July 2026

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August Sign Ups Start Today!

Summer in Marin means CWC Marin Summer Salon Open Mic soirees! Are you ready to share a short written piece with fellow club members, or maybe just sit back and enjoy others' creativity? Any original work is welcome (published or not): a short story, an excerpt, or a poem--but it must fit into five minutes (about 750 words). CWC Marin Members only.

July
Sunday, July 26 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at a Member's home in Mill Valley.
There are just a few spots left! Grab one now
More info and RSVP HERE.

August
Sunday, August 16 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at a Member's home in San Rafael.
More info and RSVP HERE
Note: Priority will be given to Members who did not read at the Salon in July.
However, If you read in July, and want to read in August too, go ahead and RSVP!
We'll put you on a waitlist, and release any remaining spots in mid-August.

Coming in September: Comic Relief

Wake Up Your Prose with Humor!

Discover your authentically funny voice in this engaging and fun writing workshop with writer Jenny Jedeikin. This two-hour, in-person class will focus on personal narrative to explore and cultivate material for a comedic essay through writing exercises. There will be time to share your work, along with tools you can use to develop your draft.

Don't miss this chance to work with a pro.

Jenny Jedeikin is a writer and editor with experience both in current online media platforms as well as national magazines, TV, and radio. She's worked as a Segment Producer/Writer for MTV's The Jon Stewart Show and as a stand-up comedian both live in New York City and on Comedy Central. She has published locally in The San Francisco Chronicle, The Advocate, Spiralbound, Pacific Sun, North Bay Bohemian, SF/Arts, Whole Life Times, The Bold Italic and more. As a freelance writer, her contributions have won three MarCom awards, and two Hermes Creative awards.

September 15, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Mill Valley Public Library

RESERVE MY SEAT

This CWC Marin-sponsored event is free and open to the public

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A Change to Membership Renewals

Beginning September 1, the California Writers Club will introduce a new way of handling membership renewals.

Instead of everyone renewing at the same time each year, each member will renew on their own personal membership anniversary date. In other words, your renewal date will be based on when you joined or most recently renewed your membership. Membership will be handled at the CWC state level, and a new statewide member portal will be launched with new perks for Members.

What does that mean for you right now? Simply that your renewal date may be different from another member's. You'll receive reminder emails before your renewal is due, making it easy to keep your membership current without having to remember a chapter-wide renewal period.

This new system will spread renewals throughout the year, simplify membership management, and make the renewal process smoother for everyone.

What do I do now?

- If you are enrolled in **Auto-Renewal**, you don't need to do anything! Your credit card will be charged $45 on the one-year anniversary of your last renewal (anywhere from late June to early September). If you don't remember, ask us (marin@cwcmarin.com). If your plans have changed and you'd prefer not to renew, simply ask us to remove you.
- **If you didn't enroll in Auto-Renewal,** you will receive a renewal email shortly. The link in that email will take you to our Membership page, or you can go there yourself and renew now. Choose Membership Renewal ($45).
- **If you aren't a Member yet but want to join,** welcome! Go to our Membership page and choose New Membership, Dual Membership (if you already belong to another CWC branch), or Student Membership.

If you have questions, reach out to Membership Chair Gini Grossenbacher at marin@cwcmarin.com.

Thank you for being part of this community. Every one of you is important to us!

Meet the Board

Editor's Note: Over the next few months, this space will be given over to members of our Board. I hope this series of essays will help you get to know them and recognize their faces. Be sure to say hello at upcoming coffees and events!

This month, we're meeting **Robin Cohn**. She handles our Shout Outs and Calendar of Events sections in this newsletter. If you have anything writerly to celebrate or an author event coming up, she's the one to talk to!

Be the Goat

Until I hiked down Ryan Peak in Joshua Tree, I didn't realize I had a unique way of descending inclines. I knew it was a bit weird, but I hadn't given it much thought until my partner watched me leap over the rocks on the steep mountain. She said, "My girlfriend is a goat!" I tend to take a leap off one boulder and fly into the unknown. I don't recommend this approach unless your body is stable and your mind is unstable.

For a couple months this year, I experienced writer's block for the first time. While I was wallowing in misery, a friend asked me to share a moment of joy I cherished. I recalled my mountain goat adventures, the feeling of floating over the world without a care, trusting I'd land gracefully. In reference to my writing, she said, "Be the goat."

Every day, when I sat down at my computer to work on my novel, I repeated to myself, "Be the goat." I imagined the exhilaration of the air whooshing past me, with nothing beneath my feet, and believing that everything would work out. Little by little, the words and images began to return.

I haven't reached a state of consistent flow, but more often than not, my little nanny goat is enjoying her cliffs and letting go of what was holding her back. For as long as I'm able, I'll spring into the blank space and let my fingers find their footing on the keyboard.

- By Robin Cohn, CWC Marin Board Member

No Coffee Social in July or August

We're taking a break from coffee socials over the summer to focus on our fabulous Summer Salons.

Be sure to sign up for one or both of the Salons--even if you don't plan to read--because community is so important and there is nothing like a summer garden party with writers!

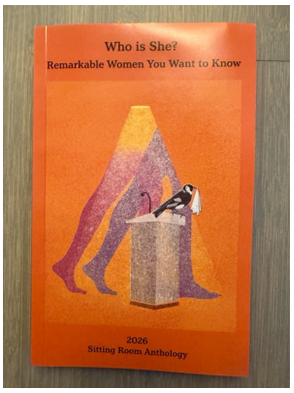
We'll be back to drinking coffee at Studio Fourth Street in September.

Shout Outs!

Welcome to our New and Returning Members

Catherine Clark-Sayles
Lauren Swalberg
Lauren Scott

We appreciate you!



Barbara Sapienza, Carol Jacobsen, and Jean Gordon Kocienda were included in the 2026 Sitting Room Anthology, which launched last month. The Sitting Room Library, located in Penngrove, CA, is devoted to women writers.

Glynda Christian is thrilled to announce that her work has been accepted for both *The Smalls Too* anthology and the Napa Writer's Club 2026 contest on the theme of "shattering." In addition, she has just finished her novel and is excited to be working with an editor.

Patricia Cannon's poem "The Valley of Deep Shadow" was also published in the latest CWC anthology, *The Smalls Too*.

Carol Lena Figueiredo is thrilled to announce that she was awarded a Sue-Je Lee Gage Sunlit Residency for Human Rights in Ithaca, New York, and an Ou Artist Residency in British Columbia for her in-progress memoir exploring government leftist political surveillance and suppression.

The Glassblower's Orphan, an ebook by award-winning indie author **Gini Grossenbacher**, is now available for pre-order on Amazon. In 1868 San Francisco, Rosa, the orphaned daughter of a Venetian glassblower, risks everything to become the first woman accepted as an artist in the city's male-dominated glass industry. When jealousy, betrayal, and a devastating fire threaten both her reputation and her dreams, she must decide how much she is willing to sacrifice for her art. Please check it out

Jean Gordon Kocienda celebrated her second book launch of her novel *Girl in a Box*, held at Books Inc. in Campbell, CA. The event included *onna-de* style calligraphy and a calligraphy demonstration as well as a musical performance. A one-of-a-kind book launch!

Jean also introduced her book *Girl in a Box* at the Akiko Forum 2026 in Sakai, Japan in May. She was the guest of the Yosano Akiko Club, dedicated to the Japanese poet who is the subject of her historical novel.

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 poem published. Whatever it is, let us know. It's good for all of us to see our peers moving forward, meeting goals, and getting recognized! Email **Robin Cohn** at marin@cwcmarin.com. (Members Only)

Got a book coming out this year? We know a few of you have books launching this year, and we want to highlight them. Send us an image of your book cover and a 50-word (or less) description of the book, along with any launch event information, and Robin will make sure it gets featured. (Members Only)

Writer's Night Out

Come on out to support Laurie! Bring something you're working on to read aloud to a supportive, pleasantly inebriated audience of fellow writers. Dress for the weather; we're out on the patio. Questions? Check www.writersnightout.com

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CWC Members only. Interested? Contact Mike Van Horn. mvh@businessgroup.biz

CWC Marin Authors Featured at Copperfield's

Featured authors in June were **Tracy Tandy** and **Valerie Saul**. Despite the wind, it was a beautiful day at Copperfield's in Larkspur Landing.

Are you interested in getting your book on Copperfield's local author bookshelf? Submit your book for consideration!

Reach out to CWC Marin Board Member Daniel Bacon (daniel_bacon@prodigy.net) for details.

Drop In to Write Wants YOU!

This July, give yourself the gift of dedicated writing time in the company of fellow writers. Join Drop In to Write on Wednesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Spinnaker Point poolside cabana in San Rafael, where you'll find inspiring prompts, encouragement, and a welcoming space to work on your current project. Sponsored by Gini Grossenbacher's San Rafael Writers & Artists, a friend of CWC Mariners, these relaxed evenings are designed to nurture creativity, support risk-taking, and help writers grow in craft and confidence. $10 per evening, pay-as-you-go; attend one; attend all; snacks included, BYOB. Free parking.

For more information, contact Gini Grossenbacher at ginis.writers1@gmail.com.

Art and Poetry Reception

Reception for Philip Simon's Art and Poetry Reading by CWC Marin's Tina Harrach Denetclaw
Friday, July 3, 2026
12:30 to 2 pm
Orinda Books
276 Village Square, Orinda CA 94563

Tina Harrach Denetclaw will read poems from her debut chapbook, "Life Travels" in a bookstore exhibiting Philip Simon's work. Philip Simon is the artist whose painting graces the cover of "Life Travels." The full painting from which the book cover was taken is on display, as well.
Reception for artist and poet begins at 12:30 pm. Poetry reading begins at 1 pm. Event ends at 2 pm. Continued browsing in the host bookstore is welcome and encouraged.

Come on by for some art, poetry, snacks, and conversation, surrounded by wonderful books!

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. July 11, 10:30 – 4:00 pm. Alameda Free Library is hosting a Book Con, an engaging literary event celebrating local authors and creators. For more information

Sat. July 11, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. **The Shape of Words: How Poetry Transforms Thoughts.** Fairfield's Poet Laureate, Suzanne Bruce, will explore the power of poetry to bring people together through both the literary and visual arts. She will share examples of diverse poetic styles and discuss how words, sound, rhythm, and form work together to create meaning. **CWC Napa Valley Writers.** Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists, 1625 Salvador Ave., Napa. NVW Members: $10 Guests: $15 Students: Free with ID. For more information

Wed. July 1 & 15, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm. **Shut up & Write**. Join other writers for a quiet, dedicated writing session. There will be a brief check-in, up to an hour of focused writing, and an optional recap afterward. No critiques or read-alouds. Marin County Free Library, Civic Center. 3501 Civic Center Dr, Room 427, San Rafael. For more information

Sun. – Fri., July 26 – 31. **Napa Valley Writer's Conference**. Readings, craft workshops, and community classes are open to the public. See Conferences or Events.

Sun. July 26, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. **CWC Marin Summer Salon**. Join us for a backyard party and sign up to read your work aloud. Mill Valley. Marin members only. Register here

Sat. August 1, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. CWC president Jean Gordon Kocienda along with Linda Joy Myers, will present **Writing Workshop: Researching Foreign Historical Fiction**. Bring distant times and places to life in your writing. Learn practical strategies for researching foreign settings and uncovering authentic details that make stories feel real. Belvedere Tiburon Library, 1501 Tiburon Blvd. Tiburon. Register here

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

Tracy Tandy, Events Chair
Carol Bruce, New Member Ambassador
Erik Cederblom, Member at Large

We also received valuable assistance from

Valerie Saul

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

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