

Rejection-proof your career

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Sept. 1, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor

Turning Pain into Purpose



Rejection from literary agents and publishers takes many forms. But it always feels the same – painful! The fear of rejection can stifle your creativity and lower your self-esteem. So, why spend time learning about a topic with the potential to cause so much grief and agony? The answer is that by digging deeper into the cause(s) of rejection you'll discover a

whole new perspective on how to respond when things don't go your way. That's the theme of our September 15 meeting. In addition to finding the underlying reason(s) behind the rejection, you'll also learn how to turn your pain into purpose.

Our presenter, **Tom E. Jones**, is best known for his "fresh eyes" approach to solving performance and productivity problems. He provides organizations and individuals with the continuity of purpose and the clarity of direction they both need to succeed.

He writes about those management perplexities and leadership dilemmas that determine the success or failure of a modern enterprise. His writings have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *American City Business Journals*, *Executive Excellence*, *The Association for Talent Development* and *TrainingIndustry.com Blogs*, *Fortune*, *Entrepreneur* and *Smart Money* magazines.

We're still meeting on Tuesday evenings in September. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for

Spiritual Awakening, 522 Central Avenue in Pacific Grove. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Free and open to all and don't miss the free pizza!

Events for the Scribe Tribe

by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



Hey there, fellow members of my scribe tribe, I'm going to keep this one short (much like myself) because I know you want to speed through it so you can get back to creating all that art your fourth-grade teacher said you were incapable of writing. Guess you showed her, right?

Speaking of writing, get your crayon out and circle October 24th on your calendar because that's when our next Writers Roundup is. This one will be on the craft of writing and will cover:

- Plot and structure frameworks and resources
- Character development techniques
- Setting description strategies
- Understanding point of view

Location: Hilltop Park Center, 871 Jessie St., Monterey. Doors open at 9:45 a.m. and the event runs from 10-noon.

Just to confuse you, which is my *raison d'être* (look it up—I had to), I'm going to go in reverse chronological order for the next two items. Our monthly October meeting will be on SATURDAY, October 17th, and it will be a daytime meeting. Exact time TBA. This is our annual Booktoberfest where members who have released a book over the last 12 months or so get to read their work. If you want some stage time, email me at president.CCW@gmail.com. Space is limited (and cash bribes always help).

Finally, last (but mostly first when it comes to the calendar), area crime and mystery writers will be at the next Coast & Daggers Crime Writers meeting on Saturday, September 26th, from 2-4 p.m. at the Capitola Library. If you want more info, email me. Those who were paying

attention may remember where to find my email address. If not, phone a friend.

Scotty out

president.ccw@gmail.com



"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.

San Jose Book Festival: Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Eastridge Shopping Center. CCW members who will be participating include **Nicki Ehrlich, Brooke French, Joyce Krieg, Laurie Sheehan,** and **Jason Warburg.** Apologies to any members whose names were missed. Free admission.

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. Scroll up for details.

Sat-Chat: Sept. 26, 10:30 a.m. to noon at Panera Bread in the Edgewater Shopping Center in Sand City. Get together and shoot the breeze about anything related to the writing life. Free, no reservations required.

Coast & Dagger Crime Writers: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Capitola Public Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola. Free and open to anyone interested in writing mysteries, thrillers and suspense.

Meet Member Dwight Holing

CCW's own **Dwight Holing** will be featured in a free livestream sponsored by Capitol Crimes, the Sacramento chapter of

Sisters in Crime on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 7:00 p.m.. In addition to sharing news of the last installment in his "Nick Drake Murder & Mystery on the High Lonesome" series, Dwight promises to offer "tips on writing a bestselling and award-winning crime series ... the ins and outs of indie publishing, and answering questions from viewers."

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CAPITOL
CRIMES

THE YELLOW
HAIR
A NICK DRAKE NOVEL
DWIGHT HOLING

THE YELLOW HAIR
Dwight Holing
Sept 8 @ 7pm PT

Join us!

MEET THE AUTHOR

Next Roundup: Save the Date!

Mary Smathers announces the next Writers Roundup will focus on The Craft of Writing Fiction. Free and Open to CCW members and the general public on Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. to noon, at Hilltop Park Center, 871 Jessie Street, Monterey. Doors open at 9:45 a.m.

CCW members will be sharing best practices with four sub-topics:

- Plot and Structure Frameworks and Resources
- Character Development Techniques
- Setting Description Strategies
- Understanding Point of View

Genre Tip of the Month: Fantasy



This month, our Genre Tip is for those of you who are writing fantasy. For many fantasy writers, the world-building is the fun part. Dave Chesson, aka "The Kindlepreneur" has written a terrific blog post with world-building tips -- including why you should show your readers only 10% of what you actually build.

World-building Tips

Your Editor Is Getting Tired

Indeed, your editor is becoming weary to the very bone of having to issue these reminders in every freakin' News Blast. Namely, 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.

Stop the agony and rescue your editor! Step up and volunteer already!
Send an email to President Scotty, president.ccw@gmail.com

Get Your Book into Libraries

You've published your book! Now -- how do you get it into libraries? An upcoming Zoom class sponsored by Sisters in Crime may help show the way. The presenter is **Jenn Hooker**, an author and librarian in Mill Valley. It's Monday, Sept. 21, at 10 a.m. Free for SinC members, \$15 for the public.

Working with Libraries

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