



April 1, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor



Oral History at April Meeting

Oral history? What's that? Find out at our April 21 meeting! Our guest presenter will be **Kristen La Follette**, who teaches oral history service learning and creative writing at CSUMB.

Her verbatim plays were read in New York and Pennsylvania and were featured in the 2019 San Francisco Greenhouse Theatre Festival. She contributed to the NCPH Radical Roots of Oral History book project and is a founding member of the American Oral History Association's Emerging Professionals Committee.

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

[More About Kristen La Follette](#)

Look Who's Coming to CCW!

by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



In our last thrilling News Blast, you may remember that I gave props to all our CCW members who were presenters and moderators at the recent Left Coast Crime convention in San Francisco. Although I've never made a mistake before in my three

decades on the planet, I unfortunately left out club member **Jack Erickson**, prolific author of the Milan thriller series. And to you, Jack, I say "Mi dispiace."

Speaking of LCC (that's how us hipsters refer to Left Coast Crime), I need to include a humble brag here and announce a bit of a coup for the club. During a rare moment when she wasn't mobbed by fans (Believe me—I know how that can be), I cornered **Janet Evanovich** and asked if she might be interested in speaking to our club. For those unfamiliar with her work, she's kind of a big deal with her Stephanie Plum series. Much to my surprise, she agreed to address us in July (but only after I sweetened the deal by promising her a CWC Coastie—our coveted refrigerator magnet award). Don't miss this meeting. It'll be super swell.

Last point:

We still need Good Old Days booth volunteers for May 2nd and 3rd. It's one of the best times you can have when fully clothed. If you don't want to miss out, shoot me a quick email at president.ccw@gmail.com (and by "shoot me," I actually mean EMAIL me).

And final last point (really!), if you're participating in the BookSmart event in Morgan Hill on 4/25, please drop me a line and let me know about it and I'll pass it on to the other writers pushing out the event via their social media sites (that's an internet thingee).

Stay thirsty, my friends.

Scotty out (and Happy April Fool's Day—my favorite holiday, right Janet?)



"Shut Up and Write!": Saturday, April 4, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at Starbucks, 865 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey. Get together and "just write." Free and open to all.

Poetry Group: Saturday, April 4, 1:00 p.m. at the Peet's Coffee, 560 Munras Ave., Monterey. Bring a one-page poem or lyric to share. Free and open to all members.

CCW Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Center for Spiritual Awakening, 522 Central Ave., Pacific Grove. See above for information on our guest speaker and his topic. Free and open to members and the public.

Sat-Chat: Saturday, April 25, 10:30 to noon at the Seaside library, 550 Harcourt Ave., Seaside. Get together and chat about all things having to do with writing and publication. Free and open to all members.

Salon: Sunday, April 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Sugar Farms Marketplace, 601 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Share your writing in an informal, supportive atmosphere. Free and open to all members and friends.



Writers Round-up Is Returning

Our popular "writers helping writers" event is back with a brand-new venue and vibe. Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date:

Saturday, May 9 -- 10 a.m. to noon

Monterey Public Library Community Room

Free for members and the general public

Mary Smathers has been working very hard to create a "new and improved" version of our Round-ups. The focus on May 9 will be marketing your work, with the intriguing title of "You Wrote It! Now Sell It!" Mary plans to have teams of experts stationed at tables while participants will travel from table to table to pick up specific tips, advice and information. Watch future editions of the News Blast for details as they become available.



Members on the Move

Joyce Sherry, Mary Smathers, Nicki Ehrlich and **Chuck Foster** will be participating in the Indie Author Day celebration April 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at BookSmart, 421 Vineyard Town Center in Morgan Hill. There may be others of you -- see Scotty's message above.

Meanwhile, **Joyce Krieg**, writing under the pen name Kate Hopkins Joyce, will be selling her latest, *Murder at the Ferry Building*, at the Sisters in Crime booth at the Sacramento Book Festival on April 19. All day, free, at the Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street in, you guessed it, Sacramento. Tell your friends who live in Sac!

If you're a CCW member who is doing a writing/book-related event -- signing, presentation, reading, etc. -- be sure to let us know and we'll include it in a future News Blast: pacificgrovejoyce@gmail.com.

AI and Publishing, the Latest



Have you heard about the *Shy Girl* scandal? A debut author scored a deal with a Big Five publisher (Hachette) only to have her contract cancelled after rumors flew around the internet that the book had been written by Artificial Intelligence.

[Read More About Shy Girl](#)

Meanwhile, one of the most respected online authorities about all things publishing, **Jane Friedman**, has written an excellent FAQ on writers, AI and the law. She covers such topics as copyright, fair use, disclosure of AI use and AI detection, and proving human authorship. Well worth reading or at least bookmarking!

[Jane Friedman's AI FAQ](#)



Say Hi to Our New Members

Jenny Miller Garmendia lives in Marina and is writing a memoir.

Sharon O'Sullivan lives in Monterey and has published *Mi Cena California/My California Feast* to share with family and friends.



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