelling techniques help her students draft legal briefs, learn proper citation, conduct interviews, and submit written reports.

Ann and her husband, Duncan, joined CCW in 2016 when he was enrolled at CSUMB’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. She’s since worked with Patricia Hamilton and the UNM archivist to complete her late father’s manuscript, *Memories, Monuments, and Memorials—A Companion to Only in New Mexico: The Architectural History of the University of New Mexico*, available in print on demand through [Amazon](#).

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





CONTESTS AND OPEN SUBMISSIONS

The Seventeenth Annual Black Orchid Novella Award

Deadline: May 31, 2023

Entry Fee: Free. Winners will be announced at the December Wolfe Pack dinner in NYC.

Website: <https://blackorchidnovella.com>

Prizes: 1st Prize: \$1000.00 plus publication in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine.

Guidelines: See website for Complete Guidelines. This contest is for the creation of a novella that honors both the literary form and the fandom of author Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe series of detective stories. It is sponsored by the Nero Wolfe fan club, The Wolfe Pack, and the Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. The club reminds entrants that a novella is not a padded short story. It should be as tight and fast paced in the writing as a novel. Follow their guidelines for style carefully.

The Southern Poetry Review Guy Owen Prize

Deadline: May 31, 2023

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry

Website: <https://www.southernpoetryreview.org/spr/guy-owen-award>

Prizes: 1st Prize: \$1000.00 plus publication in *The Southern Poetry Review*.

Guidelines: See website for Complete Guidelines. This annual award is given to a poet for one previously unpublished poem. It may be on any subject, in any form. Submit 3-5 poems, ten pages maximum.

The Salamander Literary Magazine 2023 Fiction Prize

Deadline: May 1-June 1, 2023

Entry Fee: \$15.00 fee per entry

Website: <https://salamandermag.org/contests>

Judge: Kirstin Valdez Quade, award winning author of "The Five Wounds"

Prizes: 1st Prize: \$1000.00 plus publication, **2nd Prize:** \$500.00 plus publication

Guidelines: See website for Complete Guidelines. Multiple entries accepted. Each story may not exceed 30 pages, double space 12pt. font.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Greater Los Angeles Writers Conference: *Two Events! One virtual, One in person*

Event Dates: Virtual Conference July 21-23, 2023, In Person Conference July 28-30, 2023

Location: Virtual or In person. TBA-Call Tony N. Todaro for info: 310-379-2650

Fee: \$199 to \$699 depending on whether you choose one or both conferences

Website and Registration: <https://wccwriters.com>

Details: The West Coast Writers group offers several intensive conferences each year. This conference is hybrid; writers can attend workshops and presentations online, in person, or both. The tickets include meetings, classes, and presentations with established publishers, literary attorneys, and agents. These are highly informative conferences where writers make contacts in publishing and in the film industry.

What's on your Nightstand?

Barbara Siebeneick



What are *you* reading now? What book has moved or engaged you in a special way? Share it with the other CCW members. All genres will be accepted. Please send your review to Barbara.siebeneick@gmail.com. Remember to add: Name of book, author, publisher, date of publication and your name. Tell us what the book is about (without giving away any spoilers), your reaction to it and why. This month's review is from *Matt Tracy*.

[*The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*](#), V. E. Schwab, 2020, Tor Publishing

I've got an author's disease. Since I started writing a novel of my own, bothersome symptoms have appeared. The first was loss of enthusiasm for most novels. I started one book but was unable to continue because the author spent the first three chapters introducing characters without a single stitch of action occurring. Another I quit when the point of view switched from the character looking out the window to the person who came in the room, back to the person looking at the one who came in the room, then out the window to the person she was looking at before the other person came in the room. I was beginning to think that writing a novel had ruined reading novels for me.

There were moments of respite. Good books would shine through the fever, giving me hope that I could relax into a book again, trusting the author to take me on a journey without "peaking around a corner" or using the word "stultifying" seven times in the first half of the book to tell me about the weather. Seven. I counted. There were good, solid books that restored my faith in quality writing with a strong plot, and characters that grew over the course of the book. Books with satisfying endings. I thought I was getting better, or at least finding my way out of the worst of the disease while the stack of partially read books waiting to go to the used book store for other poor readers to open at their own risk grew.

Then I read *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab, and a new symptom flared up. Addie LaRue is a girl in a small town in eighteenth century France, who looks at the life of child-bearing and drudgery waiting for every woman in her village, and doesn't want it. She wants more. More experiences, and more time to experience the world. When a dark stranger offers her more time, she takes the deal, not comprehending that while it means she will live forever, she will always be forgotten as soon as she is out of sight. For three hundred years, she lives with the beauty of new experiences and the emptiness of having nobody to share them with for more than a day, until she meets someone who remembers her. Everything changes.

I cared about Addie. I wanted her to succeed. I wondered about the limitations of her blessing/curse, and they were revealed to me as Addie found them. Three hundred years she's tested the confines of her deal, found the places where it gives, the subtle bend and flex around the bars; but she has never a way out. And yet.

I hated the dark stranger, but there was something alluring about him too. He may be evil, but as he kept showing up, Addie and I both gained new appreciation for him, while always wondering if this was another illusion. "You told me that we were alike," he says, almost to himself. "Both of us...lonely. I loathed you for saying it. But I suppose in some ways you were right. I suppose," he goes on slowly, "there is something to the idea of company."

Then I read this line and the new symptom was upon me. Addie looks back out at the Atlantic, the infinite hem of the beach, the memories spooling out along the horizon. I stopped to wonder what I was feeling. There. That was it. I was jealous. It was too much. Books with strong plots and nuanced characters aren't supposed to have beautiful language too, but this one did. Luckily, the symptoms were short-lived, and I've made a full recovery. I would recommend, however, that before you start reading this book, you take a prophylactic dose of positive self-talk to prevent any new symptoms from springing up as you settle in for an engrossing read.



I don't know how many of you have had the pleasure of creating an audiobook, but I'm here to tell you...it's hard. I'm not reading; I'll leave the voice acting to the professionals. What I'm talking about is, it's challenging to hear someone else read your book.

When I read (or write) a book, I picture the scenes and hear the narrative and dialogue. I'm sure each of us has a little different take on what we're hearing and seeing as we read. When the inflection and tone is different from how I initially heard it, is that okay?

My audiobook is being produced by [Audivita Studios](#). They offer discounts to IBPA (Independent Book Publishers Association) members, and that's where I first heard of them. I hadn't thought it necessary to have an audiobook—I thought them better suited to non-fiction—but people kept asking me if my book was on audio. Excitement about the product, and about learning just how this “fastest growing book format” is accomplished, pushed me forward.

So, after an initial phone consultation, I sent the complete manuscript to Audivita. They calculated the cost (by word count), and sent me a quote. Then they requested: a story overview (brief half-page), voices (male/female or “best”), character map (how many major/minor characters and who they are to the story), audition script (two or three scenes, 500-1000 words total), intended deadline, and pronunciations (of anything out of the ordinary).

Audition scripts were then distributed to their stable of voice actors who they thought would best fit the book. I received six auditions and this is where it got interesting. The voice actors were all talented, skilled people, and the voices were very different. But, as it turned out, I (and my “team”...I wasn't about to make this decision alone), chose the voice actor who had the best range of separation between characters, and between the characters and narrator.

After a couple of forgivable glitches (Audivita ran into a technical issue, and the voice actor got sick), I finally got the audio manuscript back for review. Listening to the book was like proofreading by ear. In fact, I received an audio revision spreadsheet where I could mark the chapter and time to make corrections (much like a proofreading spreadsheet where you mark the page and line numbers). And there were corrections—about forty of them.

As of this newsletter deadline, the book is back in the hands (and voice) of the actor. In the meantime, I'm looking for what might make a good “retail sample.” A one to five-minute audio clip that plays on the retail outlet can give customers a sense of the book.

While we're waiting, if you had to choose a one-to-five-minute passage of *your* book that gives a reader an attention-grabbing idea of what the book is about, what would it be? See, I told you...this is hard.



Paul Zeidman offered the basics of screenwriting on March 21. He drove home the idea that a novel or short story can allude to or indicate thinking, whereas, in screenwriting the focus is on the visual. The industry relies on apps like FINAL DRAFT to tell the story. I'm sure many CCW writers have tried their hand at screenwriting. I would love to see some. Send them to me and they (or excerpts) will be in *Scribbles* come June.

Here is an imaginary episode for [Brooklyn Nine-Nine](#).

KISS OF DEATH

COLD RUN

EXT. Brooklyn Street, leading up to Precinct Nine-Nine. JAKE observes CHARLES walking briskly to work but stops and helps an elderly woman cross the street at a busy intersection. When CHARLES is in earshot, he chides.

JAKE: Are you Peter Pan, the hopeless boy scout today?

CHARLES: A good deed a day, that's the motto. Nothing wrong with helping a citizen. You should try it some time.

JAKE: Did you get her number? A possible date for Friday night?

CHARLES: It doesn't always have to be about sex, Jake. Mine doesn't fall off from non-use.

JAKE: You should know, Charles.

CHARLES: Sometimes it is hard to remember why I look up to you, JAKE.

JAKE: My good looks, my wit, my detective skills. Need I go on?

Charles throws his hands up in exasperation and enters the Precinct, with Jake in tow.

END COLD RUN

Share your work. You could be in this column next month! Send your work to: Pregnev001@gmail.com.

The Last Word Christine Sleeter



Growing your Website

Warm thanks to CCW member Tiffany Bierbaum for organizing the website-building workshop scheduled for May 18. While I'll be traipsing through Italy at that time and won't be able to attend, I appreciate her thoughtfulness and service to CCW.

Plus, I already have a website. I created my first on [Google Sites](#). It looked pretty amateurish. After attending the [San Francisco Writers Conference](#) a few years ago, I hired one of the presenters to build a new website. The first thing she asked me was to identify writer websites that I liked. In that process, I discovered that I had no idea what made a good writer website. I was focusing on things like colors and images, not on navigability or content!

After several years, that website became dated with the explosion of devices smaller than a laptop – phones and tablets. Suddenly my website was barely readable. CCW member Sharon Law Tucker was collaborating with a colleague on a website design business, so they did my current iteration.

I've been able to edit and update all of these various iterations myself. So as you launch into your new website, keep in mind that you'll want to change or update it as you go. The more hands-on you can be with it, the better you can make it serve your needs over time.

Christine

CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Sarah Pruitt
Vice President	Scotty Cornfield
Past President	Sharon Law Tucker
Secretary	Joyce Krieg
Treasurer	Gary Parker
Programs Chair	Nancy Middleton
CCW Workshops	Sharon Law Tucker
Membership	Maria Skyttä
Publicity	Gary Parker
Hospitality	Mary Smathers, Barbara Siebeneick
Newsletter	Christine Sleeter
Webmaster	Ken Jones
Assistant Webmaster	Kemberlee Shortland
Writing Contests	Dennis Hamilton
Central Board Representative (acting)	Joyce Krieg
NorCal Representative	Position open

Scribbles is the official monthly publication for members of Central Coast Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club, a registered non-profit corporation. All material is copyrighted ©2022 by California Writers Club and may not be reproduced without permission. Opinions expressed under individual bylines do not necessarily represent an official position of, or endorsement by, Central Coast Writers or California Writers Club.

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

Editorial Staff

Christine Sleeter	Editor
Nicki Ehrlich	In So Many Words
Nancy Middleton	Speaker Report
Barbara Siebeneick	What's on your Nightstand?
Michelle Smith	Member Profiles
Patricia Watson	Contests and Workshops

CCW Website

centralcoastwriters.org

Click **Scribbles** Newsletter for archived copies.

For anything Scribbles related:

Contact **Scribbles** editor Christine Sleeter

csleeter@gmail.com

Not yet a member of CCW?

You can join at a monthly meeting or online at:

Centralcoastwriters.org

NorCal Group of California Writers Club

cwcnorcalwriters.org