



January 1, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor



The Party of the Year

by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



If you missed the big CCW holiday party a couple of weeks ago, don't worry about it. You didn't miss much – just THE PARTY OF THE YEAR, THAT'S ALL. No big deal. I won't blame you if you spend most of next year moping around and mumbling to yourself,

"Why, oh why, did I pick 2025 to sit around all alone on December 16th, when I could've been at the Center for Spiritual Awakening, being alone with a bunch of other writers mumbling, 'Why, oh why, would anyone in

their right mind choose this year to NOT come out and have a really great time?"

I know what you're thinking. "Did he really get the punctuation marks right when he had a quote within a quote in that last paragraph?" I don't know either, but it's not important. I'll tell you what IS important. Among all the super fun things we did at the party (and there were too many to regale you with here), we picked people's brains about how we can make the CCW even better (if that's humanly possible). We got a lot of good ideas, but since we have about 160 members, and 120 of you were elsewhere (no judgment if you were in custody somewhere), we don't want you to miss out on the chance to tell us what you would have said if you were at THE PARTY OF THE YEAR! With that in mind, we are giving you a do-over. Click this button where you can give us a piece of your mind.

[Click Here for the Survey](#)

Please—and we don't care if you're a plotter, a pantsner, or even someone who doesn't believe in pants or plots—click on the button and answer a few questions so we can take the CCW to another level. Do it by January 5th, and you'll be entered into a drawing to win absolutely nothing, but at least you won't be a loser. And who doesn't not want to be a loser? Tell me that didn't hurt your head!

Scotty out



Meet Our January Speaker

"Experiments in Writing Across Genre"

Matthew Clark Davison will discuss how you can discover surprising avenues to develop new work by combining cross-genre strategies.

Matthew Clark Davison is co-author (with bestselling writer Alice LaPlante) of *The Lab: Experiments in Writing Across Genre* (W.W. Norton '25). With LaPlante, Davison offers innovative generative writing workshops both online and live. He is Emeritus Faculty in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University, where he also earned a BA and MFA.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 5:30 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove. Free and open to everyone.

[Learn More About Matthew Clark Davison](#)

January

Poetry Group: Saturday, Jan. 3, 1:00 p.m. at the Power Plant coffee shop in Moss Landing. Free and open to all members interested in poetry. For more information, reach out to Jessica Cohn, jescohn@gmail.com.

CCW Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 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, Jan. 24, 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.

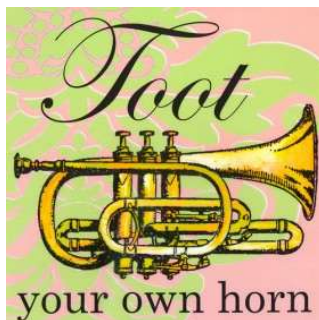
Salon: Sunday, Jan. 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the PG Meetinghouse, 599 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Share your writing in an informal, supportive atmosphere. Free and open to all members and friends.



Those of you who attended THE PARTY OF THE YEAR most likely recall the personal goal-setting exercise for 2026. True confession: I did not come up with this on my own. I copied and condensed highlights from a yearly writing plan workbook created by best-selling indie author Sarra Cannon. If you'd like a copy of the workbook, just click the button and sign up for Sarra's newsletter. This should give you access to her entire resource library for writers, including the 2026 planning workbook. At least, that's how it worked for me!

Joyce

[Take Me to Sarra Cannon's Website](#)



NEED A WRITERLY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Write a 99-word (or less) bio of who you are and what you write. The CCW website has a spot to list everyone's short bio and headshot.

We have 160+ members and only 12 of us are on the page with a bio and pic. Camera shy? Send a meme or A.I. generated pic. Looking for a good (and free) headshot? We'll take one for you at an upcoming meeting we'll announce in 2026.

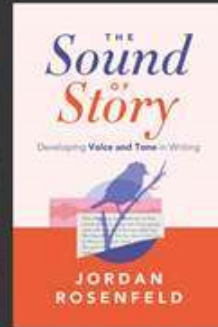
NOTE: You only get 99 words and we WILL NOT edit what you submit. We'll just cut it at 99. Talk about a cliff-hanger! Send those bios to president.ccw@gmail.com

Can You Help a Young Writer?

At our October and November meetings, you may remember seeing a young man and his counselor in the audience. The young writer, Garrett Bourez, is looking for someone to help edit his book. Garrett is neurodiverse and is enrolled in College Living Experience in Monterey to gain the skills he needs to become independent. He understands that he will probably need to pay an editor. If you can help, reach out to his counselor at College Living Experience, Terese Garcia, at Tgarcia@experiencecle.com, (831) 277-6191. Or contact Garrett directly, grbourez@gmail.com (831) 296-6393

CWC South Bay Writers' Workshop

Jan 24, 10am - 3pm



Join **Jordan Rosenfeld**, award winning author, editor to learn the Sound of Story. Explore rhythm, energy, attitude, and more to create a unique fingerprint for your characters. ***Sound of Story***, (list : \$22) included in workshop fee.

Empire Firehouse, Kelley Park, San Jose
Phelan Street parking lot, carpools encouraged
RSVP: amandasenior86@gmail.com for lunch choices



\$90 CWC Members, \$100 Non-members
Lunch and book included

Central Coast Writers

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