



December 2022

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President's Message

Left Brain, Write Brain

Writing requires us to use our right (creative/imaginative) brain in equal measure with our left (rational/logical) brain. The right side conjures stories and images. The left side strives to mold them into a masterwork that shines.

So how to manage these two, often conflicting sides? For most writers, especially poets and fictionists, the two sides work best when separated. Think of them as twins who squabble over a toy and must be relegated to different rooms. The creative storyteller needs the space to enter a hypnotic flow of imagination without the intervention of Judge Judy. The fastidious editor must have the leeway to rearrange the rhetoric/plot/characters into a cohesive arc. Every writer eventually develops a technique that works for them. Before I tell you mine, I want to share a quote:

Writing = delivering stones to the site
Editing = putting them in the right place

This succinctly reveals the writer-editor as two separate but dependent skills. It makes no sense for the editor to shift the rocks around before they know the architecture of the building, and the writer shouldn't be pestered by an over-eager kibitzer.

Legible copy used to require ink, quill, inkpot, and intense concentration in a slow, laborious endeavor. No rearranging copy on the fly. And this allowed the creative brain time to wonder and ponder. With that in mind, I wrote the first draft of my latest novel by hand. Being half pantser, half plotter, I knew the scope of my novel before I set out. Then, with an Energizer pen in hand, I scribbled the entire first draft before turning the editor loose.

How do you keep the writer-editor separate? Drop us a short note (approx. 25 words) and we'll put it in a future issue.

Happy Holidays and Happy Writing!



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

Don't Miss the Holiday Party!

CWC Marin President **Daniel Bacon** welcomes Members* and 1 guest each to his home for a year-end celebration. Feel free to bring promotional materials or copies of your book to show off.

This year's party will be extra special. You really won't want to miss it. CWC Marin member **Joanne Orion Miller**, a culinary school graduate, is making the hors d'oeuvres by hand. It's FREE! Just BYOB.

Our host Daniel can only accommodate **30 guests, so RSVP NOW while there are spaces left. Also, please note the strict COVID policy below.**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022
6:30 - 8:30 PM
NO CHARGE
BYOB

Menu

Swedish meatballs in red sauce;
2 types of Quesadillas (spicy and mild (vegan, gluten free);
Chic'n poppers with 2 sauces (vegan, gluten free);
Mini-brownie cakes with marshmallow centers;
Orange olive oil cake (gluten free);
Fruit and cheese.
Hot cider

Bon Appetit!

* Each Member may bring one guest; please be sure to specify on the [RSVP form](#) so we can keep an accurate count.

COVID policy: If the weather cooperates, we will be **outside** on Daniel's beautiful patio with views of the valley. He will have heat lamps to keep us warm. If it rains, we will go indoors. **REGARDLESS, all guests MUST bring evidence of a negative COVID test** taken the day of the party. No exceptions, sorry!

RSVP now by clicking here, don't wait!



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!



Member News

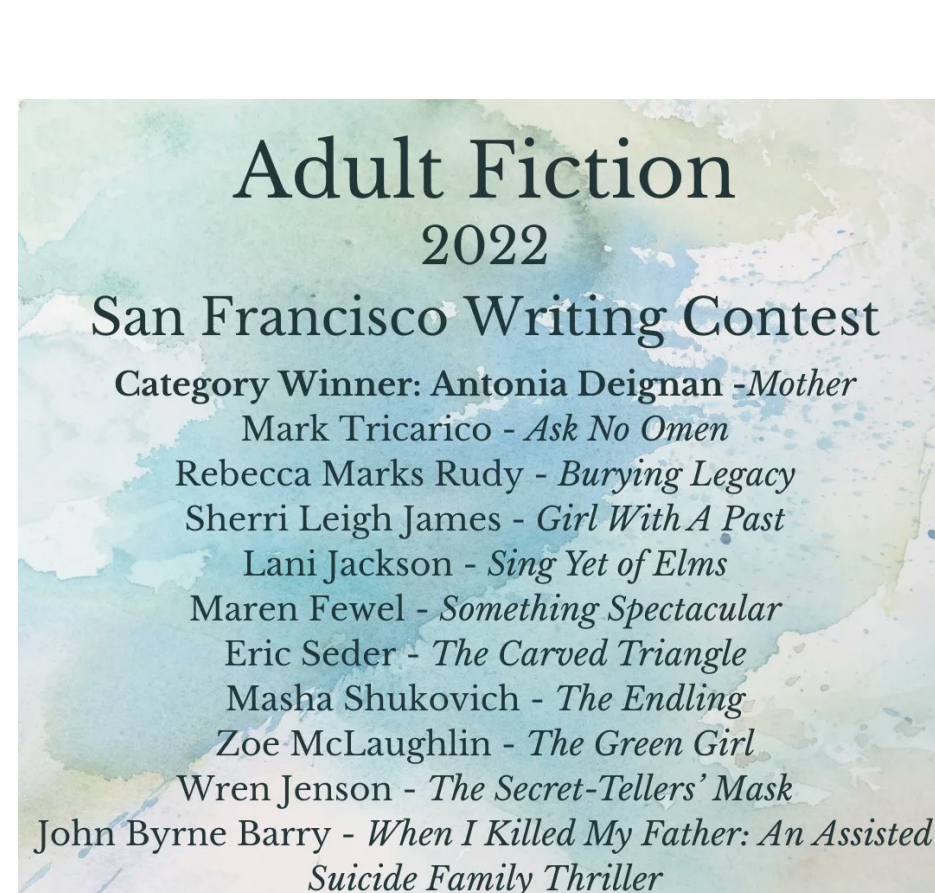
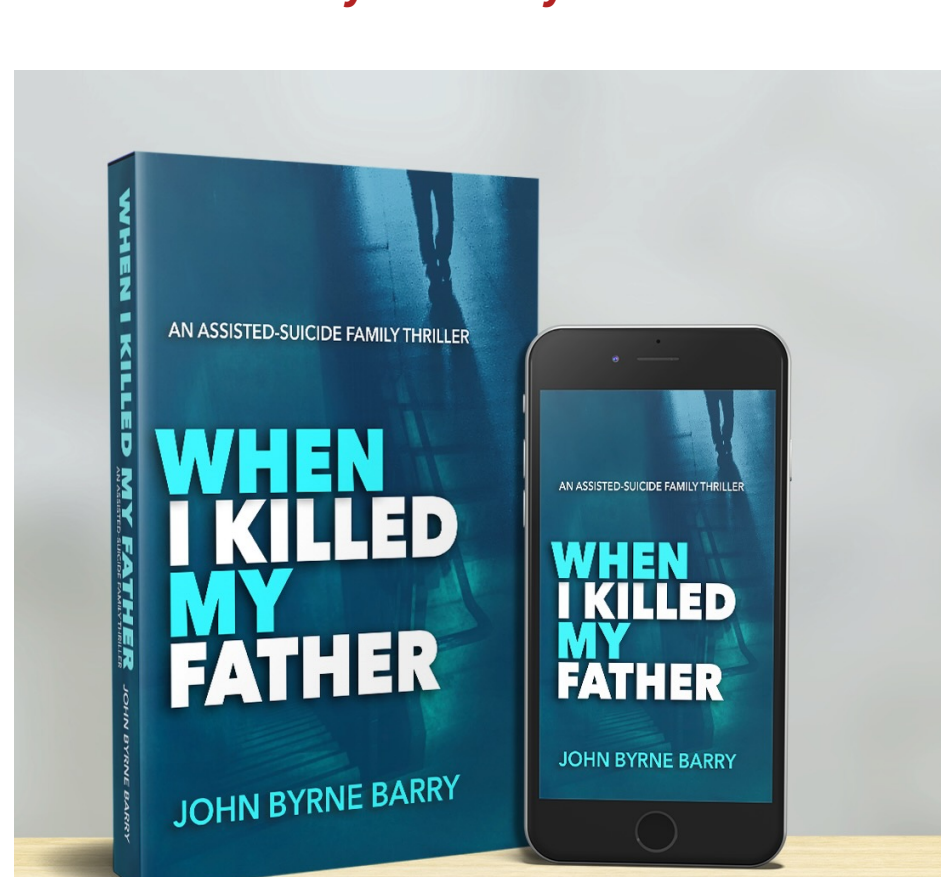
Lookin' Good, CWC Marin!

2022 was a good year for CWC Marin. Since the year began, we have more members (54), more money in the bank (approx. \$5,000), and more Board members (5, although we can always use more) than we've had in a long, long time. Kudos to us and thanks for your support!

FREE Barbary Coast Trail Guide for New Members

In our quest to continue building our writing community, we are offering a **FREE** copy of CWC President Daniel Bacon's **Barbary Coast Trail Official Guide** to new members (and to members who bring in a new member). This 32-page, full color guide to historic San Francisco sells for \$9.95 (\$11.95 on Amazon) and will provide you and your friends with a wonderful experience walking down Gold Rush era streets and Chinatown alleys through San Francisco past and present. It makes a great stocking stuffer, folks!

Member John Byrne Barry is a Finalist



CWC-Marin member John Byrne Barry is one of twelve finalists in the **San Francisco Writers Conference 2022 Writing Contest** in Adult Fiction, for his novel *When I Killed My Father - An Assisted Suicide Family Thriller*.

Winners will be announced by November 30, 2022, just as this newsletter goes to press. By the time you read this, John may have won!

You can read the first three chapters [here](#).

Member Carrie Sumrall is getting published

CWC Marin Member Carrie Sumrall's short story "Dinner with Drea" has been accepted by online magazine **The Horror Tree**. "Dinner with Drea" is about the danger of underestimating old acquaintances. When it posts, we'll include a link in the newsletter for you fans of scary stories!

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!

No Coffee Social in December - See You in January!

We're meeting every third Sunday of the month for coffee now. Let's take off the month of December and come back in January with a renewed commitment to our book projects. Telling fellow writers about our progress and goals for the year can be 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!

Call for Writing Companions

One of our members would like to invite a small group of (up to 4) like-minded writers to meet once or twice a week at her house for 3-hour writing sessions. Sitting together for a set time to write can be a great way to focus, get feedback, and push toward personal goals. Location is between Marin and Russian River, or in the Guerneville area.

We can connect you! Email us at marin@cwcmarin.com.

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.

- **Sat., Dec 3, 11:00 am, BAIPA (Online): Book Cover Design with David Kudler.** Register at <https://baipa.org/ee-events/book-cover-design-david-kudler-2022/> where there is also information about the annual BAIPA Book Cover Contest.
- **Sat., Dec 10, 12:00 - 2:00 pm, San Joaquin (Online): Highlights on Marketing from the '20Booksto50K' Conference** with Terry Wells-Brown and June Gillam. Free. For the link, [sign up for the Branch mailing list](#).
- **Sat., Dec 10, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, Indie Author Day, San Rafael Public Library.** Authors featured at this event have already been selected, but the Library invites you to donate a copy of your work to their Local Authors collection. Email library@cityofsanrafael.org for more information. publiclibrary.org
- **Tues., Dec 13, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, CWC Marin Holiday Party** (In-Person). BYOB, Members only. Register at cwcmarin.com/events for location. 30-person limit! Proof of same-day negative COVID test required.
- **Thurs., Dec 15, 7 pm, The Marin Poetry Center Presents Anthony Cody and Mai Der Vang.** Mill Valley Public Library Creekside Room (In-Person). Registration required. To register, visit millvalleylibrary.org or call (415) 389-4292 x2.
- **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. Go to www.cwc-sfv.org for single lecture admission prices and membership information. Monthly Saturday meetings are free for members.
- **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](#).