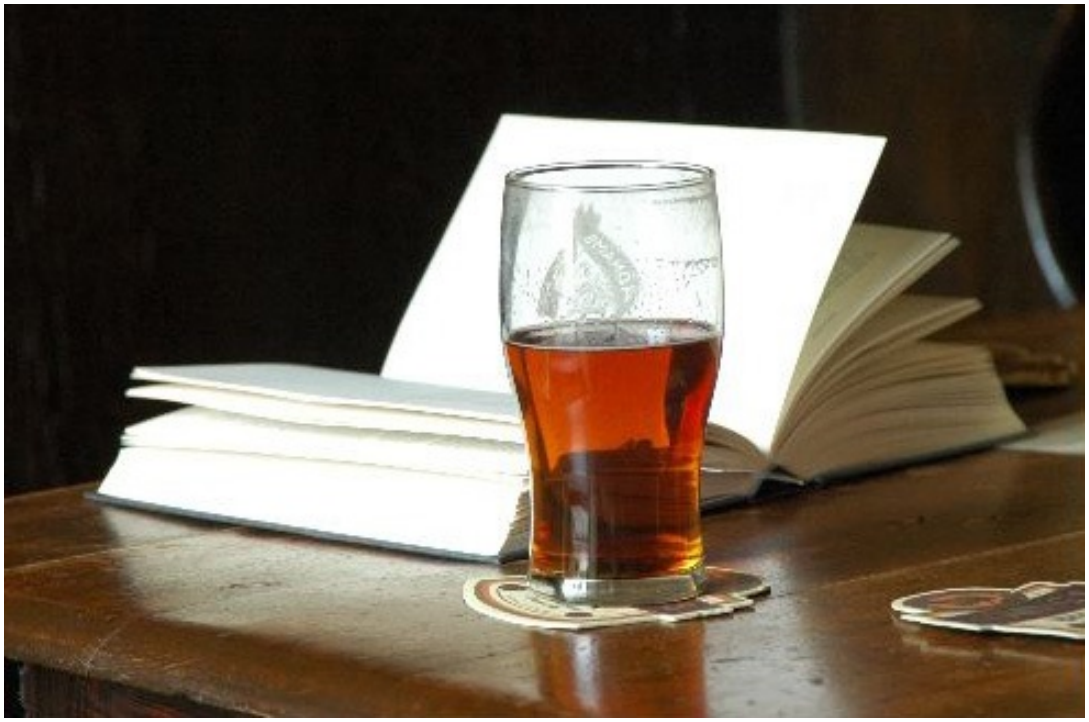
NEWS BLAST
CENTRAL COAST WRITERS

Oct. 1, 2026 **Joyce Krieg, Editor**

It's Time for Booktoberfest!



CCW's annual celebration of our own authors and their recently published books is back -- on a brand new day! Saturday, Oct. 17 is the date to save as we begin our grand experiment at moving our meetings to Saturday mornings, at least during the fall and winter months.

What is Booktoberfest? Basically, it's a fun way to meet your fellow CCW members and get an introduction to the books they've published. Each member who requests time in advance will be given roughly five minutes to read a section from their book. Afterwards, their books will be available for sale.

A few spaces are still left for authors who would like a chance at the mic. Remember, this is a great way to get the word out about your book and introduce it to potential readers. Technically, your book is supposed to have been published within the past 12 months, but we've been known to allow some leeway in that regard. If interested, get in touch with President Scotty Cornfield, president.ccw@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m. to noon at the Center for Spiritual Awakening, 522 Central Avenue in Pacific Grove. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free and open to all.





"Shut Up and Write": Every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of the month (next one Oct. 3) from 9:00 to 11:00

a.m. at Starbucks, 865 Lighthouse Ave. in New Monterey.

LOVE Project Birthday Party: Member **Alison van Diggelen** celebrates the one-year anniversary of publishing *The LOVE Project.* Saturday, Sept. 10, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Henry Miller Library in Big Sur. Free, but reservations required.

LOVE Project Birthday Party

Booktoberfest: Saturday, Oct. 17., 10 a.m. to noon, Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove. Scroll up for details.

Writers Round-up: Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to noon, Hilltop Park Center in Monterey. Scroll up for details.

Mystery Writers of America Mystery Week Panel: Saturday, Oct. 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Capitola Public Library. CCW's **Scotty Cornfield, Laurie Sheehan** and **Joyce Krieg** (under pen name Kate Hopkins Joyce) will be among the authors participating. Free, no reservations required.

Sat-Chat: Oct. 31, 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.

A Saturday All About Writin'

by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



As Elton John likes to sing, “Saturday night’s all right for writin.’”
OK, technically, he may have said “fightin’,” but you get the idea. Saturday day, on the other hand, was definitely all about the writin’, and there’ll be more to come.

This past Saturday started with the world-renowned Sat-Chat at Panera in Sand City, where great conversation, coffee, and scones made the rounds. Congrats to **Sarah, Margaret, Nicole, Kevin, Chuck, Susan,** and **Michael** for being a part of the proud, the brave, the few … the writers.



A couple of hours later, the almost-brand-new Coast & Daggers Crime Writers group met in Capitola to talk all things crime writing-related. This isn't a CCW exclusive, with members of MWA, SinC, (look them up if you don't know what they are), AAA, AARP, NFL, and several other fine organizations in attendance. We have now decided to meet every other month (I was going to write bi-monthly, but I still don't know if that's twice a month or every other month). For those keeping score at home, you'll see **Wendy, Shelley, Chuck, Catherine,** unknown photo bomber, and **Beth**. If you want more info on this great group, you know how to find me.



Finally (and not a moment too soon), as we went to press, there are still a couple of coveted reading slots available for the big Booktoberfest bash coming up at our October 17th DAYTIME meeting. It's a Saturday—really! If you want to read, hit me up (or, if you don't have that much time), just hit me.

Scotty out
president.ccw@gmail.com

Members Making News



Congratulations to CCW VP **Joyce Sherry**, whose short memoir, "The Love My Father Gave Me," was selected for publication in the latest *CWC Bulletin*. All members should have recently received a copy of the *Bulletin* via email.

Meanwhile, Joyce S. and CCW member **Nicki Ehrlich** will be presenting a panel on tips for author-publishers at the Women Writing the West conference October 15-17 in Phoenix.

Scholastic Judges Needed

It's nearly time again for CCW members to get their party shoes on and do some judging for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for

high school-aged writers. Reserve your spot on the judging panel and get your questions answered by contacting VP **Joyce Sherry**, joycesherry@mac.com.

Judges need to be available to complete their assignments from mid-December through early January.

As "Original Joyce" (**Joyce Krieg**) reminds us, the Scholastic organization pays us a generous stipend for providing readers for this first round of judging. The stipend is what allows us to keep our meetings free and open to everyone.





Say Hi to Our New Member

Mila Austin of Salinas was a CCW member in the long-ago days of the "aughts" and is back with us! Mila is the author of *And Spring Comes: A Gestalt Path to Inner Freedom.* She'll be giving a free talk about her book on November 12 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the El Gabilan Library, 1400 N. Main St., Salinas.

Genre Tip of the Month: Horror



October is, of course, the spooky season, so it's only appropriate that this month's genre tip should focus on horror. "Don't be afraid to write horror," Bram Stoker-Award-winning author **Tim Waggoner** advises in an article originally published in *The Writer* magazine.

Tips for Horror Writers

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