CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB MARIN

November 2026

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This Saturday!

CWC Marin and Mill Valley Public Library
Present

Stunning Sentences

A Writing Craft Workshop
with

Author Nina Schuyler

Sat., Nov 7
1:00 - 2:30 pm
at Mill Valley Public Library

RSVP HERE

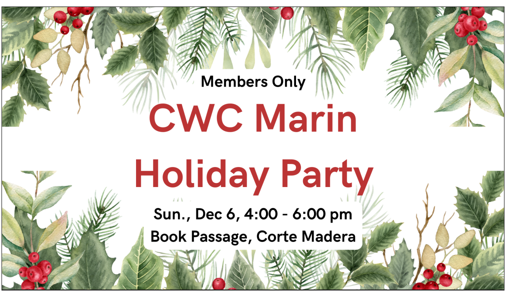
Join us for this hands-on opportunity to explore questions every writer asks: What kind of sentence captures anxiety? Thought? A reminiscent narrator? A feeling of euphoria? Exhaustion? The style of the sentence–the diction, imagery, syntax, rhythm, and sound–isn't frivolous decoration, but content. Come to class prepared to try out different ways of writing sentences. You'll begin to learn how to write sentences that do more than move the story along.

Nina Schuyler is an award-winner author. Her short story collection, In This Ravishing World, won the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award, the W.S. Porter Prize for Short Story Collections, and the Prism Prize for Climate Literature. Her novel Afterword won the Foreword INDIE Book of the Year Award for Literary and Science Fiction. Her novel The Translator won the Next Generation Indie Book Award for General Fiction. She teaches creative writing at Stanford Continuing Studies, and for the independent bookstore, Book Passage. Nina's weekly Substack newsletter, Stunning Sentences, can be found at ninaschuyler.substack.com.

This program is presented in collaboration with Mill Valley Public Library.

Get a copy of Nina's book here: How to Write Stunning Sentences
Her newest novel, Open the Floodgates, launched in September.

RSVP Today!



Members Only

CWC Marin

Holiday Party

Sun., Dec 6, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Book Passage, Corte Madera

Mark Your Calendars!
Sunday, Dec 6, 2026
4 to 6 pm
Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera

Celebrate your 2026 writing accomplishments and toast the New Year with us! Admission is free for registered Members and their guests.

- Current CWC Members (any branch) and their guests (one per member) are welcome
- Potluck – please bring an hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share
- Book Exchange! Details below.
- Can you help us with clean up or break down? Please specify in the RSVP form.

RSVP HERE

How the Book Exchange Works

- Bring a book (unwrapped) — It can be a gently used book, your own book, or a new one, but it should be a book you love. We'll lay them out on a table for everyone to admire. (Consider buying your book at Book Passage to support indie bookstores and thank them for hosting us!)
- Everyone will be given a chance to introduce his/her book — thirty seconds — (I chose this book because x. I love this book because y).
- Everyone takes a number from a hat.
- The person with #1 goes first. He/she chooses a book.
- Person #2 can either choose a book from the table or steal the book from #1.
- If stolen, #1 goes back to the table and chooses another book.
- #3 goes next. He/she can choose a book from the table or steal one.
- * No 'steal-backs'. A book can only be stolen twice.
- When stealing, you must address your 'victim' by name.
- Nobody 'has to play'. Feel free to just watch!

Meet the Board - Carol Bruce

Editor's Note: *As New Member Ambassador, Carol reaches out to new Members to make them feel welcome. Feel free to seek her out at Coffee Socials or send her an email if you have any questions. She can connect you to the best resources in our community.*

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I'm a retired operating room nurse from Marin General Hospital (Marin Health Hospital). I have a husband of 35 years and two golden labradoodles (double doodles).

I am a third generation Marinite and proud of our County and its recreation and beauty. How can you not be inspired to do something creative? For me, I make beaded necklaces out of semiprecious stones and sell at local art and crafts fairs and Marin Open Studios.

My other passion is writing. Although I've written many editorials and poetry, my latest involves grief writing. When my son began his perilous journey into schizoaffective disorder, I journaled incessantly, trying to make sense of it all, only to find that even the most brilliant of doctors were as clueless as I was.

Since my son's passing, I've taken upon myself to attempt to breach the stigma given to schizophrenia, in particular. To help others who have lost a loved one, or are still caring for a loved one. Hopefully my book, Son on the Run, will resonate with those who are still suffering or are curious about this disease.

Carol Bruce
Son on the Run

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 this newsletter, but there are far too many cool things going on to feature them all. For more information on branches and their websites, click here. Subscribe to other branch newsletters (particularly Redwood Writers, which is large, active, and nearby).

Did you know there is a California Writers' Memorial Grove? Between 1930 and 1985, CWC members planted trees to commemorate California's most influential writers. Each tree was marked with a plaque, but in the 1980s the plaques were stolen. Over time, which tree commemorated whom was forgotten.

Enter Berkeley branch's Kristen Caven, CWC's first Writer in Residence at Joaquin Miller Park. She is working to rediscover and maybe even revive this tradition. Visit the grove at the Park in Oakland and let us know what you think.

New CWC state-level website rollout is coming soon. We apologize for the delay. When the new site is up (imminently, we're told), we will provide a walk-through demo of the new Member portal. It will feature new self-serve areas allowing you to showcase your books and build/update your own author bio information. You'll also renew your Memberships there. Stay tuned!

Find Your People

Coffee Socials
are back!
STUDIOFOURTHSTREET.COM

Our coffee socials are free and open to Members and non-Members alike. Bring your questions about writing, publishing, and marketing. We're also testing out a new book table -- bring your book to display and talk about. This is where the networking/friend-making magic happens. Don't forget to bring your own coffee and crumpet, and support us with a donation for the tip jar.

Next CWC Marin Coffee Social
Sunday, November 15th
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Studio Fourth Street, 1569 Fourth St., San Rafael

Copperfield's Meet and Greet

GIRL IN A BOX
JEAN GORDON KOCIENDA
SUBURBAN WILDLIFE
DANIEL BACON
Mariner of Destiny
Lauren Scott
Ever So Gently
CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB OF MARIN
LOOKING

Come support Copperfield's and your fellow CWC Marin authors at an

Author Meet and Greet
Sunday, November 8
11 am to 2 pm
Copperfields at Marin Country Mart, Larkspur Landing

Featured Authors:
Jean Gordon Kocienda
Daniel Bacon
Roberto de Haro

Shout Outs!

Welcome to our New and Returning Members

Layo Freed - Creative non-fiction
David Steffen – Non-fiction (music history)
Scott Forrest - Young Adult, Fantasy, Horror
Ken Morris - Fiction & Nonfiction

We appreciate you!

Member News

CWC member **Warwick Dunnett** shared the story behind his book ***Dance with Angels*** in the October **Marin Magazine**. After the sudden loss of his son, he spent ten years searching the world's religions, spiritual traditions, and the evidence for life after death. What he discovered changed how he views grief, hope, happiness, love, and the way we live. *Dance with Angels* is the result of that journey of exploration and has recently also been released as an Audiobook, available on Spotify, Apple, and at WarwickDunnett.com. Hardcover, paperback, and ebook versions are also available on Amazon and at most online retailers.

Lauren Scott is thrilled to have a poem in the Redwood Writers Poetry Anthology, *And Then,* which is available on Amazon. This is the branch's annual poetry anthology featuring the talented poets within their membership.

Also, her story, "Resilience is her Saving Grace," was chosen as one of the Top Ten in the Flash Fiction category of this year's San Francisco Writers Conference contest! Her story will be included in the SFWC 2026 Anthology, and all the winners will be recognized at the conference next February, along with a group photo.

Community member Valerie Saul's debut novel, ***The Badass Widows***, was selected as a semifinalist for the 2026 Kindle Book Review Awards in the Mystery/Thriller category. Congratulations, Valerie!

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

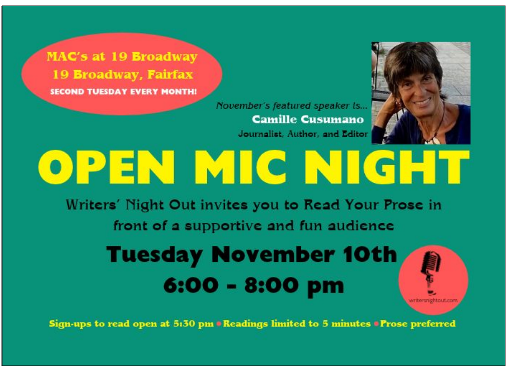
CWC Marin member **Jean Gordon Kocienda** spoke at her alma mater, Colgate University, in October. It was forty years ago, in 1986, that Jean first visited Japan as part of the Colgate Japan Study Group. She returned to Colgate's beautiful upstate NY campus to introduce her historical novel Girl in a Box, about Japanese feminist poet Yosano Akiko, to a new generation of students and faculty.

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)

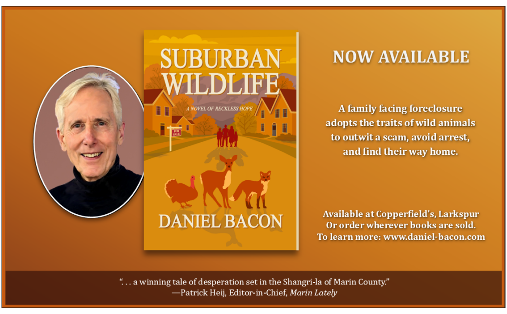
Writer's Night Out

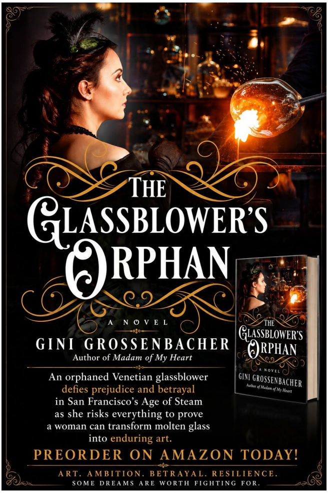
Featured Author: CWC Marin Member Camille Cusumano


MAC's at 19 Broadway
19 Broadway, Fairfax
SECOND TUESDAY EVERY MONTH!
November's featured speaker is...
Camille Cusumano
Journalist, Author, and Editor
OPEN MIC NIGHT
Writers' Night Out invites you to Read Your Prose in front of a supportive and fun audience
Tuesday November 10th
6:00 - 8:00 pm
writersnightout.com
Sign-ups to read open at 5:30 pm • Readings limited to 5 minutes • Prose preferred

Dress for the weather; we're out on the patio. Questions? Check www.writersnightout.com.

Support Our Members' Work!


SUBURBAN WILDLIFE
A NOVEL OF RECKLESS HOPE
DANIEL BACON
NOW AVAILABLE
A family facing foreclosure adopts the traits of wild animals to outwit a scam, avoid arrest, and find their way home.
Available at Copperfield's, Larkspur
Or order wherever books are sold.
To learn more: www.daniel-bacon.com
". . . a winning tale of desperation set in the Shangri-la of Marin County."
—Patrick Heij, Editor-in-Chief, Marin Lately



THE GLASSBLOWER'S ORPHAN

A NOVEL

GINI GROSSENBACHER

Author of *Madam of My Heart*

An orphaned Venetian glassblower
defies prejudice and betrayal
in San Francisco's Age of Steam
as she risks everything to prove
a woman can transform molten glass
into enduring art.

PREORDER ON AMAZON TODAY!

ART. AMBITION. BETRAYAL. RESILIENCE.
SOME DREAMS ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

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 (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. Nov. 6, 3:00 – 5:00 pm. **Haiku in the Garden** celebrates its third anniversary with a writing circle with David Watts, whose poetry has been widely published, including two books: *Dream Tree* & *Seed Kites*.Please bring pen and paper to savor the poetry of the season. **Marin Art and Garden Center,** Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Ross.

Sat. Nov. 7, 1:00 pm. **CWC Marin presents How to Write Stunning Sentences with Nina Schuyler** See section above for more information.

Tues. Nov. 10, 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Publishing Pointers with Kier Holmes Are you ready to begin your path to publishing but need help building a roadmap? Whether your destination is traditional or self-publishing, four authors (including **CWC Marin President Jean Gordon Kocienda**) will share their journeys, divulge insider tips, and answer audience questions about what it took to get their books on shelves. Mill Valley Public Library, 375 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley.

Thurs. Nov. 12, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. **Where We Bloom: A Poetry Workshop on Identity, Belonging & Becoming**. Join poet, author, filmmaker, and educator Amber Allen-Peirson for a reflective poetry workshop exploring identity, belonging, and the places, both within ourselves and in the world around us, that allow us to bloom. Mill Valley Public Library, 375 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley.

Sat. Nov. 14, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. **CWC Napa Valley Writers Book Festival.** This free event will bring together more than 50 authors, with programming for readers of all ages and interests. The festival will feature author tables, independent bookstores, an open mic, and a children's story time showcasing local authors. Rex Pickett, critically acclaimed author of *Sideways*, will be the keynote speaker. His presentation, "The Fiction Writing Process: From the Blank Page to Publication," will explore finding an original voice, navigating rejection, and persevering through the publishing process. In addition, our Marin chapter authors, **Carol Bruce, Daniel Bacon, Colleen Dolan and Gini Grossenbacher** will be participating. Come out and support them! Food trucks on site — wine available for purchase. Blue Oak School, 1455 Polk Street, Napa.

Wed. Nov. 18, 4:00 – 5:30 pm. (ongoing: meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month). **San Rafael's Shut Up & Write program** is a place where local writers gather for a quiet, dedicated writing session. This a place for encouragement, help with accountability, and a positive community. Marin Civic Center Library, 3501 Civic Center Dr, Room 427, San Rafael.

Sat. Nov. 21, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm. CWC Redwood Writers 2026 Holiday Book & Craft Fair. This lively event brings together local authors and crafters, offering books and handmade treasures that make perfect holiday gifts for yourself or your loved ones. Finley Center, Room 5 (Senior Wing), 2060 W College Ave, Santa Rosa.

Mon. Nov. 23, 5:30 – 7:30 pm (ongoing). Bring your creativity to the monthly gathering of the **Circle of Poets and Writers**. Celebrate the written word and collaborate in a welcoming environment. Attendees share original poems in progress, exchange positive feedback, and offer craft suggestions. The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Fairfax Library, 2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Fairfax.

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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