May 2026

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Online (Zoom) This Month

A Writer's Guide to Surviving and Thriving in the Age of AI

Thurs. May 14 at 6 pm
Online (Zoom) Pre-registration required using button below
Free for CWC Marin members (to receive Zoom link, please identify in an email to marin@cscwriters.com)
$15 Non-Members

You have a story to tell, an important story, your story. Getting that story down on paper is hard, though. We writers have to be good at so many different things, from coming up with worthy ideas to developing a timely and clear plot, creating relatable characters, choosing intriguing settings, generating believable dialogue, and writing evocative prose—do we even have time to do all that? Well, we have to make time, because AI is here to stay, and it's only going to become more and more a factor in our lives and in our business. The answer isn't to surrender to the doom and gloom predictions.

On the contrary, it's time to lean into your humanity, to do what artificial intelligence can't.

Join us on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 pm for a talk by Jane K. Cleland, author of 12 mysteries and 4 of fiction. This webinar shows you how to harness your human creativity, because if you bring your creativity, your individuality, and your judgment to your work, you'll not only a chatbot all day long.

Jane K. Cleland, author and teacher, will be presenting Beat the Bots: An Author's Guide to Surviving & Thriving in the Age of AI, which Locus Penny described as "Brilliant!" in her available. Other books: Agatha-award winning Mystery Scene Magazine, Jane's latest book, Sticky Wicket, is a finalist for the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity awards. Publisher Weekly calls Jane's cozies "Delightful, ... Miss Austen would approve." Publishers Weekly. www.janekcleland.com

REGISTER HERE

Summertime in Marin means...

Summer in Marin means CWC Marin's Summer Salon Open Mic summer Start thinking now about what you'll read about to your fellow writers. Open Mic is a time to share your work with your fellow members, talk about story, excerpt of something longer, a poem, whatever you like as long as you can read it aloud inside five minutes.

Salons take place at a Member's home, so space is limited. Mark these in your calendar now:

June

Sunday, July 26 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at a Member's home in Mill Valley; sign up opens June 1 (20 reading spots)

August

Sunday, August 16 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at a Member's home in San Rafael; sign up opens July 1 **Host renew Membership first (info on renewals below)**, Priority given to renewed Members who did NOT get to read in July.

Renew Your Commitment to the Writer Community

As summer approaches and we look forward our popular Summer Salons, we're thinking about our community. Thanks to you, CWC Marin is now the fastest growing CWC branch!

The annual Membership Renewal season starts on July 1. Here's what you need to know:

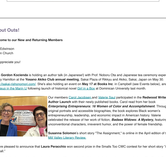
- **Renewal Period**: CWC at the state level recently voted to shorten the renewal period from 30 days to 15 days before the membership expires.
- **Renewal Fee**: CWC also voted to keep the annual membership fee at $50 (new memberships are still $60, half-year will still be $32.50). As prices go up, we're keeping our fee low. We know that CWC has not raised its rates in more than twenty years.
- For those enrolled in **auto-renewal**, your credit card will be charged $60 on **July 1**. In late May or early June, you'll receive an email from Membership@cscwriters.com with the subject line "Your CWC membership is ready for renewal." Keep an eye out for this email, because it's the message before July 1 and we'll be renewed. If you can't remember if you signed up for auto-renew, watch for that email before mid-June.
- Members who don't auto-renew will receive a paypal invoice by email. These details coming in next month's newsletter so all fight for now.

Thank you for being part of this creative circle. We look forward to gathering again—sharing words, ideas, and inspiration—at our Summer Salons and Coffee Socials.

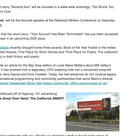
Don't Miss Out on Our Monthly Coffees!

May Coffee Social
May 17 @ 11 am
at South Novato Home
Fourth Saturday of the month (the Tattler)

Bring your own coffee and crumpet. The social is open to members and non-members alike, and it's free of charge, but we have an optional tip jar at the door to help defray the rental cost (a $5 tip is cheaper than your coffee these days).



Group and Betsy, left to right: Colleen Dolan, Maureen Kunnath, Carol Boyce, with their books



Below: Robin Colin holds forth while others listen in. (Photos courtesy of Mark Bailey.)

See our authors at Copperfield's

These CWC authors are currently featured on the Copperfield's local author bookshelf at Lytleson Landing! Come check out their work and be sure Copperfield's knows how much we appreciate the support! Someday it might be your book on the shelf!

Copperfield's CWC Marin Author Bookshelf
Spring Author Cohort
LOVE IN A CHANGING WORLD
Edited by Jane Ellen Harrison-Buck
Mary Ann Mavrigian
Mary Ann Mavrigian
Mary Ann Mavrigian

We have two new critique groups up and running. Both are meeting monthly via Zoom. We'll start a third group if there's enough interest. If you'd like to know more, contact Mike Van Horn at mvh@businessgroup.biz .

CWC Members only, please!

The Hidden Story: CWC Napa Valley Writing Contest

CWC Napa Valley Writers invites submissions of fiction and creative nonfiction prose for their 2026 anthology, The Hidden Story: What Shocked, Surprised, or Shattered a World.

They welcome:

- Literary fiction and flash fiction
- Personal essays and memoir
- Experimental prose

Deadline for Submissions is June 1, 2026
Submission fee: $20 for CWC members, $25 for non-members.
Open to the public.

DETAILS AND SUBMISSIONS HERE

Gini's Zoom Writing Classes

Gini Grossenbacher
CWC Marin Membership Chair

SAN RAFAEL WRITERS & ARTISTS
CLASSES, COACHING, COMMUNITY

Hi CWC Marin Writers and Authors,

I am offering the following writing classes this year. All classes meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 6-8 pm, except for Drop In to Write, which meets at my house or a cafe in or near San Rafael.

Zoom classes are $25 per class (attend one or all); Drop In to Write is $10/class.Drop in to Write is held to five participants due to space considerations. All classes are enrolling now.
June - Flash Fiction (novelists, memoirists, short story authors welcome, too).
July - Drop In to Write
August - Art-Inspired Poetry (Ekphrastic) co-taught with award-winning poet, Robin Gabbert
September - On Vacation
October - Voice & The Novel with special guest, Jordan Rosenfeld
November - Drop In to Write (no class Thanksgiving week), Wednesdays, 4, 11 & 18.

About Drop In to Write: I provide prompts, and we work side by side on our current projects, then share our writing in a safe space without pressure.

Let me know what questions you may have. We would love to have you join us!
Contact me through my website, www.ginigrossenbacher.com
All my best,
Gini🍀

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.

Fri. May 1 – 3, Sonoma Valley Authors Festival. This is a premier three-day weekend event featuring a diverse lineup of writers across all genres. For more information

May 1 – 30. CWC Mount Diablo is sponsoring a **Summer Writing Contest** for flash fiction and poetry with cash prizes. For more information

Thurs. May 14, 6:00 – 7:10 pm. **CWC presents Beat the Bots: A Writer's Guide to AI.** See above for more details.

Sat. May 16, 1:00 - 2:30 pm. **Michael Coffino** will discuss his latest book, *The Great Train Heist: The California SMART Taxpayer Rip-off,* with Paul McHugh, a former San Francisco Chronicle columnist. They will explore the origins and development of the SMART system, review its financial and operational performance, and analyze the structural issues Michael sees as limiting its effectiveness. Their discussion will also cover Coffino's view that the project has fallen far short of its stated objectives and imposes significant and unjustified costs on Marin and Sonoma taxpayers. Mill Valley Public Library, 375 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley. For more information and to register.

Sun. May 17, 3 pm. Join Jean Kocienda for her **Girl in a Box Second Launch and Celebration of Japanese Women's Traditional Arts**, with live calligraphy and shamisen performance. Books Inc., 1875 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell. Register here.

Sat. June 6, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm **Write Now!: Salon Saturdays** hosted by The Writing Salon. Offered on a monthly basis, this class will be led by a different teacher each meeting so that you can sample a range of The Writing Salon's hottest prompts and most imaginative teachers. $23.25 Members, $25.00 Non-members. 2042 Balboa St., San Francisco. For more information and to register.

CWC Marin

Board Members
Jean Gordon Kocienda, President
Susanna Solomon, Treasurer
Gini Grossenbacher, Membership
Daniel Bacon, Copperfield's Partnership, Coffee Social Leader
Mike Van Horn, Writing and Critique Groups POC
Robin Cohn, Newsletter Shout Outs, Calendar of Events, Meetup

We also received valuable assistance from:

Carol Bruce, New Member Ambassador
Tracy Tandy, Events Co-Chair
Valerie Saul, Events Committee

Curious about helping us steer the club? Attend an upcoming Board meeting. Email us at marin@cwcmarin.com for details!

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