



August 2022

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President's Message

What Inspires You?

When a group of us sat in a circle at the June Coffee Social and addressed the question, "What event or situation has inspired your writing?" the answers were as varied as a Benjamin-Moore color palette. One writer of Armenian heritage said she felt driven by an almost religious fervor to write the tragic-triumphant saga of her ancestors. Another who lived for many years in Alaska wanted to tell a tale set in the wilds of its dramatic outback where caribou and wolves outnumber humans. A poet among us sighed dreamily that inspiration came to her sometimes from out of the blue, sometimes from deep within, and nearly always when least expected. Another writer has admirably trained herself to sit at her computer and remain there until she produces 2,500 words of prose, no matter how she feels.



A trio of wild turkeys strutting around my neighborhood proved to be the spark for my second novel. For months these long-necked, stiff-legged creatures waylaid cars like bandits of old, slowing traffic better than any pothole or speed bump. Little did they know, they would play a pivotal role in a story of descension and redemption.

Of course, as the old saying goes, great work comes from 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Yet that 1% inspiration gives us the fuel (along with caffeine) to expend the other 99%.

What's your inspiration? We'd like to know. Really. And if you want to share it with us, drop us an email and we'll put it in a future newsletter.

This month we have another **Summer Salon on August 16th**. All are welcome, whether you intend to read some of your work or just nibble on tasty snacks while being entertained with a bevy of other writers.

Daniel Bacon
CWC Marin Chapter President
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Join us for Summer Salon Open Mic Night

Don't miss our last Summer Salon Open Mic Night of 2022. Participants will have the floor for a few minutes each. You can read an excerpt, practice your pitch, ask a question, or share a writing insight. The first ten to respond will be guaranteed an opportunity to share.



Summer Salons are fun and a great way to try out your ideas on a forgiving audience and make new friends. We hope to see you there.

When: Tues, August 16th @ 7:00 pm
Where: Register for details (San Rafael area)
Register: cwcmarin.com/events

Free for CWC members and non-members.
Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.
Again, please be vaccinated and feeling well.



Chapter News

Tell Us What You Think

For our October meeting, we are planning an online panel discussion featuring CWC Marin members talking about their experiences in either Writing Craft, Publishing, or Marketing. If you have knowledge to share or know which CWC Marin member we should recruit to participate, please shoot us an email at marin@cwcmarin.com or let us know by filling out our [3-Minute Membership Survey](#).

Thank you to those of you who have already responded! We really appreciate the feedback. For the rest of you -- Consider filling out this three-minute survey. It will help us better understand what you write, why you belong to CWC Marin, and what kinds of events will be most valuable.

[CWC Marin 3-Minute Questionnaire](#)

Answers will remain confidential.

Interested in meeting other members in person?

Some members have expressed an interest in getting together. Some would like to organize a critique group, others are looking for beta readers. If you're interested in adding your name to our list of members who'd like to get more involved, let us know at marin@cwcmarin.com. We'll collect emails from interested people and only share them with others who are like-minded.

Time to Renew Your Membership

By now, members should have received a renewal email. Thank you to those of you who have already crossed this off their to-do list. Your support makes our many networking activities and presentations possible. As the pandemic ends we hope to thank you in person.

For those who haven't renewed yet, don't procrastinate! **After September 30th, returning members lose their member status and have to start over with a new member fee** of \$20 in addition to the basic renewal fee of \$45. These fees are set by the California Writers Club, not by the Marin Branch.

If you aren't a member yet, what's stopping you? Join today at cwcmarin.com/join.

We Need A Space

As we get ready to return to in-person meetings, we are looking for a new meeting space. Some of you will remember meeting previously at the Book Passages bookstore in Corte Madera, but that is no longer an option. We need a room that is free (or cheap), easily accessible, and can hold 20-30 people. Got ideas? You know where to find us: marin@cwcmarin.com.

Monthly Coffee Social

Join our monthly coffee chats! We are getting to know each other, sharing progress on our projects, and asking for advice on everything from illustrations to book titles. These are small, informal gatherings -- no registration or RSVP necessary. They are open to members and non-members alike. We hope you'll join us for the next one:



When: Sunday, August 21st, 2:00 pm
Where: Philz Coffee, Corte Madera Town Center

Questions? Email us at marin@cwcmarin.com

Please be vaccinated and feeling well. We sit outside.

Upcoming Events

Check links for advanced registration and details.

Keep on top of latest events with the new CWC State Events Calendar at www.calwriters.org/events-month/. The calendar includes every branch in the state so bookmark it for quick reference.

All CWC meetings are now being held on Zoom unless specified otherwise. Most are available to non-members as well as members, which means there are more 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. Let us know if you want us to include an upcoming event that you think we should know about.

- **Thurs., Aug 4**, 10 am, **Research Agents and Publishers Like a Pro, with Jane Friedman**. Online event. \$25 fee. Register at www.janefriedman.com.
- **Mon., Aug 8**, 7 pm, **South Bay Writers: Series and Series Identity in Popular Fiction: Why to Consider Writing a Series with Ross Browne**. southbaywriters.com
- **Tues., Aug 16**, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, **Summer Salon: In-Person Open Mic** social event. Register at cwcmarin.com/events/.
- **Thurs., Aug 18**, 10:00 am, **I Need a Platform, Pronto!** with Jane Friedman. Online event. \$25 fee. Register at www.janefriedman.com.
- **Sat., Aug 20**, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, **SF Peninsula (hybrid): Birth Your Truest Story...By Nurturing Your Most Tender Voice**, in-person at Redwood City Yacht Club or by Zoom. Register [here](#).
- **Sat., Aug 20**, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm, **Redwood Writers: Freud, Not Frankenstein**. Register www.redwoodwriters.org
- **Sun., Aug 21**, 2:00 pm, **Marin CWC Coffee Social** at Philz Corte Madera Town Center, outdoors on the patio. Free, no registration necessary.
- **Sun., Aug 21**, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, **Mendocino: Spotlight on Poets** (via Zoom). Interview with four poets who describe their techniques. Information [here](#).
- **Mon, Aug 29 - Fri., Sept 2**, **Science Fiction Writers' Week**, free week-long online 'summit'. More info at <https://prowritingaid.com/sci-fi-week/sign-up>.
- **Wed., Sept 28**, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, **Marin: Book Mapping: Be Your Own Developmental Editor, with Tobin Doyle**. Registration and more information [here](#).
- **Weekly, Gotham Writers' Inside Writing**; Free Series. See listing for schedule at [Gotham Writers Free Events Schedule](#).