



# CENTRAL COAST WRITERS

[A Branch of the California Writers Club](#)

## Coming July 18th - Legal Guide For Writers



ROBERT PIMM

From understanding copyrights and publishing contracts to protecting intellectual property rights, legal advice is invaluable to writers. Come get your questions answered by a professional with more than 35 years of legal experience in the literary and entertainment industries.



### Members Published

Member [Nicki Ehrlich](#)'s new book, *Zephyr Trails*, the sequel to *Ellis River* will be available as of Tuesday, June 25th. A launch party will be held on August 4th at Riverhouse Books in the Carmel Crossroads.

Member Michelle Smith Johansen was just published in the [June issue of The Sun](#). Her essay was a response to their themed call (theme of "uniforms") for their Readers Write segment.

### Renewal Season Starts 7/1

Watch for an email from CCW Treasurer, Gary Parker, on July 1st. Invoice from California Writers' Club Central Coast Branch from our QuickBooks Online software. It will have an invoice for \$45.00 and invitation to pay by credit card, PayPal, and more. Our year is July 1st, 2024, to June 30th, 2025. Pay by July 31st to be entered in a drawing for refund of your membership. If you have questions, email Kim Parker at [ccwbranch.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ccwbranch.membership@gmail.com).

## Calendar:

Saturday, 6/29

CCW MEET-UP

Monday, 7/1

MBRSHP RENEWAL  
BEGINS

## Links:

[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[PRESIDENT'S LETTER](#)

[COLUMNS](#)

[In So Many Words](#)  
Nicki Ehrlich

[Member Profile](#)  
Michelle Smith

[Speaker Report](#)  
Nancy Middleton

[What's On Your Nightstand](#)  
Barbara Siebeneick





## Using Absence to Drive Narrative



### Speakers Report - June 2024

“Absence is the highest form of presence,” according to James Joyce—and author Laurie Ann Doyle agrees. A “felt absence,” something that is offstage but critical to the plot can add depth to any type of writing—short story, novel or poetry. Traditional plotting methods like Freytag’s Pyramid (exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution) can be helpful when starting a new writing project,

Doyle said, but considering what is absent can also help writers find their way into and explore a story.

Searching for a missing someone or something is natural to plot, Doyle said, citing classic novels like Moby Dick and The Odyssey. Your character needs to be missing something, which sends them on a quest to find it. That missing thing can be a person, an animal, a physical object, or even an emotion such as the love of a parent—the possibilities are limitless. “People can even go missing on themselves if they lose track of what matters to them,” Doyle said.

Letting your reader know right away what your character wants to find is a compelling way to open a story or poem, and it creates empathy for the character. “We get invested in people who are invested in things,” Doyle said. “Let what is missing speak to the character and move on from there, allowing the imprint of that loss to reveal that character.” Although there should be one central thing that’s missing, you can add variations—other missing things—that echo the main one and add depth to the story.

Absence plays a critical part in art forms like painting and music, Doyle said, so it’s natural for it to factor into writing as well. “Felt absence” has become a catalyst for her own writing, as there are so many things that can go missing. “And absence doesn’t always bring loss,” she added. “It can also bring liberation.”

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## Ink Spots

### New Member(s)

JEN GHASTIN  
Magical Realism

### NETWORKING EVENT

Join other CCW Members for our new networking event.

DATE: Saturday, June 29th

TIME: 10:30 - Noon

LOCATION: The Creperie

1123 Fremont Blvd, Seaside, CA 93955

### Members Only Facebook Group

Central Coast Writers Members - Only Facebook Group. Join and stay in the know on upcoming events!

*newsletter & website comments/questions  
ccw.branch.webmaster@gmail.com*

### CCW BOARD

President	<u>Sarah Pruitt</u>
Vice President	<u>Scotty Cornfield</u>
Secretary	<u>Joyce Krieg</u>
Treasurer	<u>Gary Parker</u>

### Committee Chairs

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