



# Scribbles

California Writers Club – Central Coast Writers Branch  
*centralcoastwriters.org*  
October 2020

## Tuesday, October 20

### Booktoberfest! 6pm on Zoom



CCW is sticking with our tradition of hosting Booktoberfest in October; this year it will be on ZOOM. Seven of our members will be readers. Booktoberfest readers will be allotted approximately 8 minutes of reading time.

Our featured Booktoberfest readers you read from a book that they have had published within the last year. First priority goes to readers that have not participated in Booktoberfest for the past 2 years.

Requests were accepted starting at midnight on September 15th. Requests received before then were not counted. To keep this fair we filled Booktoberfest reader slots in the order that we received requests after midnight on September 15th.

Booktoberfest is different from our 5-minute reader events. The reading time is longer and the content must come from a work that you have published within the last year. Readers for our 5-minute reader events have 5 minutes of reading time and may read from anything they have written.

## Tuesday, November 17

### Alka Joshi



Please join us as Alka Joshi discusses her bestselling novel and soon-to-be television series, *The Henna Artist*. Born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India, Alka Joshi has lived in the U.S. since the age of nine. She graduated from Stanford University

and worked in the fields of advertising and PR before starting her own advertising and marketing consultancy in 1995. In 2011, she obtained her MFA in Creative Writing from the California College of Arts in San Francisco, California. *The Henna Artist* is her first novel.

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## We all Need to Read!

Steven King, in his book, *On Writing*, says you need to do two things above all others: “**read** a lot and **write** a lot.” As I recall, he has a reading ritual of 4 hours a day, and goes further by saying that if you are a writer and not writing, you need to read. There’s no way I can spend 4 hours a day reading unless I surround myself in bed with feather pillows, a glass of wine and a steady supply of chocolate truffles perched close at hand. I’m sure I’m descended from Marcel Proust who wrote from his bed until noon every day. I routinely read at least an hour before bedtime. I’m addicted to reading. I always have a book in hand to keep me company for those long wait-times at the doctor’s office, or any place where I will have 15 or 20 minutes to kill.

Books are a lifeline to keep me from getting antsy, bored, or thinking too much of things that I have no control over. I prefer the tangible book to reading on Kindle or iPad. I have nothing against using technology, and I recognize it has its merits, like snuggling under the covers with the little convenient light shining on the screen. Also, the books available for 99 cents to \$2.99 are plentiful. Can’t argue with that, for sure. But for me, there is something intimate about picking up a book, flipping through the pages and smelling the print on paper. Reading is so personal, so private, so special. Each book becomes my own personal romance.

But reading is much more than just a source of entertainment. Reading improves your brain’s connectivity, focus and concentration. It can improve your attention span and help you to think in sequence. Reading has been linked to cause and effect. According to Thomas Oppong in his article, “The Reading Brain (Why Your Brain Needs You to Read Every Day,” “Reading is to the mind what exercise is to your body. It gives us freedom to roam the expanse of space, time, history, and offer a deeper view of ideas, concepts, emotions, and body of knowledge.” There is scientific evidence that older adults benefit greatly. Homestead Senior Care says that reading can help to improve memory circuits, reduce stress, enhance sleep, and it may even delay the onset of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Reading can improve the analytical and reasoning power seniors need to solve problems, an ability known as fluid intelligence that declines throughout adulthood.

Children benefit in many ways. Stories that rhyme are particularly helpful to young children developing speech and language skills. I’ve had the privilege of meeting Barbara Greenway, founder of the *Read To Me Project*, a non-profit headquartered in Salinas, CA. Barbara began her career as a public school speech and language specialist. She received endless calls from teachers concerned that young children were missing the most basic skills and weren’t ready for kindergarten. That’s when Barbara founded the *Read To Me Project*, a carefully monitored program providing a variety of select books for older school kids to read to their preschool siblings. This simple approach has helped thousands of children prepare for school and is having an amazing effect on kids in the Salinas Valley. There is big demand for this program across the country. Right now, Barbara says they lack the resources to keep up with the demand. (For more information, [www.readtomeproject.org](http://www.readtomeproject.org)).

The bottom line is that reading benefits us all, regardless of our age or background. Reading is a gift we can all enjoy at any age. In this time of shelter-in-place, I can think of no better way to spend my alone time than reading the latest Shelly King, Joyce Krieg, Alka Joshi or Marcia Rosen release!

**To Write is to Live,**

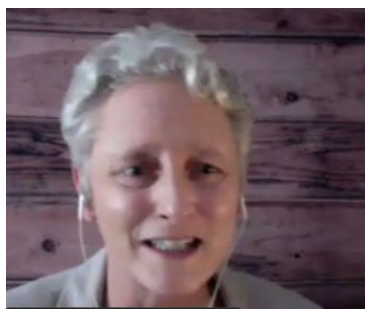
*Sharon Law Tucker*

## The Muse and the Scribe

### September speaker Anne Janzer



Writing involves a balance of inspiration and hard work or, as author Anne Janzer put it in this very well-attended guest speaker session, the “muse” and the “scribe.” The muse is your ongoing associative thought process that sometimes allows an inspired idea to break through, and the scribe is the analytical energy you use to write. Most of us have a tendency toward one or the other, Janzer said. Some writers have plenty of ideas but have trouble finishing projects while others struggle for inspiration but are disciplined about doing the work.



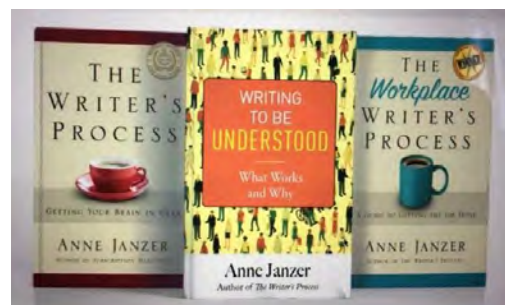
You can invite the muse by paying attention to where you are and what you are doing when inspiration strikes, Janzer said. This often happens in times of “open attention”—such as driving, walking, or even showering—where we are active but not required to focus much. She also suggested “incubating with intention,” which involves actively tackling a creative issue, taking a break, then returning to the task. Structured free writing—writing about your project without worrying how it will be used—is also useful. Listening to music, physical activity, being in nature, and engaging in other types of creativity— such as playing music, drawing, or baking—all can spark inspiration. “The more you change your activities and venues, the more you feed creativity,” Janzer said.

To cultivate the scribe aspect of writing, she suggested scheduling a regular time to write and setting small, achievable deadlines for yourself. Separating your writing space from other work areas in your home is also helpful. If distractions keep you from writing, she suggested setting a timer to keep you working for a specific period, using an Internet blocking app like “Freedom,” or clearly signaling to others when you don’t want to be interrupted.

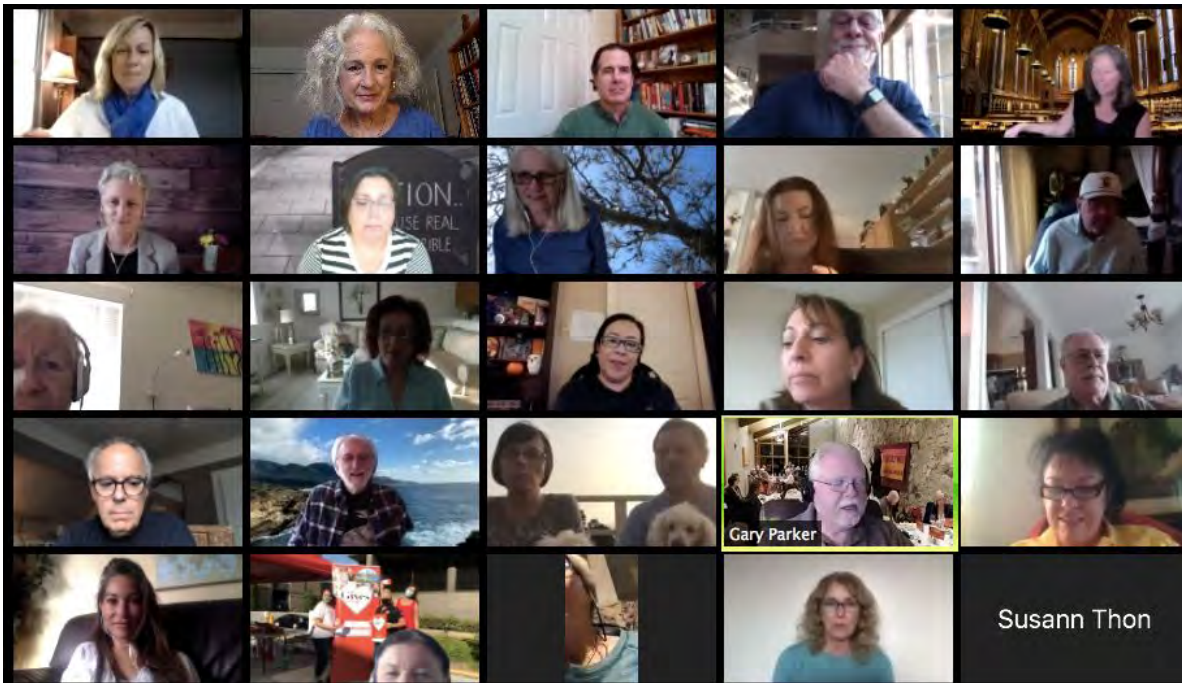
Janzer believes it’s very important to separate the muse and the scribe when it comes to drafting and revision. Some writers love to polish their work as they go, but this can inhibit the muse. “It’s giving power to the analytical scribe too soon,” she said. Writers are better off completing an imperfect first draft, and making notes where transitions or more information are needed, before starting to revise.

Although many writers are struggling as the pandemic changes our routines, Janzer believes it is more important than ever to write. Besides allowing us to escape the situation for a time, writing gives us a sense of control and helps us psychologically make sense of things. It’s also a positive action to take for your future self. If you feel unable to write, Janzer suggested three ways to refocus yourself: 1) honor the burden of having “lost” something, even if it is a sense of certainty, 2) know/protect yourself by doing those things that best comfort you, and 3) manage/adjust the burden by limiting news consumption and setting smaller goals for yourself.

Janzer has written several books on the writing process and finds the connection between cognitive science and writing fascinating. “Our most important writing tool is our brain,” she said, “so the better we understand it the more effective we are and the better we connect with our readers.”



The CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, dedicated to educating members and the public-at-large in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

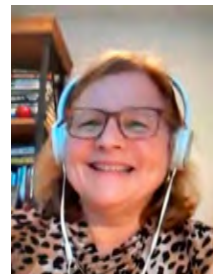


## August's 5-Minute Readers on Crowdcast

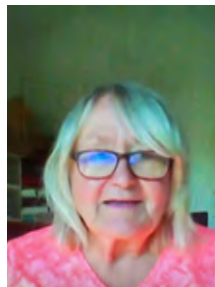
Jack Erickson



Barb Dill-Varga



Joyce Krieg. *"Last Call at the Zanzibar,"* her story selected for publication in *California Schemin', the Bouchercon Anthology*



Ken Holden, *"Gene Genies"*



Linda Gunther



# Announcements

## New CCW members

Darlene Lowery



## Member Congratulations



Member **Alka Joshi**, whose book *The Henna Artist* is featured in Reese Witherspoon's book club, and has been optioned by Miramax for a TV series, is featured in this month's issue of *Monterey County Weekly*. We are all super proud of her!

Member **Duncan L. Clarke's** new book *A Little Rebellion Is a Good Thing: Troubles at Traymore College* (Richmond, VA: Belle Isle Books, 2020) was released for publication in August. As a teaser: "When David Pritchard is hired to teach political science at a remote women's college in 1969, he anticipates a quiet year before moving on to bigger things. However, it soon becomes apparent that all is not well at Traymore College." The book is available in softcover, Kindle and audio. You can order direct from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), bn.com, the publisher at [www.belleislebooks.com](http://www.belleislebooks.com), or your favorite bookseller.

Member **Christine Sleeter's** first novel *White Bread*, published in 2015, was just released in an "anniversary" (or second) edition. This novel tells the story of an elementary teacher who has to confront what cultural diversity means in the U.S. now, in relationship to her German American ancestors' vibrant culture during the 1800s, then loss of culture, language and memory during World War II. You can order the book from the publisher [Brill](https://www.brill.com), or from Amazon.

## In Memoriam

It is with sad hearts that we share the news that long time CCW member Joyce Olcese passed away in mid-August. Joyce was born in San Francisco and spent most of her life in California. She was active in the Point Lobos Association. During her life she worked on a truck farm, owned a floral shop, and she and her husband, who was an environmental engineer, owned a family real estate business and a hog farm! Joyce is a self-proclaimed "armchair cognitive science geek." With that background is it any wonder that Joyce was also a writer! Here she holds the issue of [Gardening Mysteries](#) that contains her short story "Gardening and Me." She was 88, and she'll be missed.



## CCW Membership Renewal Reminder! Due September 30!

By now, all of you should have received your renewal packets. Many of you have renewed already. Thank you!! CCW is grateful for your continued support. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so right now. We have some really exciting events coming up and don't want you to miss out. Remember, ALL dues must be paid no later than September 30. Renewal is \$45 paid by check or by Paypal on our CCW website. [www.centralcoastwriters.org](http://www.centralcoastwriters.org)

## Schedule of Events for the Rest of 2020

Mark your calendars so you don't miss CCW's upcoming events for the rest of the year! Watch for more information and a Zoom link coming from Sharon!

October 20 - Booktoberfest (See this issue for more information on this event)

October 24 - Free workshop by Marcia Rosen (9:30-11:00am)

November 10 - 5-Minute Reader Event (6pm)

November 17 - CCW Presentation by Alka Joshi (6pm)

December - We are working on a COVID-sensitive holiday event. Date TBA

# Announcements (Continued)

## **Judges Needed for Two Writing Contests? Tell Me More.**

First, CCW sponsors a high school writing contest each year for Monterey County schools. This takes place during the new year from February through March. Judges for that contest devote a few days during March to read and judge the 100+ entries. We offer cash prizes to the six winners and publish their stories on our webpage. Dennis Hamilton is your coordinator for this event and he will be looking for judges to read the first of the year.

The second contest comes earlier, during late December and early January. It is a nationwide event administered by Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. There are thousands of entries, and writing clubs such as ours provide the judges. We ask sixteen of our members (and four alternates) to devote a few hours to read some great writing from our young writers. For our efforts, Scholastic pays us \$2500 which is a significant part of our budget. Dennis is asking for volunteers now so he doesn't have to beg later. The names must be submitted to Scholastic no later than mid-November.

Remember, we don't have monthly in-person meetings to ask you in person, so expect a call or email sooner or later. Volunteers can contact Dennis at: [Hamilton-dennis@att.net](mailto:Hamilton-dennis@att.net) (email), or 831-643-5093 (phone).

Thank you all ahead of time. Your efforts in the past were wonderful.

## **Coming Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> FREE Workshop - Mark your Calendars!**

Thanks to Marcia Rosen, CCW is offering a FREE 1.5 hour workshop to its members on ZOOM! This informative and interesting workshop will relate to the interests of the Central Coast Writers community. From concept development, importance of editing, manuscript review, publisher options, and opportunities to challenges of book marketing, the presentation will address those interests and answer many of your specific questions. Marcia Rosen's knowledge is based on nearly twenty years experience as an advisor to numerous authors who have written and published fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books.

## **Check out Table Talk!**

Be sure to check out the new Table Talk page on our website ([centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org)). This is an opportunity to keep in touch with friends and members. Let us know if you have a new book published, an article you want to let us know about, or any other special notice or item for discussion.

## **Ghostwriter Sought**

Do any of you do ghostwriting? Or does anyone want to give it a try? We were contacted by John Olin, a resident of Carmel Valley, who wishes to hire a local ghostwriter to help him write his autobiography. If you are interested or want to find out more, you can contact him via email ([john\\_olin@hotmail.com](mailto:john_olin@hotmail.com)) or mobile phone (831-521-3525).

## **Attending Other Branch's Zoom Events**

As members of the California Writers Club, we have access to many speakers and events other branches host on Zoom, just as members of other branches have access to our speakers. The easiest way for you to find out what other branches in Northern California (Norcal, for short) have to offer in any given month is to visit the Norcal calendar of Branch News ([cwcnorcalwriters.org/events/](http://cwcnorcalwriters.org/events/)). If you are interested in a more extensive look at what other branches are doing, look on the menu of our website ([centralcoastwriters.org/](http://centralcoastwriters.org/)), under State Organization Website, and Norcal Group.

# Announcements (Continued)

## Monte Vista Elementary Grades 4-5 Young Authors Club Facilitator

Hello there, my name is Joe Ashby, principal of Monte Vista Elementary. Last year, we were fortunate enough to have an author from this special group of writers get paid as a consultant to meet with our grades 4-5 young authors club once a week for one hour from October to March, ending with an awesome (online) publishing expo event. This year, due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this club will need to meet online once a week starting in October, but with the same goal in mind, for each child to develop a fiction chapter book that gets published on [Lulu.Com](https://www.lulu.com) in the Spring and celebrated at a physical or online event (usually it is the Monterey City Library).

Every year we have had a different author facilitating it under my guidance. This year, I was wondering if your club could be made aware of a need to have a new author for this school year. It is a paid position at \$30 an hour, which over the course of the October-March once a week program, it equals about \$500-600. If you are interested, please either call me (831-901-7109) or email me ([jashby@mpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jashby@mpusd.k12.ca.us)). Thank you again for your time in considering my request.

## Grammar Humor that only Writers would Appreciate!

A dangling participle walks into a bar. Enjoying a cocktail and chatting with the bartender, the evening passes pleasantly.

A bar was walked into by the passive voice.

An oxymoron walked into a bar, and the silence was deafening.

Two quotation marks walk into a "bar."

A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.

Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.

A question mark walks into a bar?

A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.

Papyrus and Comic Sans walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Get out—we don't serve your type."

A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.

A comma splice walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves.

Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They converse. They depart.

A synonym strolls into a tavern.

At the end of the day, a cliché walks into a bar— fresh as a daisy, cute as a button, and sharp as a tack.

A run-on sentence walks into a bar it starts flirting. With a cute little sentence fragment.



## “Chroniclers of the Human Experience” David Michael Olsen

David Michael Olsen has had a penchant for the darker side since the fifth grade when he wrote his first short story. “I think we were reading Poe at the time,” he recalls of his horror story. “Hence the dark thematic presence.” Inspired by *The Boxcar Children*, *Goosebumps*, and Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mystery series, David dabbled in both mystery and horror genres. Also a fan of Hemingway’s adventurous spirit, he admired the way in which the renowned author “showed the world that big emotion didn’t need big words.”

“I loved reading so much, I preferred it to the real world sometimes,” David says. “That love carried into my adult life.” In 2014, the same year he joined CCW after a near-death experience due to atrial fibrillation, David decided it was time to get serious about writing. He attended California State Universities at Fresno and Monterey Bay for his undergraduate education, and then was accepted into Stanford’s two-year online novel writing program. Next he attended UC Riverside’s Low Residency MFA program. “Both were exceptional programs that increased my skills significantly.”

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, David wrote daily at The Bookworks in Pacific Grove. Now he writes in the evenings at home where he also works as a commercial insurance broker, primarily handling horticultural clients throughout Northern California, Oregon, and Nevada. His preferred genre is literary work with an emphasis on crime. “I love a good noir, detective, or mystery book, still. Especially the upmarket ones.”

David sets a daily goal of at least 500 written words. “It takes thousands of hours to get good at the craft of writing. Read critically, steal all your favorite techniques (like Elmore Leonard’s knack for dialogue), and write every day. The self-teaching component through consistent effort at refining your style and manuscripts pays the biggest dividends.”

David is in the process of completing his thesis, a literary crime noir with the working title *Shadow Valley*, which he hopes to hand over to his agent before year’s end. His compelling literary crime short titled *Ghost Tree* was published this past June in *Catamaran Literary Reader*.

“I love our organization, and I look forward to seeing everybody in person again once it’s safe,” he says, adding, “Keep writing. As chroniclers of the human experience, writing is the most important thing we do. And that means something on an existential level, I believe.”

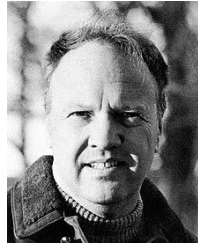
David founded *Kelp Journal*, an online adventure-themed literary magazine. His websites are [DavidMichaelOlsen.com](http://DavidMichaelOlsen.com) and [KelpJournal.com](http://KelpJournal.com).

*Michelle Smith’s articles have been published in a variety of magazines. Her website is [theebonyquill.com](http://theebonyquill.com).*





### James Lafayette Dickey



The 1970 movie *Deliverance* is based on a book written by James Lafayette Dickey, who also wrote the screenplay for the movie, and who had a very small part in the movie as the sheriff. Dickey was born February 2, 1923 in Atlanta, Georgia. He is known for being a major mid-twentieth century poet. He is also well known for his historical vision and quirky poems. Dickey studied at Clemson University before he enlisted in the military as a member of the 418th Night Fighter Squadron. He flew more than 100 combat missions in the Pacific Theater. He graduated from Vanderbilt University Magna Cum Laude in 1949, and earned his M.A. from Vanderbilt in English in 1950. He was a professor for six years.

Dickey started writing poetry in 1947, but got sidetracked into the world of advertising because of the money that could be made. He was a successful advertising man during the 1950's, working on campaigns such as Coca Cola's. Dickey published *Into The Stone and Other Poems* in 1960, which brought him a Guggenheim Fellowship Award. That motivated him to leave advertising and devote himself to poetry.

Dickey's many collections of poetry include *The Whole Motion: Collected Poems 1945- 1992* (1992) and *The Eagle's Mile* (1990). His 1965 book *Buckdancer's Choice* received both the National Book Award for Poetry and the Melville Cane Award. Joyce Carol Oates described Dickey's unique perspective as a desire "to take on 'his' personal history as an analogue to or a microscopic exploration of 20<sup>th</sup>-century American history." Dickey himself described his quirky style of blurred dreams and reality as "country surrealism." Joan Bobbit said, in *Concerning Poetry*, that Dickey "sees civilization as so far removed from nature, its primal antecedent, that only 'grotesque' aberrations can aptly depict their relationship and, as he implies, possibly restore them to harmony and order."



More insight into Dickey's thinking can be found In *Conversations With Writers*, where Dickey said, "There could have been no more unpromising enterprise or means of earning a livelihood than that of being an American Poet." Dickey liked meter and rhythm. In *Buckdancer's Choice* (1965), he began using the split line and free verse forms for which he is known. Paul Zweig, in *The New York Times Review*, describes Dickey's style of writing as "like richly modulated hollers, a sort of rough, American style *bel canto* advertising its freedom from constraints of ordinary language." Nonetheless, in *Poets on Poetry*, Dickey admitted that he considered style subordinate to the spirit of poetry, the "individually imaginative" vision of the poet. In *Falling*, which is about an airline stewardess who has been swept out of the plane through an emergency door, he explores her thoughts as she falls to her death.

In 1981, Dickey was interviewed for *The Writers Yearbook*. He said in that interview "that poetry is, I think, the highest medium that mankind has ever come up with. It is language itself, which is a miraculous medium which makes everything else that man has ever done possible." Dickey died January 19, 1997.

#### FALLING

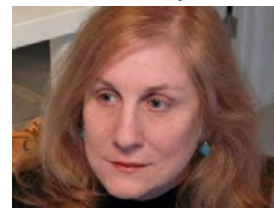
*A 29-year-old stewardess fell ... to her death tonight when she was swept through an emergency door that suddenly sprang open ... The body ... was found ... three hours after the accident.*  
—New York Times

The states when they black out and lie there rolling when they turn  
To something transcontinental move by drawing moonlight out of the great  
One-sided stone hung off the starboard wingtip some sleeper next to  
An engine is groaning for coffee and there is faintly coming in  
Somewhere the vast beast-whistle of space. In the galley with its racks  
Of trays she rummages for a blanket  
To keep reading:

[www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42716/falling-56d22155e5c45](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42716/falling-56d22155e5c45)

## Contests and Conferences

By Patricia Watson



### CONTESTS

#### **The ServiceScape Short Story Award 2020**

**Deadline:** November 29, 2020 PST

**Entry Fee:** Free

**Website:** [www.servicescape.com/short-story-award](http://www.servicescape.com/short-story-award)

**Prizes:** 1st Prize: \$1000.00 plus publication on the ServiceScape blog.

**Guidelines:** See website for complete guidelines. This contest is open to any writer. Authors must fill out a submission form at the website. Follow the listed instructions. Only one submission allowed per author. Short stories may be in any genre or theme, fiction or nonfiction, up to 5000 words. All work must be in English. The submitted work must be original and previously unpublished.

#### **Beartooth Anthony's Halloween Campfire Story Contest**

**Deadline:** October 23, 2020, midnight EST

**Entry Fee:** Free

**Website:** [beartoothanthony.com/beartooth-anthonys-halloween-campfire-story-contest/](http://beartoothanthony.com/beartooth-anthonys-halloween-campfire-story-contest/)

**Prizes:** 1st Prize: A Snowpeak 2.0 gigapower collapsible camp stove plus publication on the Beartooth Anthony website.

**Guidelines:** See website for complete guidelines. Beartooth Anthony celebrates the outdoors and camping. All submissions should be spooky and appropriate for all ages. No foul language or sexual content. Submit the work with an entry form from the website.

### WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

#### **Dodge Poetry Festival-Online**

**Location:** Online via Zoom, Broadcast from Morristown, NJ.

**Date:** Oct. 22 - Nov. 1, 2020, passes available at the website Sept. 25

**Website:** <https://www.dodgepoetry.org/>

**Cost:** Some readings may have a small fee.

**About:** Dodge Poetry Festival gathers poets and publishers from across the globe to celebrate and support poets & their work. This legendary poetry conference is online for the first time this year due to Covid restrictions.

#### **Digital Author and Indie Publishing Conference/Bootcamp Extreme Online**

**Location:** Online via Zoom, Conference from LA sponsored by Genre LA

**Date:** November 6-14, 2020

**Website:** <http://www.wcwriters.com/da/aboutregistration.html>

**Cost:** Depending on date of registration and package choice, \$349.00-\$499.00

**About:** Meet agents, publishers, industry professionals, and other writers in an intensive training and networking conference that covers every aspect of the writing profession. Individual pitch sessions by appointment are included in the registration fees. Both the Conference and Bootcamp are included in the fees.



## “Be Part of the Solution”

“He who sees the truth, let him proclaim it, without asking who is for it or who is against it.” — Henry George

Sometimes, people who were raised on the other side of the tracks than we were don’t understand what we mean when we refer to certain childhood experiences. Those who attended other churches may scoff at our beliefs. Children of Republicans and Democrats definitely grow up with opposing viewpoints. But, as adults, we *should* have a satisfactory common goal for our American way of life, regardless of Red or Blue.

There are those who don’t always agree with what I write, or just don’t understand what the heck I’m talking about. But I write anyway! We write from our own perspectives, and happily share with those who continue to listen; and we show respect to others who certainly have a right to disagree.

There were people who loved Paul McCartney’s song “Let it Be.” There were others who considered it sentimental Hippie hogwash. “Yeah, right! The Virgin Mary appeared to him in his sleep.” Actually, when McCartney felt deeply depressed, it was his hard working mother (named Mary) that he dreamt of 12 years after she died saying, “There will be an answer. Let it be.” He thought that meant: “Be gentle, don’t fight things, just try to go with the flow and it will all work out.” So he started writing a song: “When I find myself in times of trouble, mother Mary comes to me ... speaking words of wisdom. Let it be.”

Huh! Sounds like something we might consider these days in this beautiful country of ours; and I don’t mean waiting for a wonderful dream that will solve all our problems and cure all our ills. “When all the broken-hearted people living in the world agree, there will be an answer, let it be.”

I don’t expect that *all* of us will suddenly take the advice of the experts. I’m not saying that we should just “go with the flow” and hope it all turns out well. We might take courage, follow our hearts, and write about what we feel to be the common goal that we all seek. We can do it as commentary, drama, narrative, poetry or whatever style of communication we prefer, as long as we clearly express our personal ideas about peaceful, sensible resolutions.

Do you have really good suggestions that you can submit to people in a manner that most folks will stop and consider what you’re saying? Can you think of someone you can send it to? Would it do any good? Who knows?

Am I kidding myself? Do writers have any power in this regard?

Of course we do! If you think it will do any good, write from your heart. And vote from your heart.

**Be well,  
And vote!  
Jonathan**

## The Last Word

Christine Sleeter



### Table Talk

Zoom and Crowdcast have enabled us to enjoy our wonderful speakers and the delightful 5-minute readers. If the pandemic had hit ten years ago, we wouldn't have been able to carry on as well as we have.

But these platforms do not facilitate the one-on-one dialog about our writing that members also enjoy so much. So last month, CCW launched Table Talk on our webpage to promote conversation among members. I am thrilled to see that a few of you are beginning to use it.

So far Table Talk has facilitated the formation of a non-fiction writer's group. If any of you want to join, go to our website, hit the link on the right side for Table Talk, and dive into the conversation.

Members have also posted thoughts, suggestions, questions. Take a look! Reply to a post that is already there, or make a new post yourself. The Executive Committee recognizes that not everyone will gravitate toward this mode of communication, but we hope many of you will.

**Until next month,**  
**Christine**

## CCW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Sharon Law Tucker
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*Scribbles* is published by: Central Coast Writers,  
Post Office Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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