California Writers Club MARIN

July 2025

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Don's Miss The Fun

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. Now, there's a reason to mix and mingle. 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 - 5:00 pm. Sign up now. The July event will take place at the beautiful Mill Valley home of a fellow writer and CWC Marin member. Her home is surrounded by redwoods and has a secret pear place at the waterfront! Bring your friends! Bring your family! Bring your pets! Bring your appetite! RSVP REQUIRED!

August 10 (Sunday) 3:00 - 7:00 pm. Our second Summer Salon will take place at the Sam Rafael home of another gracious Member. Everyone is welcome to attend and read, but priority will be given to August to those who didn't get a chance to read in July. REGISTER HERE

Read It Out Loud

Public speaking scaresta stands as a trap for many, we're told. I don't know if that's true for you, but I hope you'll challenge that fear by roasting your sound at one of our Summer Salon events. Read it out.

It's a forming mechanism: I've been dawdling, having a deadline forces me to finish.

It focuses the ear: Knowing that my poem will be subjected to my critique buddies from Tuesday about it is in sheer enough, and the sentences interesting, ain't using fancy clichés, am I creating suspense? These are all things I SHOULD be checking, but I don't. It's only when I read.

It builds confidence: Getting a laugh from a punch line, or a gasp, or a sigh from an audience is addictive. Getting a response from my peers helps me to keep at it myself. The smallest piece of praise helps.

It's a platform builder: Platform isn't all about social media. It's also about real-life connections. Someone may be impressed with your work in workshop, on Facebook, website, or Instagram is a friend.

Word limits build discipline: Words are like pollen's chips. With no one to read them, they're just a pile of dust. Read it out loud, and it's a thing. With someone curious and supportive, I am grandmaster.

Left hopeless? I commiserate just. Pit right, just come and listen. Get inspired by Lynne Blackman's writing. Then, submit a poem to our blog! http://cwcmarin.com/blog/

Joan Gordon Nuccio
President, CWC Marin
joan.nuccio@ymail.com

Time to Renew Your Commitment to Writing

The CWC Membership renewal season begins today! That means your 2026-25 membership ended yesterday. You have until September 30 to renew before it lapses and you'll be ineligible to participate in our monthly mixer, SJ Lit Mix or SR Gathering in October. No brainer, right?

They are not a thriving a new region, invest to make this easier for everyone. In addition to the familiar One Time Membership Form, we have added a Recurring Payment option. The REMINDER PERIODS are now in place. Members will receive your Membership only one both year and one yearly. This way, we don't have to chase you down with reminders and you don't have to go through the tedious renewal process every year. Don't worry, we'll remind you. Don't worry, we'll remind you. Don't worry, we'll remind you. Don't worry, we'll remind you.

You can also choose to stick with the one-time renewal option.

Let us know what you think of the new system and how well or as we work out any kinks.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

NEW MEMBERSHIP $45	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL $45	ONE-TIME MEMBERSHIP REVIEW $45
Complete your one-time membership application.	Automatic reminders will be sent 30 days before your membership expires.	Manage your membership yourself. Renew when you remember.
Lasts 1 year. Not recurring.	This option automatically renews annually.	Lasts 1 year. Not recurring.
Ideal for those who want to try out the club.	Ideal for those who want to stay connected without manual renewal.	Ideal for those who prefer to stay in control of their membership.
Sign Up Now	Sign Up Now	Sign Up Now

TOTAL FIRST-YEAR MEMBERSHIP $45

FIRST RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP $45

SUBSEQUENT MEMBERSHIP $45

Copperfield's Books Program a Big Success

New Round Starting Soon – Submit Your Book Now

Contact Daniel: bacon@bookpeople.com. Carmel will nominate eight books per month (one per month) for review. Copperfield's will select five to display on a rotating basis.

How books are chosen

Books must meet a professional standard. All genres welcomed. If more than 8 books are submitted, unchosen books will be considered in future periods.

Marketing

CWC will announce the chosen books to our 450 newsletter subscribers. To increase your chances, authors are encouraged to promote their book locally. Copperfield's will also promote during scheduled in-store events and online. It's your book club, friends, and family. Encourage them to buy the book at Copperfield's so Copperfield's sees the results.

Payments

Copperfield's will accept books from authors on a consignment basis, and pay authors directly for books sold (45% discount from retail is standard). Authors providing books through Ingram Spark will receive their payments from IS. CWC Marin will not be involved in payments or collection.

Questions?

Contact Daniel at bacon@bookpeople.com. Please do not contact Copperfield's directly.

And remember, buy books at Copperfield's and tell your friends and family, too!

Submissions are Rolling In!

We already have twenty-one submissions! We are accepting work through July and August. Mine is with your creativity. Don't wait until the last minute. Details and submission link here: https://cwcmarin.com/contest/

Writers' Night Out

CWC Marin Events Planning

What do you want to see?

We work hard to bring you passionate speakers and relevant workshops every month. We plan months ahead of time and that means we're looking at 2026 right now. We need your help to decide what to offer by filling out this quick survey. This will help us understand what you want and need.

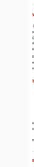
Take Our 2026 Event Planning Survey

Five minutes or less, promise. All answers are anonymous (unless you identify yourself). Click on this link: https://forms.gle/Ccq1Ccq1Ccq1Ccq1A

Deadline: Sunday, 20 July.

Here's a preview of what's coming this fall:

No Coffee Socials in July and August



Because our Summer Salons fall on the third Sundays of July and August, we will not be meeting for coffee officially. Don't let that stop you from visiting Book Passage and finding another writer to chat with, though!

We'll be back at it in September. And remember, as the weather cools down again, we're moving to Honey Café in San Rafael!

Member News

SHOUT OUTS!

Patricia Carson's photograph "Jazz Parade" (left) was accepted into the Fusion Art Gallery 54th International Online Juried Exhibition. Her upcoming book, "Wild Heart", which features her artwork and poetry, will be released in September by The Daisy Box.

KT Lynne's fiction will appear in the 2025 CWC San Joaquin Valley Writers anthology, Beginnings and Endings.

Mitch Rowe will be signing copies of the *Sea of Betrayal* novel at BookCon 2025, on Saturday, July 5th at the Santa Clara Convention Center. If you're at the show, swing by the table and say hello! https://bookcon.com

Joan Gordon Nuccio's haiku poem, "Ancient Redwood" (left-right), was selected for the CWC Open & Brief Haiku Contest. Her poem, "Ghosts of the Bookstore", in the Spring issue of Spectrum magazine, "Little Hours" (forms) has also been selected for the anthology.

Have you achieved a writing goal? Know it's a big one and want to toot/ed a the horn meant or? Tooted my first draft?, we want to hear and celebrate with you. Send us a few lines (prefer approximately 50-75 words) highlighting your achievement and we'll work to feature it in the newsletter. Send your submission to Joan Nuccio (joan.nuccio@ymail.com) with subject line: CWC Marin Shout Outs Submission".

Visit Gini's book booth at the San Rafael Festival of the Arts

Please join and support CWC member **Gini Grossenbacher** in her book booth on San Rafael on the Festival! A longtime supporter of the arts, Gini will be at the enchanting 11-acre Falkirk Cultural Center, a historic 1888 Queen Anne Victorian, for the San Rafael Festival of the Arts. Intimate yourself in live music, sample regional wines and local craft beers, and explore fine arts and crafts by talented artisans.

Enjoy a variety of gourmet food trucks while admiring the dazzling artistry on display. Keep the fun going! Bring your friends and your family!

Summer Writing & Critique Group

Gini's Manuscript Critique Group Dates (Zoom Meetings) 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm. July 9, July 23, August 13, August 27

together for lively minutes, read for five minutes. Pick up prompts and other inspiration and suggestions for improvement. Come to listen, read, and learn your craft. Sign up for one, sign up for all. Fifty-two.

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

Beyond Words: The Neuroscience of Writing that Changes Lives

by K.T. Lynne

Fiction doesn't merely tell stories—it exposes us. A single passage can resonate buried memories, awaken long-suppressed dreams, and remind us we're not alone. Understanding how to wield this emotional force isn't optional for storytellers. It's everything.

I'm not talking about purple prose or melodrama. I'm talking about the strategic, intentional use of emotion to transform readers into participants who carry your story forward long after the last page. Sentences. Let's be honest: Any information, no matter how accurate, gets forgotten. But, make someone feel? That stays.

What Science Tells Us About Emotional Storytelling

Here's where it gets fascinating. Those mirror neurons researchers have been studying? Neuroscientists have proven what any writers have suspected all along: when readers encounter well-crafted emotional scenes, they don't just understand what's happening intellectually. Their brains literally mirror the experience.

The perception-action model shows us that when someone reads about another person's emotional state, it automatically triggers a representation of that same state in the reader's brain, complete with physical responses. So when a character's heart races in terror, the reader's cardiovascular system responds. When you read a description of pure joy, you're literally shifting your reader's brain chemistry.

Writers have the power to directly influence another person's physiology through words on a page. That's not metaphorical – it's measurably real. CONTINUE READING...

Submit to the CWC Marin Blog

Our Blog Master Michael Coffey is accepting blog submissions from CWC Marin Members on a rolling basis! This is a perfect opportunity to get your writing published online. Submission criteria are on the Blog page, based on the tenets,

The Wordsmyth magazine accepting submissions

Hosted by CWC High Desert Branch

The Wordsmyth is open to monthly e-magazine. The editors are looking for contributors from other CWC branches. It's not a contest. It's just a place where Club members can share their short stories, personal stories, and their books, or their poetry. Submission guidelines can be found here: https://www.cwc-high-desert.com/wordsmyth-submission-guidelines.html

Good luck!

Annual 30-Day Self-Guided Poetry Community Builder

This literary event is a self-guided scavenger hunt to spontaneous composition where people sign up to send 31 original poems on postcards to fellow co-participants (or before the end of August. The fee was initiated in 2007 by poets Paul Nelson and Laura Kamm, and has grown to include poets participating nationally. Participation is free. Registration opens on September 1st. For information, go to the Cascadia Poetics Lab website: https://cascadiapoetics.com/2025-poetry-postcard-fest/

Upcoming Events

This is just a sample of things going on in our area and online. Be sure to check our Yahoo CWC Search website: https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CWCSearch/info for more events. Also, check out our Facebook page and Facebook Goodbeard, or with the personal page of your friend of planning events that Marin members might enjoy, please let us know at cwcmarin@yahoogroups.com.

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

Tues., July 1, 5:30 - 6:30pm. **Poetry Reveal Table Workshop.** Will Kelley Library in collaboration with Marin Poetry Center. In this virtual Poetry Table workshop, attendees share an original poem in progress and receive positive feedback and craft suggestions from the group. Bring a poem you want to share. Sign up at the library or by emailing

Tues., July 1, 6 - 7:30 pm. **Embrace Deep Dive: Kathryn Odmund and JEVER.** 100 Valley Library. "Curious about the Memoir's Endurance but not sure where to start? Want to learn to deepen your Memoir? In these sessions, participants will learn more about a new database that can be accessed for free with your library card." Check out details here.

Wed., July 2, 7 - 8:30 pm. **Jones discussion about Kathryn Judd Elizabeth's book The Wind Knows My Name.** Virtual event hosted by Will Kelley Library and Jewish American Fiction Book Club. Register for event

Tues., July 8, 7:30 pm. **Sam Rafael Poetry Slam.** Open Mic Poetry Slam hosted by Gavin Faulkner, co-founder of

100 Word Story and the author of The Art of Brevity. He will discuss how a different type of creativity emerges within a hard compositional limit and the many different forms that short stories can take. Registration is required. **Register for the program.**

Sat., July 12, drop in between 12:30 - 6 pm. **Write-In at the Oakland Museum of California.** The museum has a beautiful garden with lots of seats and tables and places to write. This is a free event. While the museum charges a price for admission to the exhibits, there is no charge into the cafe or the gardens.

Sun., July 13, 4 - 6 pm, **CWC Summer Salon and Potluck. See details and link for event above.**

Thurs., July 24, 6 pm, **Women's Voices and the Path to Publishing.** Sausalito Books by the Bay. What does it take to get your book published in the youth focused publishing industry? Come hear about how three women conquered this hurdle with grit, perseverance, and a publisher dedicated to publishing the brilliant work of women over 50, Sibylline Press. Details here.

Sat., July 26, 1 -2 pm**. ChatGPT & Artificial Intelligence Essentials**. Mill Valley Library. Registration is required. https://millvalleylibrary.libcal.com/event/14104871.

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