



July 17, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor

Not Just for History Buffs!



You don't need to be writing historical fiction to enjoy the presentation by author **Shelley Blanton-Stroud** at our meeting this coming Tuesday, July 21. Shelley writes novels featuring strong female characters set in World War II-era San Francisco. Her presentation is titled "Mine the Gap: Writing Fiction in the Space History Missed."

Shelley's latest book is *An Unlikely Prospect*, about a young widow who inherits a newspaper, and her transformation from people-pleaser to a determined publisher unafraid to print the truth. Shelley lives in Sacramento, where she spent three decades teaching writing through the California State University system.

Tuesday, July 21, at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove. Doors open at 5:30. Free and open to everyone.

[Visit Shelley's Website](#)

See You at the Book Festival



It's tomorrow -- the return of the Carmel Book Festival! Saturday, July 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carmel Plaza. Be sure to look for the CCW table, where **Chuck Foster, Paul Karrer, Jessica Cohn, Cyndie Zikmund** and **Joyce**

Krieg will be promoting the club and their own writing projects.

The festival starts at 9:30 a.m. with a panel discussion moderated by our own **Alison van Diggelen**. Alison will be back at 2:30 p.m. with a discussion of her book *The Love Project* and the unveiling of the 2026 Hearts of Carmel collection.

The author sales table part of the event begins at 11:00 a.m. CCW members participating with their own tables include **Elbina Rafizadeh, Nicki Ehrlich, Marlo Faulkner, Brooke French, Loreen Gibbons, Nukhet Kardam, Richard Newman, Evan Pellervo, Joyce Sherry, and Deanna Thomas.**

Everything is free and open to the public.

[Carmel Book Festival Website](#)

It's Picnic Time!

CCW's annual summertime tradition continues. What to know before you go:



Date/Time: Sunday, August 2 from 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 a liquid besides water.

What to expect: 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 writing sprint, trivia game, "people bingo," genre chat groups, a photo booth and more. Hint: arrive on time so you don't miss out on any of the fun. See President Scotty's message below for more.

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.

THE Bash of the Summer

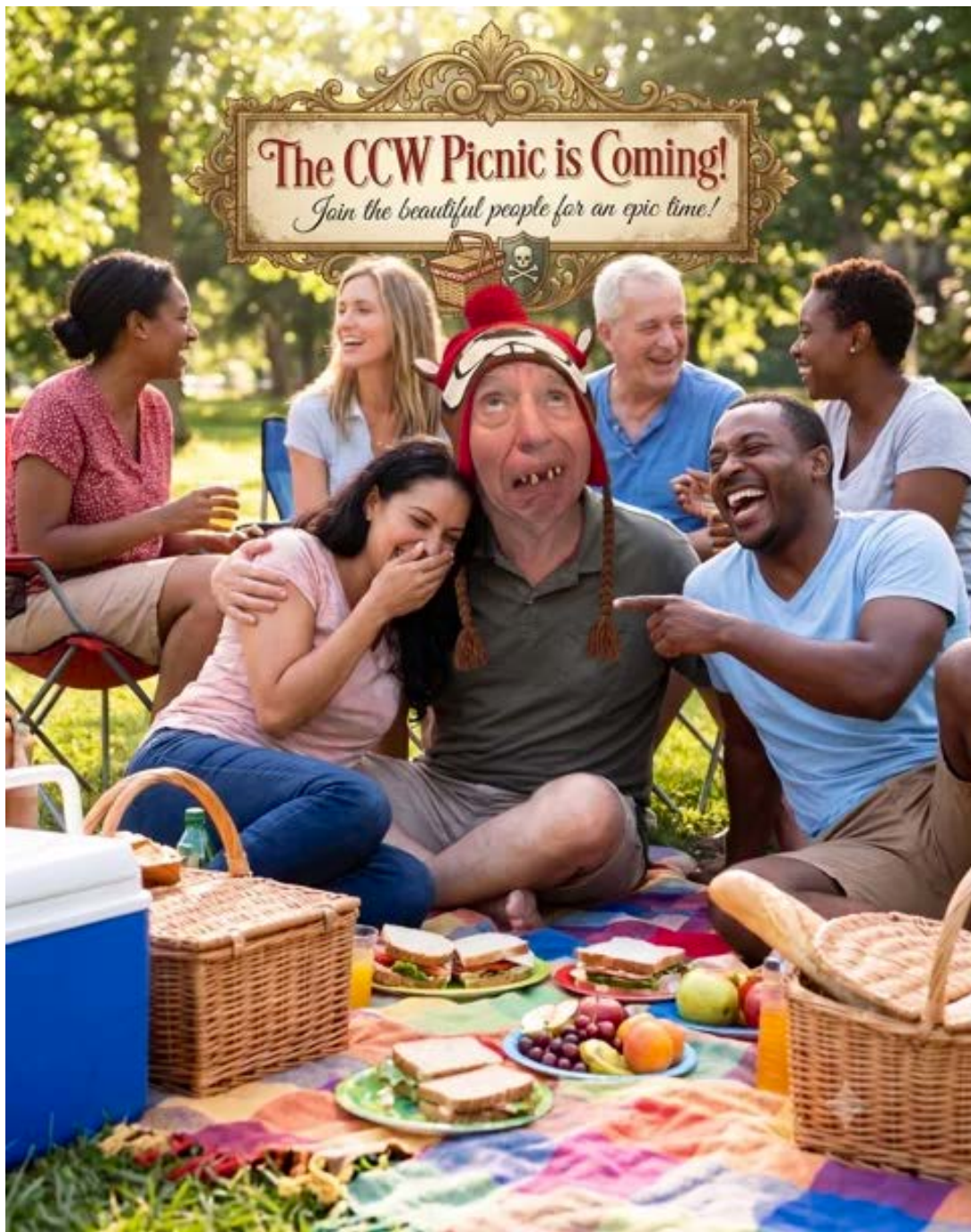
by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



Hola, Mí Escritores (I think that's Spanish for "Hi, my fellow proctologists"),

I'm reaching out to you this time with a singular message. It's about our upcoming annual picnic. Apologies for using this photo

of last year's soiree because it feels like it's all about me, but I can't help it. When you're cursed with beautiful looks, you just wind up in the center of all the pics. It's a burden that people like Brad Pitt and me have to live with, but enough about my pity party.



Speaking of parties (see what I did there?), get out your crayons and mark down Saturday, August 2nd from 1-3 p.m. at Whispering Pines Park in Monterey. I don't want to say this will be THE bash of the summer, but if you miss it, it'll be the bummer of the summer, so consider yourself warned.

The festivities we're considering include:

- Another writing sprint where we will all create something inspired by a prompt

- A bingo game that anyone can win—as long as they talk to other picnic-goers
- Genre chat groups
- A photo booth where you can get a headshot and put a short author bio together
- A trivia game where we promise the questions will be easier than the ones at last December's holiday bash.

PLUS ... The annual CCW Coastie Awards! (Formal wear optional. Hawaiian shirts, perhaps? Note: Some clothing required).

We'll supply paper goods, fake silverware, and water. You bring something edible to share, whatever you need to write with, and most of all, your sizzling, summer picnic personality.

Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Scotty out



Carmel Book Festival: Saturday, July 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carmel Plaza. Scroll up for details.

CCW Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 p.m. See above for speaker details. Free and open to members and the public.

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.

Sat-Chat: Taking a break in July. Too many of us "regulars" are not available. Sat-Chat will be back on Saturday, Aug. 29, 10:30 to noon at Panera Bread in the Edgewater Shopping Center in Sand City. *Note new location!* 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.

We're Losing KimGa!

Sad but true. **Kim** and **Gary Parker**, the stalwarts of our club, "without whom," etc., etc., are stepping back from their volunteer activities. With profound thanks for their many contributions to the good of the club, it's time to start looking for replacements.



Kim relinquished the title of Membership Chair on July 1, although she has pledged to assist Gary with membership-related issues for another 11-1/2 months. 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.

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.

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

It's *Still* That Time of the Year

Only six weeks and two days remain 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. In keeping with tradition, those who renew by July 31 will be entered into a drawing for a free membership. And as Membership Chair **Kim Parker** notes, "We know life changes, so if you know you are not renewing this year, please let us know so we don't keep bothering you with emails, snail mail, or calls."



Say Hi to Our New Member

Danielle Elise Eldred lives in Salinas and is a children's book illustrator.



Member Perk: Book Promotion



Our parent organization, California Writers Club, offers members the opportunity to promote their books for free in *The Bulletin*, which is sent electronically to all members three times a year. The deadline is August 15 for the fall issue, coming out on Sept. 15.

Here are the guidelines, which were sent to all CWC members on July 9 by Editor Susan Marquez-Owen. In case you missed her email:

They should be 12 point Word documents, Times New Roman. Please stick to the following pattern:

Your name (Branch name), ***Title of Publication*** (Name of publisher, including self-publication, and date or year of publication). Very brief synopsis of the work or quote from a reviewer. Website(s) where

publication can be purchased whether it's your own website, and/or a publisher's website.

Submit your material to editor@calwriters.org.

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