



August 20, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor

A Big Change Is on the Way!



That's right -- Central Coast Writers is making one of the biggest changes ever in our 24-year history. **We're moving our meetings to Saturday mornings**, 10 a.m. to noon, starting in October.

Why are we doing this? We keep hearing about members who would like to attend our monthly speaker meetings, but who find driving at night to be challenging. Thus, in the interest of beefing up meeting attendance, especially in the winter months when it gets dark so early, your CCW board decided it was time to give daytime meetings a try.

Is this a permanent change? It all depends on you. At this point, we have booked the Center for Spiritual Awakening for the third Saturday in October and November. We may continue the Saturday meeting schedule through the "dark of night" months, then go back to Tuesday nights next April through September. If our members show up in robust numbers for Saturday mornings, we may make it a permanent thing. If attendance plummets, we may pull the plug early. You decide. Vote with your feet!

Reminders: The September meeting is still on the third Tuesday evening, same as always. Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Awakening. The October meeting -- our annual Booktoberfest -- will be our first Saturday morning meeting, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to noon.

Your CCW Executive Committee understands that change is never easy. Saturdays are family time for many of you -- we get that. We hope you'll support this attempt to meet the needs of a greater number of our members. If you have any thoughts as to how we can encourage meeting attendance, especially in the winter months, we are most definitely open to your thoughts.

See You This Saturday!



Even though we're not having a regular speaker meeting in August, there's still a chance for you to meet and mingle with your fellow writers. Join us for Sat-Chat this coming Saturday, Aug. 22, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Panera Bread in the Edgewater Shopping Center. Get together and share questions and thoughts about anything writing-related in a casual, friendly setting. Look for us in the private meeting room toward the back of the shop. Free, no RSVP needed.

The Much-Coveted Coastie

by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



For today's edition of SYDKYNTK (Stuff you didn't know you need to know), I'd like to start out with a shoutout to all my Coastie award winners who showed up at the annual picnic and claimed their much-coveted Coastie refrigerator magnet. As readers of my

column are aware (and I know you're both out there reading this), the Coastie is THE presidential award for outstanding achievement in service to the club.

In other news, the first-ever San Jose Book Festival will be on Saturday, 9/12 from 10-5 at Eastridge Shopping Center. If you want to be famous, let me know you're an official participant and I'll spread the word here.

Let there be light... Our great social experiment will begin October 17th when we see what daytime CCW meetings look like. Scroll up for details.

And in the wide, wide world of poetry, Jessica Cohn, our poet wrangler, would love to hear what you want when it comes to poetry groups, meet-ups, and/or whatever it is you wordsmiths do when you talk poetry. Reach out to her at jescohn@gmail.com.

Stay thirsty, friends!

Scotty out
president.ccw@gmail.com



Sat-Chat: Saturday, Aug. 22, 10:30 to noon at Panera Bread in the Edgewater Shopping Center in Sand City. Get together and chat about all things having to do with writing and publication. Free and open to all members.

"Shut Up and Write": Every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of the month (next one Sept. 5) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Starbucks, 865 Lighthouse Ave. in New Monterey.

CCW Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Tom E. Jones, a business consultant and university lecturer, on dealing with rejection. Free and open to members and the public.

Literary Links to Check Out

Anyone writing mysteries, thrillers or suspense will want to check out this recent article about the challenges we face when technological advances, especially when it comes to surveillance, have taken over detective work.

Conundrum for Writers

Meanwhile, President Scotty recommends Savannah Gilbo's podcast for writers of all levels and interests. As Scotty says, "She kind of

reminds me of the Jane Friedman of the audio world since she also puts out a lot of great advice for free."

Savannah Gilbo's Podcast

Can You Help? Please??

Just a reminder that we still need to find volunteers to fill two very key positions. **Kim Parker** relinquished the title of Membership Chair on July 1, though she continues to assist Treasurer **Gary Parker** in membership

issues. However, we need someone to step forward *now* to take on the duties of recruiting new members and to eventually assume all of Kim's membership duties.

Meanwhile, Gary is willing to serve us as Treasurer until June 30 of next year, but we'd like to find a replacement for this vital role well before that date to give Gary plenty of time to train the new recruit. An apprentice treasurer, if you will.

Not to sound like the voice of doom, but one of our sister California Writers Club branches (Tri-Valley in Livermore/Pleasanton/Dublin) recently folded because they could not find volunteers to fill key leadership positions. Don't let that happen to CCW!

If you can help fill either position, contact President Scotty, president.ccw@gmail.com



Last Chance to Renew!

August 31 -- that's the final, final, final deadline to renew your membership in CCW. Just \$45 will maintain your membership through June 2027. Former Membership Chair **Kim Parker** has emailed QuickBooks invoices. You may renew with a credit card or by Paypal, Venmo, Apple Pay -- or even a check through the USPS!

On that subject, congratulations to **Robert Feist** who won the free membership in the drawing we held for members who had renewed by July 31.



Say Hi to Our New Members

Ruth Horn lives in Pacific Grove and is writing a mystery, specifically a domestic thriller.

James Lake of Salinas has published extensively on mental health topics. His writing journey is now taking him into essays, poems and creative nonfiction.

Andrew Gilhooley of Monterey blogs at www.thatfoolgilhooley.com



OPEN CALL FOR POETS!

Monterey County is situated in a biodiversity hotspot!
Monterey State Historic Park invites you to share your poems
highlighting the natural world and the need to protect it. The
Memory Garden will host this public event in celebration of
California Biodiversity Week!

EVENT DETAILS

6-8pm, Thursday September 10, 2026

📍 The Memory Garden
Behind the Pacific House Museum



ENTRIES DUE
BY AUGUST 14

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please submit your poems via Google
Forms (using the QR code above) or by
email to julia.madden-fulk@parks.ca.gov.

We will notify you if you've been selected,
send you a schedule of the event, and
provide you with promotional materials to
share on social media!

📞 Questions? Contact Us!

Email julia.madden-fulk@parks.ca.gov
or call (831)-717-8125



Central Coast Writers

P.O. Box 997
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
United States of America

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