California Writers Club MARIN

October 2025

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This Saturday! Claim Your CWC Member Discount

As autumn comes to Marin County, the heat begins to ease, the days get shorter, and writers get a second wind. Could you use some fresh inspiration? We want to help you spend to the COOL!

Join Dominican University of California 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, we'll celebrate with a reception. Bring your friends and family members. Dominican students are free, and we will connect with a writing community. **CWC Members use the code CWCDISCOUNT to get their three 10% percent off.**

Workshops

Much-maligned Adjunct: Writing for Peers & Writers with Mean Shirt

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

Live Storytelling: In Quick Sand Scale with Judy Hakalsky

Fiction Workshop

Lectures

Tips from Editors to Writers with Julia Park Tracey of Dolphin Press and Matthew Sartio of Heyday Books

First Books Panel with Maya Pan and Mary Alice Stephens.

MFA info Session with Julia Hakalsky (optional)

$45 CWC Members, use the discount code CWCDISCOUNT and pay only $30).

DETAILS AND TICKETS HERE

October CWC Marin Author Meet and Greet at Copperfields

Copperfields Corte Madera

Saturday, October 25th, 11 am to 1 pm

On Saturday, October 25th, three of our members will showcase their books at Copperfield's Books in Larkspur (Marin County) Mark Twain, 2419 Larkspur Landing Circle) from 11 am to 2 pm. Come join the festive atmosphere, as it's also Farmers' Market day, so you can pick up a basket of fresh strawberries.

The three featured authors are:

Mike Van Horn – Maine Charbel in My Backyard
Colleen Dolan - Great Stop Fire
Jim Hamilton - Ghost Ship

Two other locally to CWC Marin members will be also attending:

Phyllis of Gazettes by John Bracken, Mary Meyers, Writers, and Mentorship by Marilyn L. Davis

Your presence will not only support our CWC authors, but also our local bookstore, and we will continue to offer CWC members a 10% discount at sell out books. And perhaps your book will be featured there one day.

Come one, come all to cheer on your fellow CWC Marin authors!

November Poetry Workshop

Poets often write their poems in response to the work of other poets. Sometimes, these poets are close friends, sometimes they are separated by years and generations. In this workshop, we'll discover and read great poems that have inspired later poets, and write our own poems inspired by these poems. Our goal is to enjoy the art of poetry and to allow ourselves to be surprised.

Judy Hakalsky is the author of three poetry collections, most recently Sanity and a Thousand Tears (Cinnabar). MFA graduate, she teaches at Dominican University of California, Marin Art & Garden Center, and Marin Master Gardeners. Her poetry has appeared in multiple Nationally Juried Publications, Bay Area and the Marin Poetry Center as well as in Encore Award for Outstanding Teaching in Humanities. She directs the MFA in Creative Writing program at Dominican University of California.

This program is presented in collaboration with the California Writers Club of Marin and Dominican University.

REGISTER MY SPOT

Great Book Titles

You have a free minute to sit at the airport, so you go into a bookshop. You're not looking for anything specific, you're just hoping to find a good read. What does a book look like that will pick up one of the dozen books on the shelf, grab the author you recognized? Yes, cover design! Sure, the title! You get it.

A book title should tell you a lot. It should also make the reader curious. Do they want more about this book? Drawing from the NYTimes list of the best books of the twenty-first century, here are what I think are good and not so good titles (let's assume I've never heard of these books).

I RIGHT PICK THIS BOOK UP

Bring Up the Bodies (from Wolf Hall) (Yes, alliteration)
Never Let Me Go (sweet, sad)
The Corrections (I'm a sucker for alliteration, only 2?)
The Island (who can resist a Nobel Prize for lit girl?)
2666 (A Great Detail Supplanted Confusion? Pass Cover!)

I'M LESS LIKELY TO PICK THIS UP

The Human Stain (sounds gross)
Gilead (boooooooo?)
The Vegetarian (yawn)
Blindness (sounds depressing)
The Twenty-seventh City (yawn)

Do you agree? What are some of your favorite titles? Are you happy with the title of your book? Let me know at ccpublicity@gmail.com.

Joel Gordon Rickards
President, CWC Marin
www.joelgordonrickards.com

The Anne T. Kent California Room
A Marin County Free Library Resource

There is a gem tucked away in the Marin County Free Library located on the top floor of the Marin Civic Center. The California Room is a welcoming space for research because that appeals to the casual visitor, the informed researcher, writers, and scholars. It is a collection of books and other library materials that provides a focused and carefully curated collection of materials about California. The Anne T. Kent California Room (ATKCR) is a special place that preserves highly significant materials about California and Marin history and culture. Bancroft Prize Award, Librarian of Archives, and two Lady Lazarus awarded Sarah, monitor and provide access to this information. They serve as an invaluable contact and resource for other libraries and research centers in California and beyond. The California Room sponsors writers' workshops and works closely with book groups and clubs and does invite guest speakers. It is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 1 pm through 5:00pm. They telephone number is (415) 473-3416. For drop in visitors go to the Information Desk for access.

by Roberta De Haro

New Location!

We're looking out a new location based on your feedback. We have Aroma Café set as a less cold/windy/exposed. It's less noisy, (a considerably heated). There's free parking nearby on Sundays. GREAT food (seriously, check it out), and it's open in the back part of the cafe on Sunday mornings.

We'll still break into two groups if there are more than ten people. The Café has agreed to treat us on the very generous terms that we buy something from them. Aroma Café is just a cup of plain coffee. Questions? Email Daniel Bacon at ccpublicitycoord@gmail.com.

Member News

SHOUT OUTS!

Welcome to our New Members

Micyl Rosen
Nick Burdick
Robyn Drivers
Barbara Cardona

We're so glad you're joined!

Special Shout Out to our Members who renewed their membership for another year. Thank you! We appreciate you.

Colleen Dolan's book, *The Ghost Ship Fire, A Mother's Search for Answers* will be on display as part of the Pacific Heritage Museum's exhibit, "Unsinkable: Stories of Survival" from Oct. 3 through Jan. 31, 2026. As part of the exhibition, she will be participating in a panel with a survivor and Hayward Public Library's first Local Author Festival on Saturday, October 4th, from 12 pm. https://www.ca.colleengdolanwriter.com/

Michael Rosen will be signing copies of his recent thriller ***Sea of Betrayal*** during San Francisco Fleet Week at the dock of the USS Pampanito—one of the famed WWII submarines that inspired the novel. Come aboard Pier 45 in Saturday, Oct. 11, or Sunday, Oct. 12 (with tickets), stories, or see him!! https://www.michaelrosenwriter.com/

Congratulations to **Roberta de Haro** for the review of her new novel, *Illinois Vendetta* (Gatekeeper Press: 2025), in the US Review of Books. (https://www.theusreviewofbooks.com/ Without Vendetta: An Elizabeth Lee Yale Novel). "Roberta de Haro pens a tightly woven thriller that will grip you from the first page, globe-trotting suspense until the final page." https://www.amazon.com/Illinois-Vendetta-Elizabeth-Lee-Novel/dp/1516596845/ref=sr_1_1

Diane Donovan, MA, MFT, won the 2025 NYC Big Book Award Distinguished Facts for her book, *Jim Crow Laws & Mudical Women of Gaslighting, Grit & Grace* (https://www.indiebookawards.com/2025-Specific#ID7B0138A5D8E) Her book, *Jim Crow Laws and Inequality: The Lasting Impact on Twenty First Century Life* (Rowman & Littlefield: 2024) (https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538184349) Her interview (https://www.amazon.com/S_Road-Jim-Laws-Gaslighting-ebook/dp/B0DXH9QT4C/)

Carol Jacobsen will be participating in a virtual panel discussion with educators of black history and civil rights, hosted by the Sonoma County Library, on Tuesday, October 14th, 6:30-8:00 pm. **Community Media Center of Marin, Editor and Accomplishment:** Fri, Oct. 24, 8:00 - 9:00 pm. Community Media Center of Marin, 819 A Street, San Rafael. https://www.cmcmarin.com/jake

We're delighted to announce that **Robin Calder** has joined the **Executive Board of CWC Marin**. Robin's generous volunteer service have strengthened our community. https://www.robincalder.com/

Member writing opportunity: An animal is seeking help in writing a biography of a well-known artist and photographer, who photographed animals in the Bay Area and beyond. Please contact Ellen Leventhal at ellenleventhal@gmail.com if you're interested, please copy the president of the CWC Marin, joelgordonrickards@gmail.com.

Have something to shout about? We want to celebrate with you. Maybe you finished a draft or found a key piece of evidence for your manuscript. Maybe you got a great publication. Whatever it is, let us know. It's good for all of us to see our members succeeding. Send your shout-outs to president Email and ccpublicitycoord@gmail.com.

Want to write for our blog? We're always looking for submission criteria to allow for a wider variety of topics. You can now submit your blog ideas for review. Interested in additional writing/marketing/self publishing tips /interests? Check out our blog page for specific criteria. https://marinwrit.com/blog/

Writing a Family Memoir: A Journey Worth Taking
By Ryann Wills

Writing a memoir based on family history can be an extraordinary adventure, and I highly recommend attempting it. Many of my published manuscripts based on my grandfather, an aviator pioneer, who died when my father was only four years old. I had to dig deeply into family history and memory. Initially, what I found was a lot of silence.

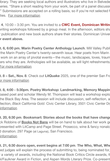
Memoirs are not autobiographies. They are personal stories, written from a single, I, character's point of view (before case studies, photographs, articles, and an extensive bibliography) and are meant to be read for pleasure. Memoirs are a great alternative to learn more about my grandfather and a wonderful project to undertake as I age and pass on my stories.

Whether our experiences with family are positive or negative, family often serves as our foundation, our support system, our cheerleaders, our critics, our teachers, our sources for history, traditions, and stories. Writing a memoir is the gateway to deep connection, both challenging and rewarding. Every story, every discovery, can provide perspective, insight, and even healing. Sometimes, the process of writing a memoir can lead family members to heal, strengthen, and unconditionally love family members. Yet, they can also bring liberation, freeing us from the burden of the unknown. While working on my memoir, I found a lot of silence, but I also found a lot of strength. I hope that I have shared that strength with you. I want you to be thinking about writing about your forebearers, to dive into the mysteries and full speed ahead.

Ryann Wills is the genealogist of online pioneer Jack Maddox and the first owner of Sonoran John McCain. She graduated from UCLA and is a former employee of Apple, Inc. as well as the owner of a successful antique and vintage jewelry business, the currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hero Calvin Dill of Southern California, where she also holds the position of Historian. Additionally, she is a member of several aviation organizations, including the Ninety-Nines, the Quiet Birdmen, and the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Photo: Ryann's grandmother Phoebe Maddox Wills, from her wedding day to Jack Maddox. Reverse side from her wedding to John McCain's aunt, Photo courtesy of Ryann Wills.

Writers' Night Out



Poetry Workshop Series

Click here to register!

Upcoming Events

Here's a quick roundup of what's going on in our area and online. Be sure to check our fellow CWC branch websites (https://napawriters.com/events/) for more events coming up in the spring. **Check out the events calendar on our Facebook** as well. We appreciate your tips! If you know of upcoming events that fellow members might enjoy, please email **ccpublicitycoord@gmail.com**.

CWC Marin offerings are highlighted in red. All times are Pacific zone and events are free of charge, unless otherwise specified.

Wed., Oct. 1, 3:30 – 5:30 pm. **How to Sell More Books** CWC SF Peninsula. This presentation will break down creative ways to build a foundation that will support your book and build your success with a simple pathway to create more book sales. Online event. $10. For more information.

Fri., Oct. 3 is the deadline to submit for **Local Authors Night Out**, which will be held on Nov. 12 at the Belvedere-Tiburon Library. Local authors will be on hand to meet and greet with the public, sharing their work and answering questions. Ongoing series. Participants will receive from one to two, as part of a panel, a short reading and one question from the audience." Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, so if you're not selected for November, there will be other opportunities. For more information.

Sat., Oct. 4, 10:00 – 3:30 pm. You are invited to **Creative Writing Retreat**. Join 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, we'll celebrate with a reception. Bring your friends and family members. Dominican students are free, and we will connect with a writing community. **CWC Members use the code CWCDISCOUNT to get their three 10% percent off.**

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$45 CWC Members, use the discount code CWCDISCOUNT and pay only $30).

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Sat., Oct. 4, 10:00 – 11:30 am. **Marin Poetry Center Anthology Launch**. Mill Valley Public Library, Charlotte Room. Come celebrate the Marin Poetry Center's twenty-seventh issue. Hear poets from Marin and the surrounding Bay Area as they read their work. Meet the editors and pick up your copy of the anthology. Refreshments will be served. Bring your friends, those writers on their way, are Anthologies will be available, as will copies of previous volumes. 375 Throckmorton Ave. Registration required. For more information.

Wed., Oct. 8, Sat., Nov. 8, and Sun. Dec. 7 **LitQuake** 2025, one of the premier San Francisco literary and cultural festivals. For more information.

Wed., Oct. 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. **Marin Poetry Workshop**: Landmarking, Memory Mapping, and the Great Migration West. Oakland-based poet and scholar Mendy M. Thompson will lead a workshop exploring the built environment with a focus on Black life, memory, and place. Thompson's work has appeared in Poetry, Callaloo, and The Kenyon Review and poetry collections Black California Dreaming and Crow Genius. Online via Zoom. $60 Class Series Or Room 401. See Rebel Fox for more information.

Mon., Oct. 13, 6:30 doors open, event begins at 7:00 pm. **The Who, What, When & How of Literary Prizes.** Panel of experienced judges will explain the process of submitting to, being nominated for, and being chosen as a finalist/award winner for literary prizes. Panelists include Jeffrey Lependorf, Director, Marin County Free Library; Jeffrey Cohen, Chairman of the Board, PEN/Faulkner Award in Fiction, and Nissim Ward's Literary Prize. Co-presented with the National Book Critics Circle. Presence, wine & fancy nonalcoholic drinks available. 297 Page Street (at Lagunitas) in SF. This event is free, but space is limited, so be sure to register in advance.

Sat., Oct. 25, 11 am - 1 pm. **CWC Author Meet and Greet Event** at Copperfield's in Larkspur Come support our members who will be there to sign books. Three of our members will showcase their books at Copperfield's Books in Larkspur (Marin County) Mark Twain, 2419 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur.

Sat., Nov. 1, 1:00 pm. **Sponsored by CWC and Dominican University**. Join Helmets will our **Poetry Springboard** a writing workshop based on arranging your poetry using Bisque Helmets magnetic poetry. This workshop is at Mill Valley Public Library, 375 Throckmorton Ave. To register and for more information.

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