



February 1, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor



Feb. 17 Meeting: "I Object!"

Kern County Superior Court Judge David Wolf will headline our February 17 meeting with a program titled, "I Object -- the 10 Most Common Mistakes Made by Crime Writers."

But you don't need to be writing crime fiction, or true crime, to enjoy this humorous and entertaining presentation. If you've ever watched an episode of *The Lincoln Lawyer*, or *Suits*, or any of the many other crime/lawyer shows that are now streaming, you'll definitely want to add this to your calendar.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Awakening in Pacific Grove. Free and open to everyone.

[Learn More About Judge Wolf](#)



Poetry Group: Saturday, Feb. 7, 1:00 p.m. at the Power Plant coffee shop in Moss Landing. Bring a one-page poem or lyric to share. Free and open to all members.

CCW Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 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, Feb. 21, 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, Feb. 22, 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.

Friends, Romans, Countrymen ...

by Scotty Cornfield, CCW President



... and that includes you, SEASIDE!

Here's hoping you enjoyed the January meeting, which included us rolling out our "New for 2026" networking configuration. In case you missed it (and shame on you if you

did), the chairs were arranged for small groups, instead of the usual theatre-style seats. Notice how I spelled "theatre" the fancy way? You're welcome! Our goal was to make it easier for everyone to have time to chat with at least a few members. We also set aside time at the end of the presentation so the groups could talk about how they might apply the newfound knowledge imparted from our presenter.

If you like this new set up, feel free to let me know at president.ccw@gmail.com.

If you don't like the new set up, tell Gary Parker at ThisLinkPutsMoneyInScottyCornfieldsBankAccount.com.

OK, that may not work, but thanks to those of you who tried.

Two other fun things from the last meeting: Genre stickers. If you write in a specific genre, we have stickers you can slap on your name badge. Let others know what you write (or keep threatening to write).

We also debuted a new presidential award for club thank-yous, called the Coasties. If your pulse doesn't race when you see these one-of-a-kind refrigerator magnet awards, you may already be dead. See your doctor.

I'm still looking for five-minute readers. Wanna sign up? Write me at president.ccw@gmail.com.

Want to have your bio (100 words or less) and booking photo on our website? Send it to me at president.ccw@gmail.com.

Scotty out.



President Scotty Cornfield presents the very first Coastie award to Joyce Sherry in honor of her work in heading up the Scholastic teen writing contest judging.

Members on the Move



Alison van Diggelen will be promoting her book, *The Love Project*, at two Bay Area events: Feb. 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Kepler's Books, Menlo Park, and Feb. 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Book Passage, Corte Madera. And congrats to Alison for her book being featured on BBC Scotland and on our local NPR station, KAZU.

Joyce Sherry has two local events on the horizon to support *A Tale for the Shadows*. She'll be speaking at the Salinas Public Library El Gabilan Branch on Feb. 5 at 5:00 p.m. And on Feb. 7 at 1:00 p.m., she'll be doing a reading and signing at Old Capitol Books in Monterey.

This Is Good News?

An article in this week's *Monterey County Weekly* is sure to send shivers down the spine of all of us who love books. Hillary Thayer, director of the Monterey County Free Libraries is



quoted as saying she wants to reduce the number of books in the libraries she oversees in favor of "other things." These "other things" would apparently include arts and crafts, homework help, toys, and "gatherings." This cannot be good news, no matter how the director and the *Weekly* try to spin it. Thank you to Program Chair Elizabeth Stacy for calling this to our attention.

[Read the full article here](#)





Say Hi to Our New Members

Thomas Krause of Monterey is interested in writing fantasy, historical fiction, sci-fi and memoir.

And welcome back **James Dorsey!** James is a travel writer whose most recent release is *The Lagoon: Encounters with the Whales of San Ignacio*.



Central Coast Writers

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