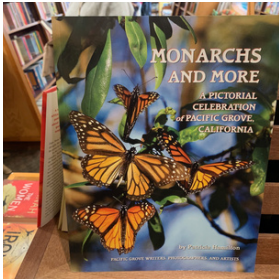


The Great Tide Pool

TALES OF PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA
by local award-winning author, [Brad Herzog](#)

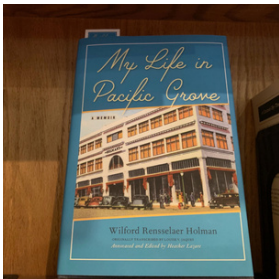


STEINBECK'S FOOTSTEPS

One of my favorite things about Pacific Grove - other than the coastal beauty, the small-town serenity, the sense of community, the spirit of generosity, the culinary diversity, and the occasional eccentricity - is the intellectual curiosity. I see it in the Friends of the Pacific Grove Library... and in the Central Coast Writers group that meets monthly in town... and, most adorably, in each Little Free Library that has sprouted up in many Pagrovians' front yards.

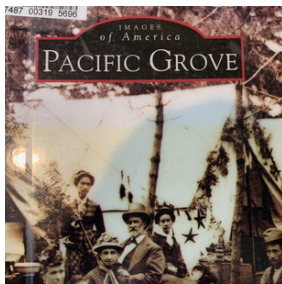


Intellectual curiosity, of course, is the whip that drives the writer. As I always say, it's fine to write what you know, but I often prefer to explore what I *don't* yet know. Writers, as observers of the human condition, treat the undiscovered as a call to adventure.

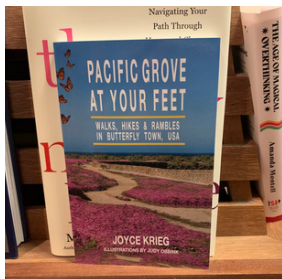


Of course, Pacific Grove's most famous resident was a fellow named John Steinbeck. I'm far from being the only writer who was drawn to a place celebrated by (arguably) America's finest author. But while I've authored several books about traveling through the nation's nooks and crannies, you could actually fill a shelf with books inspired by, set in or written about P.G.

A comprehensive collection called *Pacific Grove* (by Kent Seavey and the Heritage Society of P.G.) is a history in words and pictures. And Patricia Hamilton (publisher at Pacific Grove Books) has produced several tomes about this magical place, collecting hundreds of reminiscences and stories by Pagrovians (myself included) and frequent visitors. The first book is simply called *Life in Pacific Grove*. She followed that with Book 2 and then a third: *Monarchs*, a "pictorial and literary presentation of our town's intimate association" with those butterflies. Last year, she published another: *Monarchs and More*.



You can peruse P.G. in nearly every genre. A children's book? That would be *Welcome to Pacific Grove* (by author Joyce Krieg and illustrator Keith Larson) about a couple of monarchs exploring their winter home. Or how about famed Beverly Cleary's *Strider*, about a 14-year-old Pagrovian who rescues a dog. Or a 70-year old title by Eleanor Cameron called *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet*, its two explorers being natives of P.G.



A guidebook? Joyce Krieg also wrote *Pacific Grove at Your Feet* about various local "walks, hikes and rambles." A cookbook? How about *Tea Table* by Chef Karen Anne Murray. Drawings of all the local flora and fauna? That's Joy Colangelo's *The Illustrated Pacific Grove*. Poetry? Try *Here for the Present—Live from the Poet's Perch* by PG poet laureate Barbara Mossberg. History? About two-dozen authors and historians have examined Pacific Grove, some of them as early as 1922 (*The Holy City* by Julia Platt) and 1931 (*The Circle of Enchantment* by Augustus Carlos Jochmus).



If it's a memoir you're looking for, take your pick. *My Life in Pacific Grove* is an annotated collection of photos and facts about the life and times of the man who owned Holman's Department Store in perhaps the city's most storied building. PG's other most storied edifice is the subject of *Minnow: Tales of the Lighthouse* by Fred Sammis, a docent at Point Pinos Lighthouse. And *Pacific Grove 1974* by William Minor is an account of PG's hippie heyday.

There are even, dare I say, a couple of murder mystery set in this sanctuary by the sea: Jeffrey Whitmore's *A Quaint Town for a Killing* and Arlene Grace's *Murder in Pacific Grove*. Just fiction, I assure you.

So while poet Emily Dickinson once wrote, "There is no frigate like a book, to take us lands away," sometimes you don't need to trave so far. Sometimes, you can crack open a book and transport yourself right around the corner.

The Great
Tidepool

