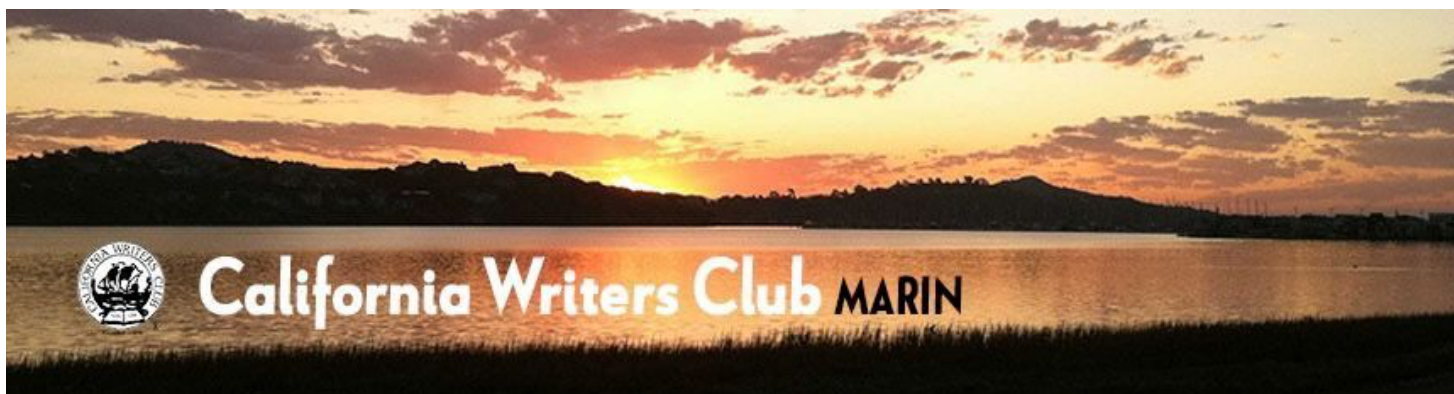




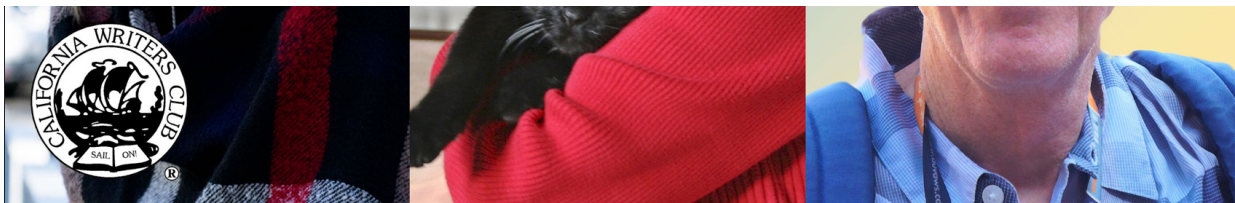
June 2025

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CWC Marin Author Meet-and-Greet at Copperfield's Saturday, June 7, 11 am - 2 pm





Next Saturday, June 7th, three CWC Marin writers will showcase their books at Copperfield's Books in Larkspur (Marin Country Mart, 2419 Larkspur Landing Circle) from 11 am to 2 pm.

If you attend, you'll get **copious amounts of chocolate, a few delightful balloons, and a FREE Barbary Coast Trail audio guide** (\$10 value), which features period music, sound effects, and historical reenactments.

You'll also have the opportunity to talk with **Gini Grossenbacher** about how she transports readers to a different place and time or to **Daniel Bacon** about where in SF to find the oldest Chinese temple in America, or to **Rosie Sorenson** about how to keep a loved one safe in the hospital.

Your presence will not only support our CWC writers, it will also help ensure that Copperfield's will continue to offer CWC members a space to sell our books.

A Farmers' Market is scheduled that day, so before you come by for your intellectual stimulation, you may want to pick up a basket of fresh strawberries to share.

See you there!

This Month

California Writers Club of Marin presents

"Copyright Detective" Dan Miller
on the

Pros and Cons of AI for Writers



Wed, June 11, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 pm PT

Online (Zoom)



Pros and Cons of AI for Writers
with "Copyright Detective" Dan Miller

Wednesday, June 11

5:30 - 7:30 pm PT

Online (Zoom)

CWC Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

[REGISTER HERE](#)

In a world increasingly shaped by AI-driven innovation, how do authors navigate the complexities of copyright law? This presentation explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and intellectual property, addressing pressing questions about authorship, ownership, and accountability.

CWC Marin President Jean Gordon Kocienda will set the stage with a basic “**AI for Dummies**”-style demo of tools such as Chat GPT and Canva, generating a short story, a query letter, artwork, and a bio in a matter of minutes.

Next, Dan will examine the ethical issues and legal challenges AI brings to writers and artists. Plenty of time will be left for Q&A as we discuss strategies you can put to work in this rapidly evolving landscape.

Dr. C. Daniel Miller is a co-founder and co-owner of Integrated Writer Services, LLC, which provides copyright consulting and clearance service. He formerly served as president of the Collective of Independent Publishers and Authors (CIPA), previously known as the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. Dr. Miller regularly speaks and conducts workshops on “Copyright Basics” and “Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.” These presentations are designed for authors, independent publishers, and other creative professionals.

In addition to his consulting work, Dr. Miller is working on a second edition of the award-winning Copyright Clearance for Creatives, which serves as a guide to copyright issues for the creative community. The new edition will include a section on copyright and artificial intelligence (AI). Through his various roles, Dr. Miller contributes to the copyright literacy of individuals needed to help them ethically create and use copyrighted materials in the digital age.

<https://thecopyrightdetective.com>

(Disclaimer: Dr. Miller’s bio was created using an AI platform.)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Don't Miss The Fun





Open Mic Mixers

July 13 & August 17 (Sundays)

Members Only

Summer Salon Open Mic parties are a CWC Marin tradition! They're a great opportunity to meet fellow writers and test out your writing on a supportive audience. You don't want to miss out. Both events are Members Only this year, so be sure to renew your membership early to lock in your speaking slot. If you aren't a Member yet, what's holding you back? [Join today](#).

July 13 (Sun) 4:00 - 6:00 pm: Sign up now. The July event will take place at the beautiful Mill Valley home of a fellow writer and CWC Marin Member. Renew your membership early to ensure your place on the speaker's list (first ten renewing members are guaranteed a slot). [REGISTER HERE](#)

August 17 (Sun) 5:00 - 7:00 pm: Our second Summer Salon will take place at the San Rafael home of another gracious Member. We will open registration for this event once the July date fills up. Everyone is welcome to attend and read at both events, but priority will be given in August to those who didn't get a chance to read in July.

Coffee Social Serendipity

A few Sundays ago I was at a festival in Santa Rosa when I got a text from a Member (and friend) saying that the coffee social was underway at Book Passage but no one was there to lead it. After a few frantic texts, I learned that our volunteer leader had been delayed.

A few panicked minutes later, my friend texted again to say that all was well -- the leader had arrived, and in the meantime, the attendees at the coffee social had introduced themselves and started a discussion. They ran with it.

Sometimes, serendipity comes from snafu. Thank you to those who helped make the May coffee social work and please do feel empowered to take the reins when it's needed. This is what we're all about: *writers helping writers*.

And while I'm on the topic -- we do need more help running the club. Here's a role to consider: Ambassador. This would be someone who follows up with new members, makes them feel welcome, and connects them to the right resources. This person might also visit local bookstores and libraries to help build relationships. This person might also help us bring in younger and more diverse voices to the group. Does that sound like you? Email me at marin@cwcmarin.com.



Now, back to that manuscript!

- Jean Gordon Kocienda
President, CWC Marin
www.jeangordonkocienda.com



Flash Fiction Contest Opens Today

FLASH FICTION CONTEST

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB, MARIN

OPEN TO ALL CWC MEMBERS STATEWIDE



500-1000 WORD STORIES

\$10.00 ENTRY FEE

THEME: LEFT BEHIND

Opens: June 1, 2025

Closes: Midnight, September 1, 2025

INFORMATION LINK

BRAGGING RIGHTS:

- **WINNERS PUBLISHED ON CWC WEBSITE**
- **NAME AND STORY TITLE OF ALL FINALISTS ON CWC WEBSITE**
- **FRAMED CERTIFICATE TO FINALISTS**

We are pleased to announce our judges -- all of whom are writing professionals outside of CWC Marin branch. Terry Tierney, Ph.D., Jeanne Powell, and Shirin Yim Leos can't wait to see your flash fiction creativity. Submissions are welcome starting today, June 1st.

More details and submission link here: <https://cwcmarin.com/contest/>

Introducing Auto-Renewal

The CWC Membership renewal season begins on July 1, meaning that current memberships end on June 30th. This year we are piloting a new option, meant to make life easier for everyone.

In addition to the familiar One-Time Membership Renewal button on our website, you'll see a new one. The MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL will automatically renew your Membership on July 1st each year until you cancel. This way, we don't have to chase you down with reminders and you don't have to go through the whole renewal. Don't worry, we'll remind you next June before the renewal happens, and you can cancel anytime through your own PayPal account or by sending us an email.

You can also choose to stick with the one-time renewal option. We will send you more reminders in July, but you can renew now if you want to tick that off your to-do list.

Let us know what you think of the new system and bear with us as we work out any kinks.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

NEW MEMBERSHIP \$65 Membership year: July 1st to June 30th Includes \$20 initiation fee Initiation: Dec thru May, use Partial-Year Membership (below) JOIN US	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL \$45 ✓ Automatically charges your card \$45 yearly on July 1. ✓ Cancel anytime. ✓ This option available for current members only. RENEW NOW	ONE-TIME MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL \$45 ✓ Renews membership through July 1, 2026. ✓ This rate available for current Members only. ✓ Choose this to opt out of auto-renewal RENEW NOW
PARTIAL-YEAR NEW MEMBERSHIP \$42.50	DUAL MEMBERSHIP \$25	STUDENT MEMBERSHIP \$15

Writers' Night Out

Don't miss Molly!

MAC's at 19 Broadway
19 Broadway, Fairfax
SECOND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH!

June's featured speaker is...
Molly Giles
Award-winning Author,
Editor, and Teacher



OPEN MIC NIGHT

**Writers' Night Out invites you to Read Your Prose
in front of a supportive and fun audience**

Tuesday June 10th
6 - 8pm

Sign-ups to read open at 5:30pm • Readings limited to 5 minutes • Prose preferred



Summer Writing & Critique Group

Free!

Hey all you CWC Marin Members,



San Rafael Writers & Artists Gini's Manuscript Critique Group Dates (Zoom Meetings):
2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm, June 11, 25, July 9, 23, August 13, 27.

Participants write together for thirty minutes, read for five minutes; the group provides guided positive feedback and suggestions for improvement. Come to listen, read, and learn your craft. Sign up for one; sign up for all. Filling now.

Please contact Gini through her website: <https://ginigrossenbacher.com>

June Coffee Social



Sunday, June 15, 11 am - noon

Book Passage Corte Madera courtyard

Dress for the weather -- that means a hat and sunscreen in the summer months!

Newcomers and old friends always welcome.

Bring questions or a paragraph if you'd like to share. This is meant to be an informal discussion among local authors about craft, publishing and marketing, so please hold any promotional announcements to the end of the hour.

Member News

SHOUT OUTS!



Sheri T. Joseph is racking up the bling! She won the [IBPA 2025 Gold Award for Best New Voice](#) for her novel, "Edge of the Known World" last month.

Rosie Sorenson's book, "If You'd Only Listen: A Medical Memoir of Gaslighting, Grit & Grace" was recently featured as a [Spotlight in the Publishers Weekly magazine](#), BookLife. Her story "You Can't Judge a Cat by His Cover," appears in the new Chicken Soup for the Soul: What I Learned from My Cat.

Colleen Dolan, author of [Ghost Ship Fire](#), participated in last month's annual Author's Launch, hosted by Redwood Writers, the largest branch of the California Writers Club. The Author's Launch honors CWC members who have published a book in that year. The event was held at the Finley Community Center in Santa Rosa. All

genres were represented.

Mike Van Horn was featured in [The Author's Lounge with O'Cyrus](#) podcast. He talked about lessons learned from his prolific writing career, which includes authoring over twenty books on everything from small business management to science fiction. You can watch and listen to it [here](#). Also last month, his article "[Uploading Your Book to Ingram Spark](#)" was picked up by the Bay Area Independent Book Publisher's Association (BAIPA).

Valerie Saul was featured by the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) in a [Member Interview](#) which appeared in their newsletter and [on their website](#).

Mitch Rossi is signing copies of his novel [Sea of Betrayal](#) at the Bay Area Book Festival this weekend.

Jean Gordon Kocienda is finalizing the cover design for her historical novel [Girl In a Box](#), to be published by Sibylline Press in April 2026. *Girl in a Box* tells the story of Japanese tanka poet Yosano Akiko.

Have you achieved a writing goal? Even if it's as small as 'visited LA for book research' or 'finished my first draft', we want to hear and celebrate with you. Send us a four-line update (approximately 50–75 words) highlighting your news by the 21st of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Email your submission to [\[gjinis.writers1@gmail.com\]](mailto:gjinis.writers1@gmail.com) with subject line: "CWC Marin Shout Outs Submission".



From the CWC Marin Blog

AI: How I went from Naysayer to Yaysayer in Four Months

- By Robin Cohn

Like many of you, I've been dubious about using artificial intelligence (AI), especially for fiction. I felt that avoiding AI was the morally right thing to do since the big players in the AI field committed the original sin of using practically every writer's work without their permission to train their "robots." And if AI companies used everything on the internet to train their products, what's to say they won't steal your writing if they get a whiff of it?

Then there's the whole issue of getting your work published. If I used AI just to help me write an article (not actually write the whole thing without hardly touching my keyboard), then won't publishers reject my work?

And what about the stigma? I didn't want anyone to think I was a lazy hack who needed a bot to write for me.

I didn't think using AI for research was any better. I'd heard AI makes up stuff half the time and is otherwise unreliable. In

January, I gave ChatGPT a try, the most well-known “language model” as they’re called, for finding book comps. It provided a list of twelve made-up author and title names. I was right! AI was crap.

Then, one of our CWC members recommended another language model for editing. [CONTINUE READING...](#)

About Robin Cohn: I aspired to be a feminist theologian, an archaeologist, and a writer. Voila! Writing historical fiction about the ancient women of the Bible ticked all the boxes. My writing explores the idea that many ancient women wielded more power and influence than is often recognized. By utilizing the tools of modern research, I’ve been able to reconstruct the stories of these brave, wise, and sometimes treacherous biblical characters.

I’m a transplant from Seattle, and I’ve made myself at home here by running every trail and street in San Francisco and the entire county of Marin. I live in Sausalito.

<https://robincohn.net>



SUBMIT YOUR POST FOR CONSIDERATION. Our Blog Master Michael Coffino is accepting blog submissions now from CWC Marin Members! This is a great opportunity to get your writing published online. Submission criteria are [on the blog page](#) (scroll to the bottom).

Submission Support Group Starting Up

Hosted by CWC Berkeley

In the Submission Support Group, we’ll share our knowledge and experience gained by wading through the seas of “Thanks, but no thanks,” and equip you with the tools you need to succeed. The group will be genre-agnostic: writers of fiction, nonfiction (creative or otherwise), and poetry will all be supported, of any length, for any kind of market (journals, anthologies, websites, publishers, etc). The aim is to be helpful for both seasoned submitters and those who have never submitted before.

Moderated by Chase Anderson, the group will meet on the fourth Sunday of every month from 1:00 - 2:00 PM on Zoom. For further questions, you can contact Chase Anderson: contact@chasej.xyz

Register to attend the Zoom event.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkceChrD8jHdNGdDmjx-tl1CnF7Y8EPaDa>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Upcoming Events

This is just a sampler of things going on in our area and online. Be sure to check our fellow CWC branch websites (<https://calwriters.org/cwcbranches/>). Some events come up too quickly for this monthly newsletter, so **follow us on Facebook** as well. We appreciate your tips! If you know of upcoming events that fellow members might enjoy, please let us know at marin@cwcmarin.com.

CWC Marin offerings are highlighted in red. All times are Pacific zone unless otherwise specified.

Sun, June 1, Bay Area Book Festival, Downtown Berkeley. Last day of the festival is today, and the schedule is chock full of workshops. Walk around the outdoor book fair. [Check out the details here.](#)

Fri, June 6, 5:30 pm, Pride Book Talk with Jana Barkin, author of *A Grand Love: Stories for Grandparents of Transgender Grandchildren*, Sausalito Library, [details here.](#)

Wed, June 4, 11 and 28, 4:00 - 5:30 pm, Wright Place, Write Time – Civic Center Library. “Join us at the Civic Center Library to write, read, and learn from each other. We will have a selected reading from a group member for constructive feedback starting at 4:00 followed by craft discussion.” [Information here.](#)

Sat, June 7, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Local Authors Meet-and-Greet, featuring Rosie Sorenson, Daniel Bacon, and Gini Grossenbacher, at **Copperfields** Books in Larkspur. Come support our members and local booksellers! [Details here.](#)

Sun, June 8, 12:00 pm PT, Beat the Bots: How Writers Thrive in the Age of AI. Free webinar organized by Jane Friedman; will be recorded. [Register here.](#)

Tues., June 10, 6:00 pm, She Writes Press Panel: Storytelling as a Path to Resilience and Self-Expression, Book Passage, Corte Madera. [Details here.](#)

Wed., June 11, 5:30 - 7:30 pm PT, Pros and Cons of AI for Writers with Copyright Detective Dan Miller. Kicks off with an "AI for Dummies" demo by **CWC Marin President Jean Gordon Kocienda**. What you need to know about protecting your ideas and protecting yourself when you use AI to help you write. Online (Zoom). [Register here.](#)

Sat, July 12, 12:30 - 1:30 pm, The Art of Brevity, with Grant Faulkner, co-founder of 100-Word Story. A flash fiction workshop at the Mill Valley Public Library. [Register here.](#)

Tues, Jun 24, 11:00 am, Database Deep Dive: BookBrowse and Novelist – Mill Valley Library - “Curious about the library's databases but not sure where to start? Want to learn to research like a librarian?” [Details here.](#)

Mon, Jun 30, 6:00 pm, Abraham Verghese, author of *The Covenant of Water* – Book Passage, Corte Madera. \$26 ticket includes signed book and photo op. [Details here.](#)

Marin Poetry Center Traveling Show: Poetry readings throughout the month in locations around Marin. [Check out the schedule here.](#)



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