

October 2026

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Coming on October 18



CWC Marin and Mill Valley Public Library Present

Brooke Warner

on

"Authorpreneurship"

Sun., Oct 18

1:00 - 2:30 pm

at Mill Valley Public Library

RSVP HERE

In today's writing and publishing world, authors are taking on an ever-growing responsibility for the nuances of their work. Brooke Warner, co-founder and publisher of She Writes Press, is at the forefront of current publishing trends and the tools required for writers today. Gain useful skills and resources from a true author's advocate.

Brooke Warner is a women's author coach and founder of She Writes Press. Green light Your Book, What's Your Book?, and three books on publishing. She's also the host of the Publishing Confidential podcast. Brooke's been in publishing for 20 years and has loved it! Guest Author, and publishes a weekly newsletter, Whitely Things, at brooke-warner.substack.com.

Multiple times.

Warm also edited a book entitled The American Way of Death by the friend, Jessica Mitford, which became a huge bestseller. That year, Jessica published another book, The Trial of Dr. Spock, which was made into a film. Adventure comic—and I gave it to Dr. Spock's lawyer. Unfortunately, the case quickly characters, the cliffhanger adventures, the colorful illustrations—I began a literary love affair.



When I was thirteen, Warm gave me The Hobbit. I read it obsessively on the Muscle Train from Fort Bragg to Willits, through a magical redwood forest, barely lifting my eyes from the pages.

You would think that with all this exposure to stories, I would have architected my first take at the tender age of ten. Nope. Another creative passion captured and held me for many lonely years. Music. It began when the Beatles played on the Ed Sullivan Show. Like others my age, I was gobsmacked by their catchy songs and mop-top hair, their cool confidence and tight moves.

Later, after a career in home renovations, I earned a BS in Business with an eye to do something in the world of commerce. Instead, I discovered Words. By which I mean I discovered the joy of arranging them together. In the end—to my wife, Joel I've run out of my allotted space—so until next time, Happy Reading!

Joel Hanks, Words

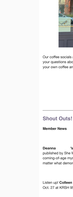
https://www.daniel-bacon.com

Meet the Board - Daniel Bacon

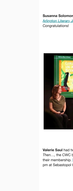
Editor's Note: This is a big month for former CWC Marin President Daniel Bacon, as he launches a new novel, *Suburban Infidelity: A Novel of Redemption*. Daniel is our Coffee Social host, so please welcome him to those forums when he hosts next month. Daniel is also our Board Member at Large.



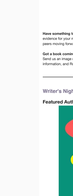
The first thing to know about me is that my mother was a children's librarian. She read to kids every week at the library and produced an ex-Three Billy Goats Gruff, Johnny Appleseed, Br'er Rabbit—I heard them all.



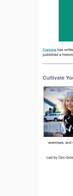
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Joel Hanks, Words

https://www.daniel-bacon.com

California Writers Club - Latest from the State

As a CWC Marin Member, you belong to a much larger, 1,700+ strong statewide California Writers Club. With twenty branches across the state, you can take part in numerous events, contests, publication opportunities, and networking groups. We provide information on some of these events in our newsletter, but you can also find out more on the CWC website. Check them all. For more information on branches and their websites, click here. Subscribe to other branch newsletters (particularly Redwood Writers which is large and active).

Here's the latest news from the central organization:

We have a new President. After two years, Ryan Lubeck is stepping aside as President of CWC, making way for Jordan Bernal. Jordan comes from CWC's former Tri-Valley Branch. Jordan seems to create more opportunities for members to write, publish, and thrive online. This is the right moment for that. We better step our game up!

New Member portal rollout is delayed. Last month I told you to expect an email from CWC about the new member portal. Unfortunately, that email was inadvertently pushed. The rollout has been delayed in order to work out some kinks. I know the central Board is working hard to get this right. We'll keep you in the loop, so check the newsletter and email for an official notice.

We always welcome new Members! If you're thinking about joining us, don't wait! If we are between systems when we receive your application, we will be in touch with steps to get us in the door. We're growing fast, but we're not so big that you can't get a little individualized personal attention.

We are figuring out the new system with you and appreciate your patience. If you have any questions, please email me. Thanks for being a member, please thank them for keeping their sense of humor through all of this!

Fall Means Clattering Leaves, Shorter Days, and...Coffee Socials



Our coffee socials are free, and open to Members and non-Members alike. We love relaxed, open-ended conversations. Bring your questions about writing, publishing, and marketing. This is where the networking-friend-making magic happens. Bring your own coffee and cookies!

Next CWC Marin Coffee Social
Sunday, October 19th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Studio Fourth Street, 1599 Fourth St., San Rafael

Shout Outs!

Member News

Deanna - "B.O.K. Dad's debut novel, The Urban Legend of the Gold Key, was published by She Writes Press and promoted by Books Forward. The story is a paranormal coming-of-age mystery that reveals how curiosity can be a superpower and shows that, no matter what darkness we face, finding hope is always possible.



Listen up! **Colleen Dolan,** author of Ghost Dog Cop, will be interviewed by Wendi Lavine on Oct. 27 at KPFA 93.3 at 6:45 am. Replays will be available here.



Susanna Solomon's story "Your Account Has Been Terminated" has been accepted by the Berkeley Writers' Journal (BWJ) Issue XXIII, and will be online starting Oct. 1. Congratulations!



Joan Gordon Kuckenda had her speaking debut her book, Lessons from Unexpected Gifts, at the Bethesda Lit Fest in Bethesda, MD on October 4.

Joan will also be speaking at her alma mater, Colgate University in upstate New York, this month. The Colgate Humanities Colloquium will host her talk titled "The Many Journeys: Writing Historical Fiction About Real People." Joan will also speak separately to Colgate's undergraduate students. It was a real thrill to return to the campus in almost forty years!



Valerie Saxe had two poems accepted for the Redwood Writers Poetry Anthology, And Then… Her CWC branch is annual poetry anthology featuring the talented poets within their membership. Now available. Join her for the book launch on Nov. 1, 2:00 - 5:00 pm at Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 S. High Street, Sebastopol.

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 generally recognized! Email **Robin Cutler** at robin@robincutler.com. (Members Only)

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

Writer's Night Out

Featured Author: Memoir writer Francine Falk-Allen

Francine has written about her experience living with disability after contracting polio at age three. She has also repeatedly published a historical novel. Dress for the weather: we're not on the patio. Questions? Check www.writersnightout.com.

Cultivate Your Voice: The Novel

Every memorable novel has something that can't be duplicated in a writer's individual voice. The October San Rafael Writers & Artists invites CWC Marin members to Cultivate Your Voice: The Novel. Join us for a day of writing exercises, discussion, and strengthening, and trusting the voice that makes your fiction uniquely yours.

Meeting Wednesday, October 7, 9, 21, and 28, from 6-8 p.m. on Zoom, we'll explore narrative and character voice, point of view, dialogue, and description. Through discussion, writing exercises, and sharing, we will discover practical ways to strengthen our writing voice during drafting and revision.

Led by Gini Grossenbacher, author, writer, and founder of San Rafael Writers & Artists. Jordan Rosenfeld, award-winning author, will be our guest speaker on October 7.

$75/class and 15% discount for CWC members!

Contact Gini for details: https://www.ginigrossenbacher.com

Come write, experiment, and discover what makes your novel unmistakably yours.

LitQuake and LitCrawl SF

Every year, San Francisco hosts LitQuake, a huge, free literary festival of events, panels, discussions, games, and networking opportunities. This year it runs from **October 6 to 18**. Search the full calendar of events.

CWC Marin Members will be there! Will you?

Marin Member Mary Alice Stephens will appear on the panel, Beyond the Launch: Keeping Your Book in Success and Thrive, Writers Weekend at LitQuake, **Sun. Oct. 11** at 2:00 - 3:00 pm. The launch party is the beginning, not the end, of the journey. Learn how to maintain momentum, build community, and keep your book visible long after publication. Get practical strategies for strengthening, and trusting the voice that makes your fiction uniquely yours.

Getting your book out into the world is the beginning. **Mary** will talk about what comes after the launch: how to keep momentum, build community, and keep your book visible long after publication. Get practical strategies for showing yourself out. Pop what you can for guaranteed seats! FREE to walk-up space depending. 401 Minna, San Francisco.

On October 24, LitQuake hosts the annual LITCRAWL, a literary pub crawl in downtown SF. Two of our CWC Marin members **Joan Gordon Kuckenda** and **Valerie Saxe**, will be participating in a fun game. Here's the details:

Who Lives Better than Writers?
Two Truths and a Lie with Sibylline Press
Saturday October 24, 2026
Sibylline Press
51 st. etc. (1647a Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110)
A fast-paced, fun literary twist on the classic "two truths and a lie" game.
It will introduce you to eleven great new books by fabulous women over fifty.
Guess who's lying and take home a free book!

At the Mill Valley Public Library

Upcoming Events

This is just a sample of things going on in our area and online. Be sure to check our fellow CWC branch websites (Redwood Writers, Sonoma County Writers Conference, Tri-Valley Writers, Writers Workshop of Napa County) and Facebook as well. We appreciate input! If you know of upcoming events that fellow members might enjoy, please let us know at marin@writersclub.org.

CWC Marin offerings are highlighted in red. All Zoom prices and events are free of charge, unless otherwise specified.

Sun., Oct. 4, 11:30 am. - 4:00 pm. Small Press Book Fair. Join a curated spread of small presses and literary magazines, in association with Yerba Buena Gardens Festival! Browse the best in local literature for a day of poetry readings and music from Litquake.Org and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. 750 Howard St., San Francisco.

Wed., Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28, 5 - 6 pm. San Rafael Writers & Artists invites CWC Marin members to **Cultivate Your Voice: The Novel**. Join us for a day of writing exercises, discussion, and strengthening, and trusting the voice that makes your fiction uniquely yours. $75/class and 15% discount for CWC members. Read above for more details or contact Gini.

Tues, Oct. 13, 6:30 pm. Wine & Cheese Reception. 6:00 - 7:30 pm. - Author Talk, followed by a book signing by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Audrey Peterman. Corte Madera Town Center, 1600 Redwood Highway, Corte Madera, 1 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon.

Sat., Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. **Sonoma County Writers Conference.** Presented by Redwood Writers Club, a full day of craft, publishing, and marketing sessions, plus a keynote from award-winning crime-fiction author, Hallie Ephron. Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa. **Physics of Imagination**, author Kimberly Diane Brown, will lead a session on how to explore the philosophical meaning of genre fiction.

In addition, **Mary Alice Stephens** will be leading a memoir workshop, **Radical Honesty: How to Share Hard Truths in Your Memoir.** Sharing our most intimate experiences can feel terrifying. When writing about tragedy or trauma, it's natural to hold back, to soften the edges, to protect ourselves and others from the full weight of what we've lived. This workshop provides a safe, structured space to explore your hardest truths. In this session, you will learn actionable techniques to write with deep vulnerability, heart, and humor, giving you the tools to create a compelling memoir without compromising your emotional well-being.

Come out and support our members! Friday Community Center, 2060 W College Ave., Santa Rosa.

Sat. Oct. 17 the local Indie Author Fest 2026, hosted by San Mateo County Libraries. The community event features a shared book fair, author panels, book signings, and publishing presentations showcasing local Bay Area independent writers. Millbrae Library, 1 Library Avenue, Millbrae.

Sun., Oct. 18, 1:00 - 2:30 pm. **CWC Marin presents Authorpreneurship** with publisher, book coach, and author **Brooke Warner.** See section above for more information.

Sat. Oct. 24. SCBWI CenCal's 2026 Writers & Illustrators Day. The theme is Craft, Creativity, and Community. All-day conference with workshops, panels, and networking opportunities. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Cal Poly Pomona, Kellogg West.

Bookend's South Richmond's Literary Pub Crawl with Novels and Prose. There is also a Pre-Mixer via Zoom on the 21st from 6:30 am to 7 pm. See website for costs. Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park Department Auditorium, 1605 E. Burnley St. in Camarillo. See website for tickets.

Mon, Oct. 26, 6:00 - 7:30 pm **Book Passage Corte Madera presents Philosophagasa** with Andre Estevez and David Kadavy. Join them for a lively discussion about their collaborative book, Philosophagasa, which explores how Ancient Knowledge Oceans of written have gone from talented amateurs to professionally published authors after participating in Philosophasizes. At the end of Philosophagasa, The judges will pick a winner. The winner receives an introduction to an agent/publisher and a free ticket to the next Philosophagasa! Stores are co-authors of The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published 31 Tiernan Way Corte Madera.

Thurs. Oct. 29, 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Come support our own **Valerie Saxe** who will be on the **Skyline Mystery Authors Panel** at Saunders Books by the Bay, 150 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

CWC Marin Board Members

Ryan Lubeck, President
Susanna Solomon, Treasurer
Robin Cutler, Secretary
Daniel Bacon, Development Director, Coffee Social Lead
Mike Van Sant, Writing and Critique Groups (CIG)
Robin Tyler, Newsletter Wizard, Calendar of Events, Website

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