

On this site in the early years of the 20th century, famed author Jack London and his literary friends gathered for picnics and conversation. In 1909, these informal outdoor salons – “a blanket and a basket of chow” – evolved into the California Writers Club (CWC).

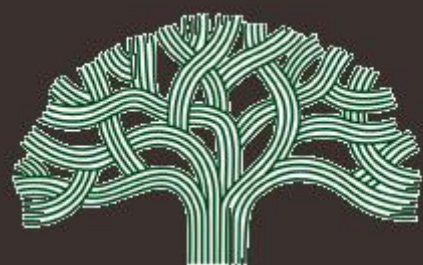
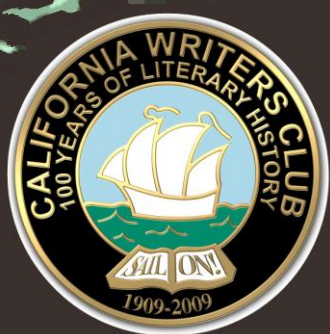
After Joaquín Miller’s death in 1913, CWC led the campaign to turn his home and grounds into a park, and in 1917 it became part of the Oakland parks system. CWC began the annual tradition of planting a tree in Writers Memorial Grove to honor a California writer in 1930. During the Great Depression, CWC partnered with the Works Progress Administration to create its most enduring legacy: Woodminster Amphitheater and The Cascades, dedicated in 1941 to honor the achievements of California writers.

Today, Woodminster remains a treasured community resource, and the towering redwoods of Writers Memorial Grove line both sides of The Cascades.

In 2009, California Writers Club celebrated its centennial with some 1200 members in 18 branches throughout the state, a vibrant and dynamic community of writers living the tradition created by Jack London and Joaquín Miller on this site so many years ago.



100 YEARS OF LITERARY HISTORY



CITY OF OAKLAND