



Sept. 11, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor

# Learning to Embrace Rejection



Join us Tuesday night as we'll explore the positive side of a negative topic that all writers face: rejection. 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.

Our presenter, **Tom E. Jones**, is best known for his "fresh eyes" approach to solving performance and productivity problems. He is planning an interactive presentation for us, as well as a free workbook for all attendees.

Tom 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 this coming 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. If nothing else,**

come for the free pizza -- assuming someone volunteers to do the pizza run. See President Scotty's message below!

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# Pizza Picker-upper Needed

by **Scotty Cornfield, CCW President**



Despite popular demand, I'm back for another installment of things you didn't know you needed to know. Have I already lost you? Good. Mission accomplished!

First up—and this is a matter of national importance—our next meeting will be on Tuesday night, September 15th . It will also be our last evening meeting for a while. That's not the important part. Pizza is priority #1, and if we don't get someone to step up and be the bag man (or woman—no judging here), there will be a paucity of pepperoni the likes of which we do NOT want to see. If you have the moxie (or at least the mozzarella), reach out to me on the pizza hotline (president.ccw@gmail.com ) and serve your country.

In other news...

**Jack Erickson**, one of our more prolific writers, spends a lot of time in Italy, where his Milan thrillers are based. His Italian travels have led him to lots of discoveries, including the Violin Museum at Cremona. My spies tell me the place is recognized around the world (much like me) as one of the most valuable collections of violins created by the early masters like Stradivarius. Why am I telling you all this? Because Jack will be doing a free lecture on Wednesday, September 16th at 1:30 p.m. at MPC's Room LF 103. The presentation is part of their free classes called Gentrain—classes for "retired" students. Sounds like a good place to keep the brain working and to be exposed to stuff that might even inspire your writing.

And finally...Booktoberfest is just around the corner. Our October meeting (our first Saturday DAYTIME meeting) will be where we get to hear from members who have released a book in the past year(ish).

We have a limited number of reading slots, so if you want us to hear a few

minutes from your latest masterpiece, contact me to reserve a space ASAP—if not sooner. My email address was buried somewhere in this column. Find it and you will impress at least one of us.

Scotty out

president.ccw@gmail.com



**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 **Scotty Cornfield, Nicki Ehrlich, Brooke French, Joyce Krieg, Laurie Sheehan, Alison van Diggelen** and **Jason Warburg**. Apologies to any members whose names were missed. Free admission.

**"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.

**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.

**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.

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## 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

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## It's Back! Scholastic Judging

by Joyce Sherry

"It's like a treasure hunt!"

"Gives me a healthy optimism..."

"The talent impresses me..."

What could these quotes refer to? The Masked Singer? The Great British Baking Show? The new Ann Patchett novel? No! At least, not this time.

They're judges' responses to the student writing in the Scholastic Writing Awards. It's nearly time again for interested club members to get their party shoes on and do some judging for this great contest for high school-aged writers. Reserve your spot on the judging panel and

get your questions answered by contacting me at [joycesherry@mac.com](mailto:joycesherry@mac.com).

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

As "Original Joyce" (Joyce Krieg) reminds us, the Scholastic organization pays us for providing readers for this first round of judging. The stipend is what allows us to keep our meetings free and open to everyone -- not to mention the free pizza!



## Say Hi to Our New Member

**Catherine McConville** lives in Carmel-by-the-Sea and is interested in writing mysteries and thrillers.

## The Usual Reminder/Plea

Your editor has hit rock bottom when it comes to creating clever and/or compelling ways to solicit volunteers to fill two key positions: Membership Chair and Treasurer.

Suffice to say, the silence has been deafening. We *must* fill these vacancies if Central Coast Writers is to remain viable. Or even stay in business, period.

If you can help, or would simply like to explore possible solutions, send an email to President Scotty, [president.ccw@gmail.com](mailto:president.ccw@gmail.com)

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## An Amazing Free Resource

For 28 years, almost since the dawn of the internet, Writers Digest has been curating a list of the 101 best websites for writers. Amazingly, they are making the 2026 list available as a free online resource instead of requiring you to buy the magazine. [Click here to grab it!](#)

[WD's 101 Best Websites for Writers](#)

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### Central Coast Writers

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