

Write Angles



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKELEY BRANCH OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

®

President's Message

Could *You* Be Right for the Job?

-Tanya Grove

Last month in the March issue of *Write Angles*, I published job descriptions of four club officers, in hopes that some member would read them and think, "Hey, I could do that!" I am happy to announce that our current vice president, Kymberlie Ingalls, will become the workshop chair. (Be sure to thank her the next time you see her!)

But there are still a few holes we need to fill. This month I am listing responsibilities of the PR Director, the Membership Chair, and the 5th Grade Story Contest Chair.

Public Relations Director

- Promote CWC, the Berkeley Branch, and our published authors
- Coordinate outreach and calendar posts with the webmaster, social media mavens, and community calendar liaison
- Develop and maintain contacts with target audiences and strategic partners, such as bookstores, libraries, media, and colleagues in education and publishing
- Keep data base up to date
- Alert target audiences at least twice of branch programs and author events
- Work with the Marketing Group to promote members as opportunities arise
- Keep print documents up to date for display at meetings/events
- Develop annual PR plan and make reports to the CWC-BB board

Membership Chair

- Process applicants
- Prepare and maintain member roster
- Submit a membership report 3x/year to Central Board
- Learn how to use MRMS (CWC's membership record system)
- Attend general meetings
- Attend board meetings
- Inform the person in charge of orientation of any new members
- Make follow-up calls to visitors

5th Grade Story Contest Chair

- Send contest notices out to elementary schools in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties
- Find and assign readers for all entries
- Keep track of who's written what stories
- Arrange for small group of judges to rank the best stories
- Print out and sign certificates for all the winners
- Arrange for prizes with treasurer
- Alert winners/post notice on website
- Plan awards ceremony and reserve time
- Emcee the awards ceremony/hand out prizes

If you have questions about any of the positions or you're interested in becoming an officer or chair beginning in June, please contact me at berkeley-cwc@gmail.com



April 2014

Contents

President's Message	1
April Speakers	2
NorCal & CB Reports	3
Poetry Reading Event	4
Book Corner	5
PR News	5
Volunteer Corner	6
Emerging Writer Prize	6
Member News	7
Marketplace	7
Other Branches' News	8

Upcoming Events

April is Poetry Month!

4/20 Meeting – Authors
Streshinsky & Klaus on
An Atomic Love Story

5/17 Joaquin Miller Park
Writing Event

5/18 CWC-BB Board Meeting

5/18 Meeting (Speaker TBA)

The CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB is a 501(c) (3) educational nonprofit. dedicated to educating members and the public-at-large in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

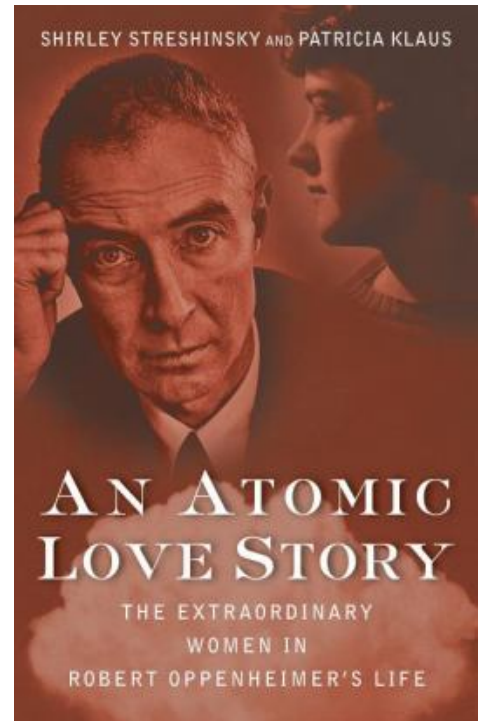
Authors Reveal Oppenheimer's Atomic Love

—David Baker

June 14, 1943 . . . Oppenheimer arrived at 9:45 PWT . . . He rushed to meet a young lady, whom he kissed and they walked away arm in arm. They entered a 1935 green Plymouth coupe and the young lady drove. The car is registered to Jean Tatlock. She is five foot seven, 128 [pounds], long dark hair, slim, attractive.

This excerpt from an F.B.I. report appears in *An Atomic Love Story: The Extraordinary Women in Robert Oppenheimer's Life*, by Shirley Streshinsky and Patricia Klaus, our featured speakers for the April 20 meeting. Drawing on the agent's observations, the authors bring the rendezvous to life.

She was smiling, not hurting, he could see that. The Jean he could not give up. He would have smiled as she raised her face to kiss him, would have studied her with that intensity that so unsettled others, the blue eyes riveted, as if he could record the synapses of her brain. Others wilted under his attention. Jean did not.



Oppenheimer, newly appointed scientific director of the Los Alamos section of the Manhattan Project, has left his wife and child in New Mexico and is risking his security clearance and leadership role in the Project by engaging in a romantic encounter with a known Communist. The scene, which takes place in San Francisco, adds color to our image of a famous man. But, as the last sentence in the passage above suggests, Streshinsky and Klaus want him to share the spotlight with the women who helped shape him—Tatlock, Katherine (Kitty) Oppenheimer, and Ruth Tolman. The three are interesting in their own right because they were educated, intelligent, ambitious, and ahead of their era. “We wanted to rescue them from what seemed to be historical oblivion,” Streshinsky once told an audience.

Author of three nonfiction works, among them a well-received biography of John James Audubon, Shirley Streshinsky has written four historical novels, including the best-selling *Hers The Kingdom* (Putnam). Her long-form journalism has been published in *Redbook*, the *Los Angeles Times* magazine, *AARP The Magazine*, *American Heritage*, *Preservation*, and *The American Scholar*. Historian Patricia Klaus received her PhD in history from Stanford University and has taught at Yale, Stanford, and the University of Virginia. Bringing Oppenheimer's three loves into the foreground as fully formed individuals with aspirations of their own required what Klaus has called “research breakthroughs.”

You'd like an example? You're curious about the challenges the authors faced? Come to the April meeting.

Write Angles

Editor Tanya Grove

Copyeditor/Member News Anne Fox

Speaker Profile David Baker

Contributors: Linda Brown, Madelen Lontiong, Kathleen Orosco, Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal

NorCal Tackles 2 Conferences

-Kathleen Orosco

To take the mystery out of NorCal, CWC members can attend the meetings at the Bellevue Club, 525 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA. The only requirements: you need to dedicate a Saturday every other month from 11:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.; you must be resourceful and interested in recruiting new members; you should be a good problem solver, thinker, and listener; and, of course, you have to be passionate about writing.

With enthusiasm and energy, NorCal representatives discussed CWC business and branch writing activities at the February 2014 meeting. The focus was on two major upcoming events: the San Francisco Writers Conference at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, sponsored and founded by Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada; and the Leadership Conference, organized by NorCal which will be held on May 3, 2014, at De Vry University in Fremont. This is the second time CWC branches have participated in a cooperative effort with SFWC. The Leadership Conference was last held in May 2011.

At the San Francisco Writers Conference (SFWC), published authors speak, and writers on all levels can



CWC-BB member Jane Glendinning speaking at SFWC

attend workshops to advance their writing skills and goals. NorCal's discussions of the SFWC reflected perspectives of all eleven branches and how our participation at the SFWC can benefit CWC in its membership growth and literary prominence. Carole Bumpus and Kathleen Orosco oversaw branch volunteers for CWC's exhibit table.

The Leadership Conference, "Success by Sharing," is valued by NorCal to create success stories, to define what works best to increase membership,

retain good practices for meetings, and keep an open mind for what is new in writing and publishing. NorCal's choice of De Vry University reflects the educational goal of the Leadership Conference to teach members new approaches to writing and to establish new ways of listening and reading.

NorCal is looking forward to seeing members participate and take with them the outcome of rewarding experiences.

Central Board News

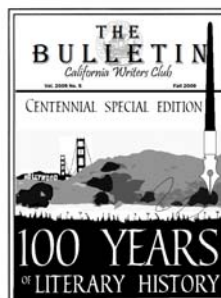
January Meeting Highlights

-Linda Brown

In the March 2014 *Write Angles*, I introduced the Central Board Executive Committee and Appointees. This month I'm sharing highlights from the January meeting. But first, let me tell you the benefits of being your CB representative.

A key benefit is learning about what is going on in all 19 branches and taking the best ideas back to the Berkeley Branch. Another benefit is meeting members across the state and leveraging their expertise. (Thank you Ray Malus, San Fernando Valley branch, for the map and photos on page 9 of the March 2014 *Write Angles*.)

In January, we discussed publishing opportunities sponsored by your CWC-CB. The *Literary Review* will be published this summer and include the deadline for the next issue.



Good news! *The Bulletin*, first published in 1912, will return in late April or May. Joyce Krieg, Central Coast, who serves as the NorCal chair and CB Secretary, is planning a new feature in which all of the branches contribute a topic of universal interest. She will also catch up readers on what's happened since *The Bulletin* was suspended, as well as showcase upcoming events and report news of major achievements.

The CB also takes care of the business of being a California corporation since we were established on March 7, 1913. In January your CB representatives heard a presentation by our insurance provider. Did you know you have "excess liability" coverage should you be in an automobile accident while conducting branch business and that other insurance coverage protects you when conducting club business such as hosting a critique group?

CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 6–7:30 PM

MONTCLAIR BRANCH LIBRARY

1687 Mountain Boulevard ☎ 510-482-7810

FIVE LOCAL POETS are reading their poetry.
Linda Brown, Past President of the California
Writers Club, will MC.

POETS READING:

Grace Marie Grafton
Stewart Florsheim
Barbara Joan Tiger Bass
Heather Angier
Cyrus Armajani

There will be an **OPEN MIC** from 7 to 7:30 PM.

"Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance."
—Carl Sandburg

 Your Library



OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

For assistance in working with products, To request sign language interpretation or other accommodations, call 510-255-2264 (TTY) at least 5 working days in advance.



Book Corner**What Was the Best Book You Read in the Last Year?**

–Tanya Grove

Many successful writers give the same advice to aspiring writers: READ! But what do writers read—fiction or non-fiction? A novel, a collection of short stories, a self-help book, a biography? What was the *best* book you've read in the last year? What made it your favorite?

Please write the answers to these questions and send them to me at writeangles@gmail.com. See example for form. I'll share as many answers as space allows in the May issue of *Write*



Angles. Please send your responses no later than **April 15**.

Please include the book's title, the author, and its genre in a sentence. Don't forget to include your name.

Example:

My favorite book from the last few years is a young adult novel, *The Fault of Our Stars* by John Green. It made me laugh and cry, which, in my opinion, is the perfect combination.

Happy reading!

Pitch Opportunity

I often marvel at the opportunities surrounding us in the CWC. Speakers and fellow members provide experiences and support, and we hear about contests and services that would otherwise escape us. A few of the latter recently crossed the CWC PR desk and I pass them along to you.

The first, Fearless Literary Services, has partnered with the CWC to offer manuscript assessment, editing, coaching and marketing, and members receive a special discount. Fearless has impressive background with major houses and comes highly recommended. Check out <http://www.fearlessbooks.com/CWC.htm> for more, or contact them at info@fearlessbooks.com.

The next, WriterAdvice with an April 18 deadline, seeks flash fiction, memoir and creative nonfiction running 750 words or less. Enlighten, dazzle and perhaps win \$200. For details, visit www.writeradvice.com.

The Greyden Press 2014 Book Competition will award over \$12,000 in prizes. Deadlines: fiction, young adult-fiction, nonfiction - June 2; children's books - July 1 (www.greydenpress.com/competition).

"Duende," a new literary magazine, "insinuates authenticity and soulfulness, earthiness, expressiveness and chill" and asks for your deepest and best work. The submissions window for the inaugural issue runs March 15 - May 15 (www.duende.goddard.edu).

Author's Marketing Pro software aims to help authors find target readers and accepts books from subscribers for consideration for movie and TV adaptation. See a demo video on www.montecarlosolutions.com/authors.

As with any recommendation, recognize the distinction between endorsement and sharing announcements. But heck, what writer wouldn't want to know about opportunities - and what branch wouldn't benefit from possibly opening doors for members? Consider this angle an outreach tool. Sure, people can hunt down resources online. But you can make it more fun to discover these leads through membership and meetings.

Good luck and sail on,
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, PR director
(pr@calwriters.org)

The Berkeley Branch meets on the third Sunday of each month (except July, August, and December) at 2:00 p.m. in the Bradley C. Walters Community Room of the Main Library in Oakland at 125 14th Street ([View Map](#)).
Enter on Madison Street.

Free street parking is available, and it is a short walk from the Lake Merritt BART station.



Volunteer Corner

- Madelen Lontiong

In theatre, it takes many hands to produce a well-acted, well-crafted, well-staged play. Audiences respond to those efforts with applause and sometimes a standing ovation.

As in the theatre, well-functioning nonprofits depend on a host of volunteers. So it is with CWC-BB. It takes different folks doing different jobs to keep the club running so that the rest of us can reap value from their efforts. Some people need little urging to get involved and see volunteering as a given in any endeavor. They understand what it takes to keep a nonprofit going.

CWC volunteers come with different interests and skills. Some volunteers are outgoing and can easily be in the public eye. Others prefer to stay behind the scenes. Some volunteers serve where and when they're needed, setting up chairs or bringing refreshments. This month we especially thank three volunteers who provide valuable services.

Dave Sawle has been our speaker chair for two years. Dave scouts for potential speakers for our monthly meetings by reading books, attending readings and lectures, and fielding recommendations from others. He has brought to us a variety of interesting and helpful speakers, such as Mary-Rose Hayes, author of best-seller *Amethyst*; Fritjof Capra, author of *Learning from Leonardo*; and Brooke Warner, author of *What's Your Book*. Dave has served as president in the past and last



year conducted the workshop "Developing Publishing Platforms."

Kathleen Orosco has been our branch representative for three years to NorCal, the parent group for Northern California branches. Kathleen attends meetings, shares our branch news, and brings back news of events and activities that affect our branch, such as the upcoming Leadership Conference—an opportunity for members to expand their knowledge of leadership roles in CWC. Kathleen received kudos from other branches for co-organizing CWC's booth at the San Francisco Writers' Conference, where she explained what CWC has to offer and signed up interested writers. She describes her experience at SFWC as "incomparable." "I felt the creative energy among published and aspiring writers in the exchange of literary ideas, educational tools, and innovative publishing." (See her account on page 3.)

For several years our vice president, Kimberlie Ingalls, has assisted Alon Shalev in the marketing group—leading discussions; sharing information about blogging, websites, and YouTube; and researching marketing topics of interest to writers. Kimberlie also oversees our branch's Facebook and Meetup accounts as a way of promoting the branch. She has visited other branches to observe and learn from them. At our January meeting,

Kimberlie spoke about the value of blogging and branding for writers.

Our hats off to each of you

Help Send an Emerging Writer to SF Writers Conference

Since 2008, Vicki Hudson has sponsored a writing competition that provides the winner with a scholarship to attend the San Francisco Writers Conference. Starting as a scholarship for MFA students, and broadening to include any emerging writer, this program has enabled more than a dozen writers to attend and gain the benefits of one of the finest writer conferences in the nation. Several recipients have gone to gain an agent or their first publishing contract as a result of contacts made during their sponsored attendance as the scholarship recipient. The Victoria A. Hudson

Emerging Writer Prize truly makes a difference, one writer at a time.

Currently, there is a crowd-source funding campaign to support this no-fee writing competition, which awards a scholarship to attend the San Francisco Writers Conference to one emerging writer annually. Please visit the campaign page and consider making a contribution. Your support in sharing the campaign across your networks and social media is also appreciated. <http://www.gofundme.com/emergingwriterprize>

Did you know that *Write Angles* is now up on our website? www.cwc-berkeley.org

And if you've missed past issues, you can find them here: <http://www.scribd.com/search?query=cwc.berkeley+Write+Angles>





March 16 Meeting Highlights

Above: (from left) Linda Brown, Walter Price, and Carma Bennett share what they're working on during a breakout session.

At right: Mary Luersen reads her work aloud.

Below: (from left) Anne Fox, David Baker, Bruce Shiguera, and Walter Price make up our critique group panel while Vicki Hudson (standing) moderates.



Member News

Berkeley Branch members are encouraged to send us writing-related news. Please write "Member News" in the subject line and send to Anne at writefox@aol.com no later than the 15th of the month.

Clifford Hui's short story, "Our Choices," about the sun conure Felix, appears in the current issue of *The Corner Club Press*. Click on "Issues," then on cover for issue 12, volume 3. <http://thecornerclubpress.weebly.com>

Risa Nye's Craft article for *Hippocampus Magazine*, March 1, 2014, "I Was Here," probes and ponders the complexity of the past that intrudes and challenges the present, with wider implications for the future—

Marketplace

Berkeley Branch members are welcome to advertise their writing-related services. Please write "Marketplace" in the subject line and send to Anne at writefox@aol.com no later than the 15th of the month.

Charlotte Cook offers story editing, prepublishing services, and workshops for writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and screenplays. Also available is office/retreat space for classes and meetings. storyeditor@att.net

why we write, what we write, how we write. www.hippocampusmagazine.com/2014/03/craft-i-was-here-by-risa-nye/

See Risa's column for the Erma Bombeck Writer's Workshop, "Poxy Lady," for a smile about "spot-on" reporting. <http://humorwriters.org/?s=Risa+Nye&submit=Search>

Risa will be one of the featured readers in the *Listen to Your Mother*-San Francisco show, May 3, 2014—national series of original live readings in 32 cities celebrating Mother's Day, The San Francisco presentation offers support to Chicks in Crisis. For tickets: [Brava Theater Center Box Office](http://bravatheatercenterboxoffice.com) For information: <http://listentoyourmothershow.com/sanfrancisco/>

Tatjana Greiner offers developmental editing for all genres of fiction and nonfiction. Email her at workshop@mac.com. More information at: <http://tatjanagreinerwordshop.com>

Anne Fox, *Write Angles* copyeditor, offers copyediting services for all levels of fiction and nonfiction. References available. writefox@aol.com

Thomas Burchfield offers editing and proofreading services for fiction and nonfiction books by CWC Berkeley members. For details, visit his webpage, e-mail him at tbdeluxe@sbcglobal.net, or call 510-817-4432.

April 13th Monthly Meeting

Redwood Writers Presents: Jenn Sterling

**FROM GETTING FIRED
TO WRITING HOT BEST-SELLERS**

One Novelist's Incredible Journey

Jenn Sterling was fired from her job three and a half years ago. So, she did the one thing that made the most sense... she bought herself a laptop and started writing that book she'd kept in her head for the last 10 years. Logical, right? *Ha!* She wrote stories while she continued to search the marketplace for a new job. The job market was tough, finding an audience to read her debut novel was even tougher. Her first book was released during a time when no one read "self-published" authors, and those who did didn't hesitate to completely rip apart the work from page to page. The stigma was real. But Sterling refused to stop, even when her first book was considered a complete and utter flop. Still writing, still looking for "real" work, she lost her house when it went into foreclosure and she was unable to save it. Believing she had found the one thing that really set her soul on fire, she continued writing through it all. Sterling has since become a best-selling author and is sought after to speak and sign books nationwide, as well as internationally. She will talk about her amazing journey and inspire us all to continue believing in our work and perhaps have a success story of our own.

About Jenn Sterling

Sterling is the USA Today best-selling author of the young and new adult novels, *The Perfect Game*, *The Game Changer*, *Chance Encounters*, *In Dreams*, and *The Sweetest Game*. She is an indie author success story who is now a sought-after speaker throughout the country and internationally, most recently in England and soon Australia. She lives in Petaluma with her baseball-obsessed son.



Redwood Writers General Meeting

WHEN:
Sunday, April 13th
3 – 5 p.m.
Arrive 2:30
to register & network

WHERE:
Flamingo Hotel - Courtyard
2777 Fourth St.
Santa Rosa, 95405
(707) 523-4745

FEE:
\$5 / members
\$8 / nonmembers
This is asked to cover room
rental and refreshments.

DETAILS:
www.redwoodwriters.org

FLYER DESIGN BY APRIL GREEN

Redwood Writers is a branch of the California Writers Club 4/13/14 Meeting www.redwoodwriters.org

CWC-South Bay Event

Learn the Art of Suspense

Author Margaret Lucke will be presenting "The Art of Suspense: How to Keep Your Readers Turning the Pages" on April 14, at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose.

Every great story is a suspense story, no matter its genre. Your skill at creating suspense is what keeps your readers coming back for more. This doesn't mean you must hang readers on the edge of their seat or force them to bite their nails. Suspense is the artful tension you create between readers' hopes and doubts, between their concern for your characters and their uncertainty about what lies ahead. It is the essential quality that makes your readers ask, "What happens next?" and keeps them turning pages.

Author Margaret Lucke will explore techniques for creating suspense and weaving in conflict. Learn the secrets to earning that cherished accolade: "I couldn't put it down."

COST: \$15 (includes \$10 for dinner)





Fault Zone: Diverge

Call for Entries for Non-Members

Fault Zone: Diverge, the fifth in the anthology series edited by the SF/Peninsula Branch of California Writers, will be published by Sand Hill Review Press in 2014. Non-members of SF/Peninsula Writers are eligible to participate by entering the *Fault Zone* short story contest.

Judging should be completed by mid-September. The prelaunch book party will be in early December and the book will be available on Amazon by January, 2015. The San Francisco/Peninsula Writers will be the contest judges.

First Prize is \$250 and publication in our next *Fault Zone* anthology.

Second Prize is \$100.

Third Prize is \$50.

Contest Deadline: August 1, 2014

Reading fee: \$15

Guidelines

Fault Zone isn't only about earthquakes. It's about personal faults, shortcomings, and the foibles of being human. In a way, we all live on a fault zone. Write from the heart. Be edgy. Be wild. But make sure your story has an arc. Stories involving California are always appreciated. Previously published work will be considered; let us know where it has appear-ed. Your piece should relate to the anthology's theme in some way.

Please, when submitting,

- Submit only .doc or .docx files
- Use Times New Roman or similar font, 12 point, double spaced
- Maximum word count: 2,500
- Include the name of the story and page number on each page

Submission Process

Online (Preferred Method)

We use Submittable to accept and manage submissions. Please visit <http://cwc-peninsula.submittable.com/submit> to submit your entry. (Scroll down to the Contest category). If you do not have a Submittable account, you will be prompted to create one.

Snail Mail

Mail two (2) copies of your submission plus the \$15 entry fee to the address below. Must be postmarked by August 1, 2014. Include a cover sheet containing contact information with your e-mail, address and phone number. Even if you win, we may request edits to your manuscript and we will need to contact you right away.

SF/Peninsula CWC
P.O. Box 853
Belmont, CA 94002

*Note: Do **NOT** send your entry Registered Mail as we have to stand in line and it makes us cranky. Just mail it. Really. It will get to us. If you're dying to know if it arrived, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard; we'll sign it and drop the card in the mail. How's that? Better yet, use our [online submission system](#).*



The Marin Branch of California Writers Club

SET YOUR CHARACTERS FREE:

The pitfalls and unexpected rewards of turning memoir into fiction.

with

Mary-Rose Hayes

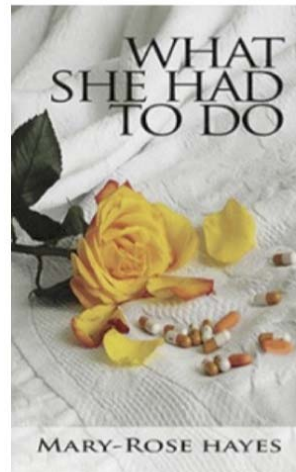
****Sunday, April 13, **2014 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

Book Passage – 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera

Mary-Rose Hayes will discuss writing her new novel *WHAT SHE HAD TO DO*; the reasons it took so long (more than ten years) and how that was a blessing in disguise; why the characters in the book didn't seem real until she stepped out of their lives and allowed them to develop on their own; and how, by the time she had typed "THE END" for the final time, she had surprisingly come to terms with past issues of her own.



British-b



British-born Mary-Rose Hayes is the author of eight previous novels including the *TIME/LIFE* best seller *AMETHYST*, and two political thrillers co-authored with Senator Barbara Boxer.

California Writers Club is a nonprofit 501c3 educational corporation. CWC Marin events are open to the public for a \$10 non-member charge per meeting. The charge for CWC members is \$5 per meeting. Learn more about this month's speakers, future events, or how to join CWC Marin at <http://www.cwcmarinwriters.com>.