



August 1, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor

CCW Picnic: It's Tomorrow!

And it promises to be super-fun! Definitely something more than just the usual sitting outdoors and eating. We're building on the success of our holiday party this past December by offering a variety of group activities: a Plein Air writing sprint, trivia game, "people bingo," genre chat groups, a photo booth where you can get an author photo for your book cover, and more. Hint: arrive on time so you don't miss out on any of the fun.

Date/Time: Sunday, August 2, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Whispering Pines Park on Pacific Street in Monterey. Plenty of picnic tables under a shady ramada.

CCW provides: Bottled water, paper plates, napkins, eating utensils.

You bring: A potluck dish to share. Something to write with. Beverage if you prefer to drink something besides water.

Parking: Please reserve the small paved area closest to the picnic grounds for members with mobility issues. Drop off your potluck dish, then move your car to the lot near the entrance, or park along Pacific Street next to the medical offices.

The basics: Free for members and a "plus-one." No RSVP required.



Letter to My Future Self

by **Scotty Cornfield, CCW President**



As all the cool kids know, we have two social bashes a year. The big summer picnic is right around the proverbial corner (August 2nd), but instead of me beating you over the head with a proverbial bat and reminding you about it again, I want to talk about our other annual

soiree—the holiday party. Hang on a sec—I’m trying to find an organic way to work in a third “proverbial” but nothing comes to mind. I’ll edit this part out.

Regardless, back in December, if you had a pulse and weren’t incarcerated, you were at the holiday bash. One of the things we did was take a few minutes to compose a letter to our future selves. We wrote about what we hoped to accomplish by the halfway mark in the year. Basically, we were holding ourselves accountable. The club provided the forms, the envelopes, and postage. After writing the letter to yourself in the future, we collected them so we could send them out six months later. If you wrote one, you probably got it a few days ago.

Despite my commitment to myself, it turns out I did NOT win a Nobel Prize in literature. So much for the power of positive thinking. Despite

the initial heartbreak, I LOVED the exercise and hope we do it again. Tell yourself what you hope to do. Six months later, you can celebrate accomplishments or slap yourself silly. Maybe both.

And that's my proverbial close to this edition of the Message From Da Prez. BAM! Proverbial #3. I did it!

Scotty out



CCW Annual Picnic: Sunday, August 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m., at Whispering Pines Park on Pacific Street in Monterey. Scroll up for details.

"Shut Up and Write": Every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of the month (next one Aug. 1) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Starbucks, 865 Lighthouse Ave. in New Monterey.

Sat-Chat: Saturday, Aug. 22, 10:30 to noon at Panera Bread in the Edgewater Shopping Center in Sand City. *Note the correct date! NOT Aug. 29 as appeared in the July 17 News Blast!!* Get together and chat about all things having to do with writing and publication. Free and open to all members.

Note: The **Poetry Group** is on hiatus for the summer. **Salon** is taking a break as we determine a new path forward for this "share your writing" event. And there is no regular speaker meeting on the third Tuesday of the month in August. Instead, please come to our annual picnic!

Can You Help?

We need to find replacements for two key positions in our club: Membership Chair and Treasurer.



Kim Parker relinquished the title of Membership Chair on July 1, although she has pledged to assist the treasurer with membership-related issues for another 11 months. However, we need someone to

volunteer to ease into the job this year, with the goal of eventually assuming all of Kim's membership duties as of July 1, 2027.

Gary Parker 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.

If you can help fill either position, contact President Scotty, scotty@scottycornfield.com

Time is Running Out!

Only one month remains 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! Deadline to renew is August 31.

Genre Tip of the Month



Kicking off what we hope will be the start of a monthly News Blast feature, writing tips geared toward a specific genre. Your President and News Blast Editor got the first pick, and as we're both writing mysteries, this is the August focus.

Scotty ran across an excellent piece of advice on the Miss Demeanors blog on the topic of brainstorming ideas for a mystery. Author Kelly Oliver says, "Every mystery starts with a question." The same could be said for any popular genre: romance, sci-fi, fantasy, action/adventure, thriller/suspense, historical, etc., etc.. So no matter what genre you're writing in, read on.

[Brainstorming Ideas for a Mystery](#)

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