September 2025

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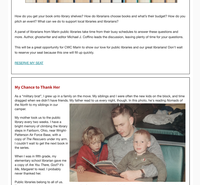
Librarians Speak Out



How do you get your book into library shelves? How do librarians choose books and what's their budget? How do you pitch an event that can be fun to support local libraries and literature?

A panel of librarians from Marin public libraries take time from their busy schedules to answer these questions and more. Author, groundwater geologist and author Michael J. Coffino leads the discussion, leaving plenty of time for your questions.

This will be a great opportunity for CWC Marin to show our love for public libraries and our great librarians! Don't wait to reserve a seat because this one will fill up quickly.

RESERVE MY SEAT

My Chance to Thank Her

As a "retired mail" I get a family on the road begins to seek. My grandkids and I were often the new kids on the block, and they dragged when we died their friends. My father lead to an every night, though. In this photo, he's reading the night of Christmas Eve. Jerman

My mother took us to the public library every week. I'd pick out eight treasures of climbing the library steps in Fairfax, Ohio, near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. A copy of The Raccoon Under my pillow. I couldn't wait to get the next book in the series.

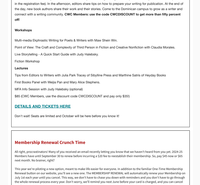
When I was in fifth grade, my teacher read to us from a book she thought we'd like. Then, that's I'd read it myself. I'd never thought of it, never thanked her.

Years likewise taking to all of us. There are few things I'd happier to pay taxes for. Anyone can of a public library to read, or even borrow materials, or even just to sit and read. Or to use the internet. Or to have access to the internet. Libraries are the middle ground, and the life saving, and the life giving. We can't live through their secrets.

This month, author and CWC Marin member Michael J. Coffino will sit down with a panel of local librarians. Don't miss this chance to learn their perspective, especially how they can pick our books on their shelves and thank them on behalf of the children we once were, and the book lovers they helped us to become.

Jean Gordon Kucinella
President, CWC Marin
www.readersdictionary.com

October Special Event : Claim Your CWC Member Discount!



As autumn comes to Marin County, the hazy days of summer fade, the days get shorter, and a brisker air is ascend wind. Could you use some fresh inspiration and camaraderie to help you spend to the 2025 finish line?

Join Dominican University of California's MFA faculty for morning writing workshops followed by a shared meal (included in the registration fee). In the afternoon, editors share tips on how to prepare your writing for publication. At the end of the day, new book authors share their work and their stories. Come to the Dominican campus to grow as a writer and connect with a writing community. **CWC Members: use the code CWCDISCOUNT to get more than fifty percent off!**

Workshops

Multi-media Psychedelic Photo Art Workshop, Sam Mellon, MFA

Point of View: The Craft and Complexity of Third Person in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction with Claudia Morales.

Genre Crossing - A Quick Dash Guide with Judy Hakedahl.

Fiction Workshop

Lectures

Tips from Editors to Writers with Julie Pain Tracy of Sibylline Press and Marlene Sahlin of Heyday Books

First Books Fixed with Steps Pen and Mary Ann Stephens.

MFA Info Session with Judy Hakedahl (optional).

BIG CWC Members, use the discount code CWCDISCOUNT and save only $100.

DETAILS AND TICKETS HERE

Don't wait! Seats are limited and October will be here before you know it!

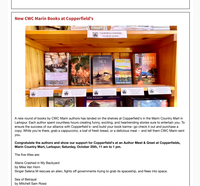
Membership Renewal Crunch Time

All right, you procrastinator! Many of you received an email recently telling you know that we haven't heard from you yet. 2024-25 Members have until September 30 to renew before incurring a $25 fee to reestablish their membership. So, pay $45 now or $50 next month. No brainer, right?

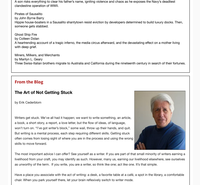
This year we're planning a new option, a month-to-month file easier for everyone. In addition to the Sentinel (One Time Membership Payment) and the Sentinel Plus (Annual Membership Payment), we will offer a Sentinel Flex (Monthly Membership Payment). Pay $5 each month and you can cancel. That way, we don't have to pass you down with reminders and you don't have to go through the whole renewal process every year. Don't worry, we'll remind you ever month before your card is charged, and you can cancel anytime.

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

Sign up is going to be Wordpress-simple. Email your questions to our Advisors and hard-working Membership Chair Erin Crossenbacher at membership@cwcmarin.net THANKYOU! The 2025-26 season is going to be great and for you and your writing.



New CWC Marin Books at CopperfieldS's



A new round of books by CWC Marin authors has landed on the shelves at Copperfield's in the Marin County Mart in Larkspur. Each of these colorful volumes hours creating funny, exciting, and heartrending stories sure to entertain you. To ensure the success of our alliance with Copperfield's and build your book home up—check it out and purchase a copy. While you do there, grab a cappuccino, a bit of fresh bread, or a delicious treat — and tell their CWC Marin warm hello.

Congratulate the authors and show our support for Copperfield's at an Author Meet & Greet at Copperfield's, Marin County Mart, Larkspur, Saturday, October 25th, 11 am to 1 pm.

The five titles are:

Alexis Coleman's My Backyard
by Mike Van Horn
Alexis Coleman focuses on alien, fights off governments trying to grab its spaceship, and frees this space.

Sea of Betrayal
by Michael Sam Rose
Sea of Betrayal is Uber his father's name, lighting criticism and chaos as he exposes the fiery's deadliest clandestine operation of 1945.

Pirates of Sausalito
by John Barry Ryan
Hipster hoodie-sweaters in a Sausalito shoyrboom resort eviction by developers determined to build luxury docks. Then, Hurricane Katrina.

Ghost Ship Fire
by Colleen Dixon
Based on the true account of a tragic inferno, the media circus afterward, and the devastating effect on a mother living with deep grief.

Nieves, Wilkens, and Merchants
by Marilyn L. Oates
Three Boston Irish brothers migrate to Australia and California during the nineteenth century in search of their fortunes.

From the Blog

The Art of Not Getting Stuck

by Erik Cwikla

Writers get stuck. We're all human. It happens. We want to write something, an article, a book, a short story, a report, a love letter, but the force of ideas, of language, of will, just isn't there. We can't find the right words, the right phrasing, the right tone. We feel nothing in a mental process, each step requiring different skills. Getting stuck, often comes from losing sight of where you are in the process and using the wrong skills to move forward.

The most important advice I can offer? Give yourself as a writer if you are part of that small minority of writers earning a livelihood from your craft, you may identify as such. However, many as earning our livelihood elsewhere, see ourselves as unworthy of the term. If you write, you're a writer, we think the one, act the one. It's that simple.

Have a place you available and it's time of of writing a book, a favorite table at a cafe, a spot in the library, a comfortable chair. When you pack yourself there, let your brain reflexively switch to writer mode.

Carve out specific time for your writing. Make it a priority. Say schedule time for work, for doctors' appointments, for family, for friends, for your hobbies. Compared to you, schedule time for it, make it a routine. Writing should bring satisfaction, so this should be easy to do.

Carry a notebook. I usually have ... CONTINUE READING

Submit to the CWC Marin Blog.

Our Blog Master Michael J. Coffino is accepting blog submissions from CWC Marin Members on a rolling basis! This is a great opportunity to get your writing published online. Submission criteria are on the Blog page (scroll to the bottom).

New issue of CWC's Vision and Verse Anthology

On September 1, 2025, Vision & Verse II, A Fusion of Art, Photography, Prose and Poetry, the newest CWC anthology, will be released. It features the incredible talents of writers and artists from the branch members of the California Writers Club, Marin. Vision & Verse II is a 6 x 9 inch, 150 page, full color, perfect bound, high quality publication. It includes 50 inspiring journey, thought provoking, poems, and images that reflect the vibrant imagination of our talented contributors. Whether you're drawn to heartfelt prose, thought-provoking poetry, or the power of visual storytelling, this anthology promises a rich tapestry of creativity that celebrates the art of expression.

Reserve your copy now! September 1 and join us in celebrating the voices and visions of CWC.

Get your copy of the beautiful book now while it's discounted.

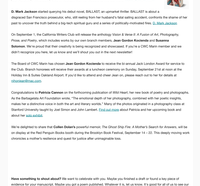
Send Your Centennial Wishes to CWC Sacramento

Christina Brabham of CWC Sacramento is looking for help in honoring her branch for its 100th anniversary. Sacramento CWC is celebrating its 100th birthday with a yearlong celebration. Christina is orchestrating a social media project called "100 Faces in 100 Days" and is looking for photos and video to the club Instagram account starting the day of Happy Birthday. Video participants are allowed to hold up a sign with their name and a fun fact about themselves. Anyone that is participating, Sacramento and traveling the California Writers Club.

https://www.instagram.com/cwcsacramento/

The videos are short (10-20 sec), so they should be easy to do. Christina would like to have as many people as possible to reach 100 videos so they really relive your participation. Christina Brabham can be reached at sacramento@cwc.org.

Writers' Night Out



Coffee Socials are Back!

Thank goodness, coffee socials are back. We missed them. Join us on **Sunday, September 21 at 11 am.**

And remember, in October as the weather cools, we're moving to Kenny Café in San Rafael.

Member News

SHOUT OUTS!

Congratulations to **Carol Jacobson** for her all-opening and book launch for Women of Wine: Sensational Stories of Sisterhood and Wine. The book launched at Kenny Media Center of Marin, 814 B Street, San Rafael. You so missed something if you haven't seen this accomplished artist in our midst. www.carolsjacobson.com

Valerie Saul, has signed with Sibylline Press for her upcoming book The Badass Widows featuring unconventional characters, irreverent humor, and the power of female friendship. www.valeriesaul.com

Dr. Jon Perlin has a book coming out this fall, Parenting with Self Compassion: 12 Steps to Improve your Parenting, Write Being Kind to Yourself. Stay tuned for website to find out more. www.drperlin.com

Dr. Mark Jackson started querying his debut novel, BALLAST, an upmarket thriller. BALLAST is about a psychiatrist from your past, who reappears, with nothing from her husband's fatal sailing accident, confirms the shame of her past to uncover the truth behind a big tech spiritual guru and a series of politically motivated fires. Dr. Mark Jackson

On September 1, the California Writers Club will release the anthology Vision & Verse II, A Fusion of Art, Photography, Prose, and Poetry, which includes works by our over branch members, **Jean Gordon Kucinella** and **Susanne Nelson**. Vision & Verse II is a full color, perfect bound, high quality publication. It is a 150 page, 6 x 9 inch, full color publication. Vision & Verse II is a fusion of art, photography, prose and poetry. Vision & Verse II is a 150 page, full color, perfect bound

Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm on Zoom, September 3, 10, 17, 24

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

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 and events are free of charge, unless otherwise specified.

Sat., Sept. 6, 2:00 pm. **44th Annual Northern California Book Awards.** Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Library. This free public event honors books published in 2024 by local authors and California-based translators. Meet award-winning writers, get books signed, and mingle at the post-event reception. For more information

Sun., Sept. 7, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Come support our CWC member **Sheri Joseph** for her tips on writing an publishing speculative fiction in conjunction with other writers at **How They Did It**, part of a series of craft-focused conversations sponsored by Litquake ad LitCamp. Page Street Writers, 2508 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. $25. For more information

Tues., Sept. 9, 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Mill Valley Library. Did you know **Marin has a poet laureate**? Join her, Francesca Bell, for a monthly workshop where participants will discuss poems and poetic devices and then spend time writing together to a variety of imaginative prompts. For more information

Monday, Sept. 15, 22, 29 - 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Belvedere Tiburon Library. **Writing Workshop: Life Chapters - Transform Your Memories Into a Personal Memoir.** Acquire storytelling skills and tips that enable you to share your key life experiences in an engaging, compelling narrative. For more information

Tues., Sept. 16, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Belvedere Tiburon Library. **Indie Publishing Workshop.** Are you a writer with a fiction or non-fiction title you're eager to publish? How do you make that happen, and what are the differences between traditional and independent publishing? For more information

Thurs., Sept. 18, 6:00 pm. Book Passage, Corte Madera. Join Elissa Altman, a critically-acclaimed author and memoir teacher, in a discussion on how to craft the stories that are most vital to you. For more information

Sat., Sept. 20, 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Mill Valley Library. You are invited to a **CWC Event, What Librarian Want Local Writers to Know,** a panel of Marin librarians in conversation with our CWC member, author Michael J. Coffino. **See details for event above.**

Mon., Sept. 22, Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17, Dec. 1, 15, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. **From Draft to Craft: POV and Perspective,** Mill Valley Library. Each week focuses on a particular craft point (setting, POV, dialogue, tension, etc.), using an illustrative novel, story, essay, or memoir excerpt. After discussing the excerpt, writers will be given several prompts to use as jumping-off points for their own writing. For more information

Sun., Sept. 28, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. **Litquake's Small Press Book Fair**. Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade, 700 Mission St, San Francisco. Browse the best in local literature set to a day of poetry readings from Litquake Out Loud. For more information

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