



January 2023

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New Year Greetings



The Board of CWC Marin wish you a successful, book-filled 2023!

(L to R Susanna Solomon, Treasurer; Jean Gordon Kocienda, Newsletter Media Editor; Daniel Bacon, President; Joanne Orion Miller, Events Chair; Missing: Hannah Fliegel, Membership Chair).

The dark days of winter can be the loneliest *and* the most joyous time of year. The long nights have a tendency to color our thoughts like black ink dripped into clear water. Yet gathering with friends can evoke exquisite joy. Writers in particular spend long hours facing a lined notepad or blinking cursor and may experience these two extremes more than most. So, know this: you are not alone. Our Marin chapter of the California Writers Club is here to support you in multiple ways.

Our Sunday **coffee socials** have been a hit and we intend to keep them going. Typically, a dozen or more of us drink our favorite beverage and share our challenges and successes in a supportive outdoor atmosphere.

Our **monthly speakers** cover a wide range of topics useful to writers no matter the genre. If you have a particular topic that you want covered, please send us a note.

We will be holding our **first hybrid in-person/online meeting** in February in a special location. The Creekside Room in the Mill Valley Public Library has ample seating and large windows looking out at, what else, a grove of beautiful redwoods. This meeting will be FREE to all.

In March, I will be leading a **walking tour of literary San Francisco** along the Barbary Coast Trail. Further description of the tour can be found below. Suffice it to say that you will be transported back to a time when San Francisco attracted creative minds and turned them into literary icons.

Later this year we will again host **reading salons** where you can regale us with your work.

And finally, **let's make 2023 our best year ever**. Our membership is growing and you can keep the momentum going. Most writers know one or two other writers. If you do, encourage them to join and become part of our literary family.

Daniel Bacon
CWC Marin Chapter President
www.daniel-bacon.com
www.barbarycoasttrail.org



Podcasts as Platform: Making the Most of the Newest, Hottest Medium

Betsy Graziani Fasbinder

Wednesday, January 25, 6:00 - 7:30 pm PT via Zoom



Podcasting is a huge opportunity for writers, whether as host, listener, or featured guest. With hundreds of thousands of books published each year, it's hard for authors to get noticed. The fast-growing world of podcasting is a great way to gain visibility. Whether you want to create your own podcast, or you want to be a sought-after guest, podcasting is a great plank to add to your writer's platform.

Betsy Graziani Fasbinder is host of a bimonthly podcast, **The Morning Glory Project: Stories of Determination**. The MGP has featured more than 80 stories of determined survivors, thrivers, innovators, and trailblazers. It's her belief that in sharing these stories we empower one another to endure, to innovate, and to thrive.

Betsy's professional life is dedicated to telling or helping others tell their stories. She works as a developmental editor, writing coach, and public speaking coach. She is a licensed psychotherapist. She is award-winning author of the novel, *Fire & Water*, a memoir, *Filling Her Shoes*, and her public speaking how-to, *From Page to Stage: Inspiration, Tools, and Public Speaking Tips for Writers*.

Meetings: \$5 for CWC Members (any branch), \$10 Non-Members

Register today at cwcmarin.com/events

Registered guests will receive the Zoom link one week before and on the day of the event.



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CWC-Marin — Writing? Get Serious!

CWC Marin to Host February Event at Mill Valley Public Library

Assembling Character: A Key to Storytelling

A Conversation with Paul McHugh

Wednesday, Feb 22, 7:00 pm at Mill Valley Public Library

Join CWC Marin President Daniel Bacon for an in-person interview with former San Francisco Chronicle Outdoors reporter Paul McHugh.

Our most intriguing stories deal strongly in character. Our best plots hinge on character development. This truth extends through fiction, non-fiction and memoir. Thus, the grasp of a good method for visualizing and creating character can prove essential to crafting tales that manifest meaning while also moving readers. Achieving catharsis to any real degree depends upon it.

He has published poetry, four novels, and three non-fiction works including Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)'s Official Guide to Alcatraz. His newest novel, *Splinter* (a WWII adventure/romance set in Norway amid the Nazi occupation) will be released by Bronzeville Books in May.

The event will be open to the public, and will be free for all. Joining via Zoom will also be available for free. Registration links will be posted soon.



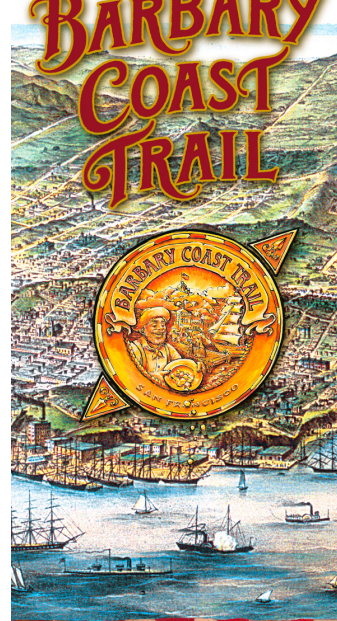
Coming in March:

CWC Marin Exclusive San Francisco Literary Walking Tour

Lace up your walking shoes for a literary adventure through San Francisco past and present.

In March, in place of our regular meeting, CWC Marin President Daniel Bacon will lead us along Gold Rush era streets and Chinatown alleys to places where literary icons drew inspiration. This 3- to 4-hour tour will start with a cable car ride from Aquatic Park Cove to Powell and Market, then walk 3.8 miles back to the starting point. Along the way, we'll see sites that inspired Dashiell Hammett, Mark Twain, Ina Coolbrith, Jack London, Allen Ginsberg, and a host of others. Daniel has been leading tours of the Barbary Coast Trail for over 20 years. His amusing tales and lively descriptions are a treat for those who love the City by the Bay.

Watch for more details next month and be sure to sign up as soon as we open registration because slots are limited. This is a special treat for CWC Marin, as Daniel doesn't lead many of these tours anymore and he will be adding special literary highlights just for us.



Act Fast for Free Passes to SF Writers' Summits

Here's another great benefit of California Writers Club membership.

The organizers of the San Francisco Writers Conference 2023 are offering CWC branches free passes to the upcoming Poetry and Writing for Hollywood Summits. Each of the 22 CWC branches will receive one pass each to these two summits. They are worth around \$250 each.

- **Writing for Hollywood Summit**, Friday, February 17, 2023, 9 a.m. (details here: <https://www.sfwriters.org/writing-hollywood-summit/>)
- **Poetry Summit**, Saturday, February 18, 2023, 9 a.m. (details here: <https://www.sfwriters.org/poetry-summit/>)
- Location: Hyatt Regency Embarcadero - San Francisco

CWC Marin is offering our allotted passes on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you want one, don't wait! Let us know ASAP at marin@cwcmarin.com. The deadline is Sunday, 29 January.



Member News

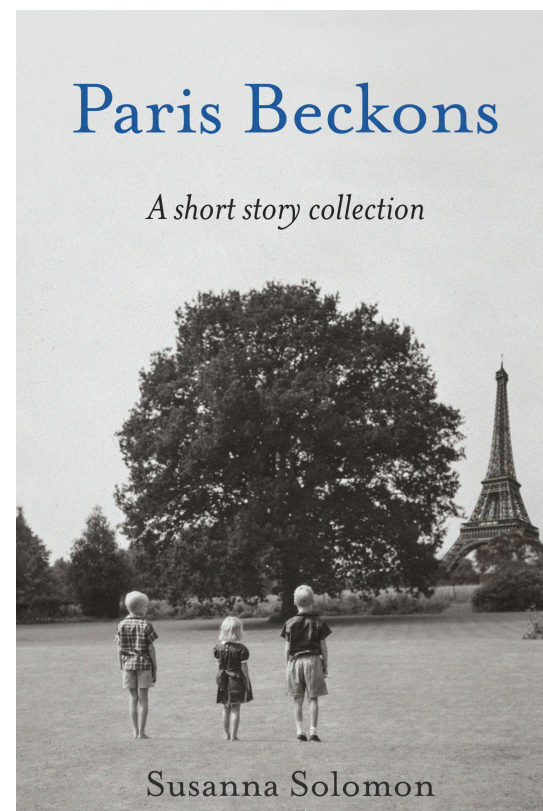
CWC Marin Loses a Member and Friend

Harry Stephen Deering, member and friend, passed away suddenly in December 2022. He had just published his first book, *The Leonowens Verandah*, and celebrated it with an event at Book Passage in Corte Madera in November. The event was crowded with friends, supporters, and family—including grandchildren in the front row. CWC Marin members were in attendance as well. Steve looked so happy and must have felt the love around him. He talked about his next project, which was to publish his travel journal from the early 70s, and indeed his family hope to honor that wish on his behalf.

We send our sincere sympathy to Steve's family and friends. Copies of his book are available at Book Passage and online ([Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Leonowens-Verandah-Harry-Stephen-Deering/dp/1661400000), [Barnes and Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/Leonowens-Verandah-Harry-Stephen-Deering/dp/1661400000), [Leaping Deer Books](https://www.leapingdeerbooks.com/Leonowens-Verandah-Harry-Stephen-Deering/dp/1661400000)).



Susanna Solomon's *Paris Beckons* is Out



CWC Marin Treasurer Susanna Solomon has just published her fourth book, *Paris Beckons*, a book of short stories.

Evocative and personal, heart-wrenching and illuminating, *Paris Beckons* showcases 34 stories revealing what lies beneath our deepest fears and memories. Poignant and for those with pasts that refuse to remain buried.

Left Coast Writers is hosting a book launch at **Book Passage** in Corte Madera on **Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 2 pm**. *Pâtisseries françaises* and wine will be served.

Come on out, socialize, eat, drink, network, check out the new book, and support a fellow CWC Marin member!

Member Mike Van Horn Co-Authors *Marketing Mastery*

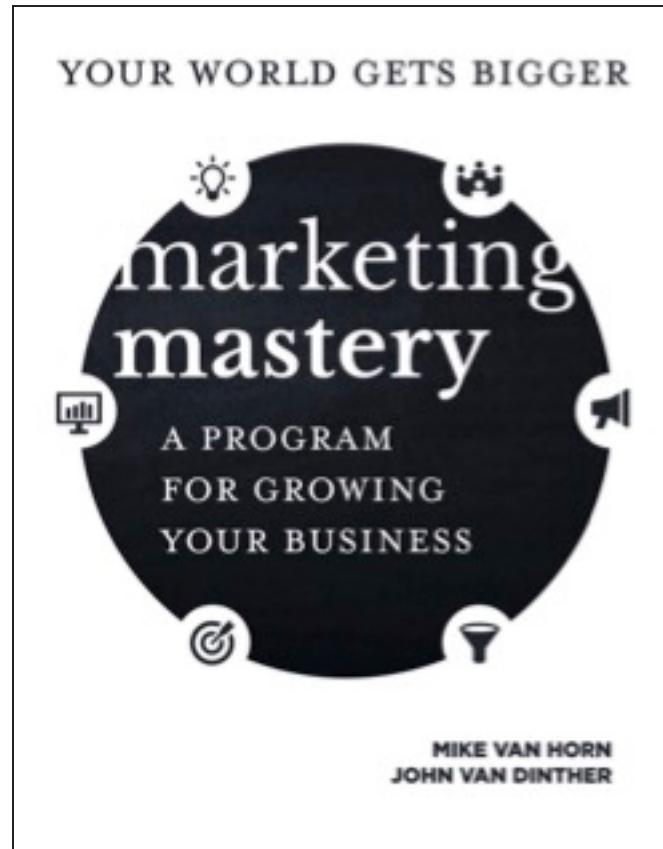
Marketing Mastery: A Program for Growing Your Business, just published, is co-authored by long-time CWC Marin member Mike Van Horn. He's known to us for his science fiction trilogy, but he has actually written many more biz books. This book is for companies that are beyond the start-up stage, but need their marketing to take them to the next level.

- Find your marketing pain points, and create a solution
- Get deep-dive guidance on social marketing platforms
- Tune your marketing to get the results you want
- Manage your marketing team so you don't have to do it all yourself.

Mike and co-author John Van Dinther have worked with hundreds of small businesses of all kinds and sizes, helping them get next-level results through better marketing.

"Once you master your marketing, your world gets bigger." That's their slogan.

Take a look at sample pages [here](#).



Are you launching a new book? Did you just get published, or get selected for an award? Send us info at marin@cwcmarin.com so we can brag about it in our newsletter!

First Coffee Social of the New Year

We now meet every third Sunday of the month for coffee and look forward to gathering in January with a renewed commitment to our book projects. This month we'll talk about our progress and goals for the year. It's a solid motivator, and it doesn't cost a thing.



When: Sunday, January 15th, 11:00 am
Where: Philz Coffee, Corte Madera Town Center
What if it rains? Cancel notice will be sent to the newsletter list
Questions? marin@cwcmarin.com

Don't miss the fun. Bundle up, grab a hot beverage, and join the discussion out on the patio. Non-members are welcome too. We love new faces!

Not a Member Yet? Join NOW for a Special Price

January is a great time to join CWC Marin, as we are offering a special Partial-Year Membership good through June 30, 2023 for \$42.50. Dual Membership (for those who already belong to another CWC branch) is \$25.00 and Students can join for \$10. Members get half-off our monthly events as well as other special benefits throughout the year. Join today at cwcmarin.com/join.

Volunteer With Us

Volunteering a few hours a month with CWC Marin is a great way to make friends and have fun, gain experience with online tools, and network with the writing and publishing community. It also helps us bring more great programs to our members and gives you a chance to steer CWC in the direction YOU think it should go. You don't need any special skills. If you'd like to know more, email us at marin@cwcmarin.com or ask about it at our monthly coffee social.

Selected Upcoming Events

Check links for advanced registration and details.

Be sure to check the CWC State Events Calendar at www.calwriters.org/events-month/ for a full list of affiliated events. The calendar includes every branch in the state so bookmark it for quick reference.

Book Passage bookstore in Corte Madera has events on almost a daily basis. Check out their lineup: <https://www.bookpassage.com/corte-madera-events>

Many CWC branches are moving back to in-person meetings, so read announcements carefully! Most are available to non-members as well as members, which means there are free or low-cost opportunities from CWC statewide as well as from authors directly and other organizations. **Our offerings are highlighted in red.** All times are Pacific time zone unless otherwise specified.

- **Thurs., Jan 5, 7:00-8:30 pm, Mill Valley Public Library (Online): Non-Fiction Writing Workshop.** This online workshop meets every first and third Thursday. Information and registration information [here](#).
- **Sat., Jan 7, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm, BAIPA (Online): Mary Dalrymple on Using Short Works.** \$20 for non-members. [Register here](#)
- **Sat., Jan 7, 1:00 pm San Fernando Valley (Online): The First Drafts Club**, with Angie Chapman, focused on beta reading and how to do it right. Go to www.cwc-sf.org for single lecture admission prices and membership information. Monthly Saturday meetings are free for members.
- **Sat., Jan 14, 11:00 am - 2 p.m., Mt Diablo (In-Person): The Magic of Storytelling Through the Art of Screenplay**, with Paul Zeitman, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. For more information, check the [Mt Diablo website](#)
- **Sat., Jan 14, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm, Berkeley (In-Person): Monthly Write-In.** Takes place second Saturday of every month, at the Oakland Museum of California. Free. For information, see the [Facebook page here](#).
- **Wed., Jan 25, 7:30 - 8:00 pm, Marin (Online): Podcasts as Platform**, with Betsy Graziani Fasbinder. Make the most of this hot new medium. \$5 for Members, \$10 for Non-Members. [Register here](#).
- **Sat., Feb 11, 2:00 pm, Left Coast Writers: "Paris Beckons" book launch**, with CWC Marin member Susanna Solomon. Patisseries françaises and wine will be served!
- **Wed., Feb 22, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Marin (In-Person and Online): Assembling Character: A Key to Storytelling, Conversation with Paul McHugh**, Mill Valley Public Library or via Zoom. Free for all. Registration information coming soon.