



February 14, 2026

Joyce Krieg, Editor



## Tuesday Night: "I Object!"

See you at the Center for Spiritual Awakening this Tuesday night as Kern County Superior Court Judge David Wolf will headline our program. His topic: "I Object -- the 10 Most Common Mistakes Made by Crime Writers."

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 join us this Tuesday night.

**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](#)

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## Get Ready to Write on Tuesday Night!

Several of you have mentioned as to how you wish we did some actual writing at our monthly meetings. We are a writers' club, after all! Your CCW board listened, and we're going to try out a five-minute writing sprint at our meeting Tuesday night.



Don't miss out on the fun! Plan to arrive by 5:45 p.m. and bring your favorite writing tool: notebook/pen or an electronic device.

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# Shhhh! It's a Surprise!

by **Scotty Cornfield, CCW President**



Hey there, sports fans. Thanks for putting your DVR on pause long enough to read this. I know you want to get back to watching Olympic curling highlights, and I don't blame you. My mopping techniques have improved radically after watching all the action from Milan.

First item... and this one is **TOP SECRET**. If you have a SCIF at home, climb in it now before reading the rest of this. For those of you who don't have a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, put a blanket over your head before you read this. It's about a surprise retirement party for longtime MPC creative writing teacher Henry Marchand. Just to be clear, Henry's not surprised that he's retiring, but he **WILL BE** surprised (we hope) about the party.

DETAILS: Fri. April 17<sup>th</sup>, noon at the MPC Karas room attached to the library. If you'd like to write a short note for Henry about how his work impacted you, send it to [JLSchmidtAuthor@gmail.com](mailto:JLSchmidtAuthor@gmail.com) by March 15th. Jennifer Schmidt will assemble all notes into a book and present it to Henry that day. Entries will **NOT** be edited, so make it good (i.e., use ChatGPT or something to proof it). If you planned to attend, email Jennifer and let her know so you'll be on the official "guest list." And remember: **IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE!**

Second item... would your life be better, worse, or none of the above if our monthly club meetings were held during daytime hours instead of at night? A lot of the other California Writers Club branches meet on Saturday mornings or afternoons, and I'd love to hear your thoughts. Well, I don't want to hear all your thoughts. For some of you, I don't want to hear **ANY** of your thoughts. I don't even like hearing **MY**

thoughts, but in this case, I really would like to know how you'd feel if we moved to Saturday morning or afternoon.

Drop me a line at [president.ccw@gmail.com](mailto:president.ccw@gmail.com) and let me know what you think about this radical idea.

Scotty out!



**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.

**Poetry Group:** Saturday, March 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.

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## Really? Is This Even Legal?



Amazon has launched a brand-new feature for Kindle e-books called "Ask This Book," and it's raising a lot of concern among authors.

As the name would suggest, "Ask This Book" allows readers to type a question anytime they run across something they don't understand. Say, a character name they've forgotten, or a plot point they're confused about. But here's the catch--instead of directing the reader to the page with the answer, AI supplies what it thinks is the correct answer. This is being done to every Amazon e-book. There is no opt-out if you're an Amazon e-book author. As you might suspect, a lot of author advocacy groups are in an uproar over this, including the Authors Guild and Writer Beware.

[Find Out More Here](#)

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## Calling All Early Bird Writers



CCW member Jennifer Schmidt is leading a "Shut Up and Write" group on the first Saturday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at Starbucks, 865 Lighthouse Ave. in New Monterey. The idea is to get together and "just write." As Jennifer describes it, "Informal and just meant to aid people in making the habit of writing stick." Next write-in is Saturday, March 7. All writers welcome.





## Say Hi to Our New Member

**Elbina Rafizadeh** lives in Santa Cruz and writes poetry and personal essays. She has published a book of poetry, "Keepers of the Malicgong Rice Terraces."



### Central Coast Writers

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