

# Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers



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March 2017 Issue

## STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Class summarized by June Gillam

Author Joan Stockbridge

As part of the Auburn Winter Storytelling Fest, on January 28, 2107, Joan Stockbridge, an award-winning storyteller, presented a 90-minute workshop. She set out the steps to storytelling in a series of activities that led to some success for all of us gathered around.

First, Stockbridge explained that storytelling is an art of improvisation after preparation. She went on to tell the story of "The Monkey Prince," a traditional story that she planned for us to practice with in the workshop. She noted that her teachers advised tellers to memorize the first and last lines and then summarize the interior "threshold" stages of the story. Stockbridge passed out rectangles of white paper, about two inches by three inches, and directed us to list or outline the threshold moments of the Monkey Prince

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## 100-Word Story Contest

We are sponsoring a 100-word story contest to culminate on March 29, 2017. See information the on awards celebration planned for the Sizzler on March 29<sup>th</sup>, on page 4, Special Events.

### Guidelines:

- There will be 3 mystery judges.
- **March 2nd will be the due date** for submissions.
- One entry per member.
- E-mail entries to [GCW5991@gmail.com](mailto:GCW5991@gmail.com)
- All who enter must be a member in good standing of Gold Country Writers
- Hyphenated words count as ONE word
- Title and pen names are NOT included in the word count
- Send entry in the BODY of an EMAIL, NO ATTACHMENTS!
- NOTE: this is BLIND judging
- DO NOT INDICATE YOUR REAL NAME in the body or in the subject line
- The Examiner will delete your email information and forward your story with pen name only to judges for consideration
- Entry should have:
  - Title
  - PEN NAME ONLY
  - EXACTLY 100 words
  - "100-Word Story Contest" in the SUBJECT LINE
  - Your story or entry

## Storytelling Workshop, continued

story we had just heard on that tiny piece of paper. After that, we were to get a partner and tell the outline aloud not looking at our paper. That caused the room to fill with voices and laughter as we complied with her directions. She asked us to take a new partner at each step that would follow. We were next told to turn the tiny piece of paper over and on the back side “draw” the story in images meaningful to use—no words, just images. A lot of silence followed as we addressed this unexpected task. Then, Stockbridge told us to “gossip” a part of that story that grabbed us—with big energy, as if we were gossiping to each other over a back fence. This step filled the room with shocked “did you hear about?” type voices.

Stockbridge explained that storytelling goes on in a sort of triangle: the story, the teller and the audience. She said that tellers need to discern by watching the audience when they want more details of the story and when they are getting bored and want more action. To deal with that, Stockbridge had us play STOP and GO. One would start telling the Monkey Prince story and

the other would shout out STOP, meaning slow down and give more details. Then the partner would shout out GO, meaning to speed up the plot actions. This gave us practice interacting with an audience—it was on the nerve-wracking side, but filled the room with even more energy.

Next, we were to wander the room as individuals, telling the story aloud like a madwoman oblivious to others. Stockbridge advised us to passionately embody the story as we muttered the key scenes—over dramatize, she directed us. This step produced a roomful of budding tellers, each in their own little world. Finally, we were to tell one person the story and get their feedback on what worked best for them in listening to our telling. This worked out wonderfully for most of us, surprised to find that we really were storytellers, after all. Afterwards, Stockbridge noted that stories are food for our culture, starving for hope. People are looking for hope. She said that we control what comes to us by the stories we tell. In the future, she advised us to “select the story you want to tell. Choose stories you have an affinity for. Have a personal encounter with the story.”

## GCW Meeting Schedule

Join the **Gold Country Writers** each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St., Auburn 95603. Our regular monthly schedule is:

**First Wednesday:** Business Meeting to discuss club business. All members are welcome to come and contribute. This is followed by a closed meeting of the club’s Board of Directors.

**Second & Fourth Wednesday:** Drop-In Critique. This is the time when members

present samples (a maximum of five pages, double-spaced) of their writing to the group, and everyone gets to offer his or her critique.

**Third Wednesday:** Special program of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. See Page 4 for the Speaker of the Month.

**Fifth Wednesday:** On the rare occasion that there is one, we have a special program at the church or meet at a local restaurant for brunch and socializing with other club members.

# PROSE



## FROM THE PRES

As most of you know we have been seeking tax-exempt status for our club, as a charitable organization. We finally got a letter in the mail telling us that our organization received its 501(c)(3) status.

According to the letter the effective date is September 26, 2016. So our 2017 dues are deductible for the year. For those members who come in after January 1, 2017, only that part of the dues they paid are deductible. For example if a member joins in February and paid \$44.00 they can take \$44 off their taxes, but not \$48.

Reading the letter, if a member joined say in October 2016 and paid \$12, that is deductible for tax year 2016.

Great job, everyone who was and has been involved in this lengthy and somewhat complicated process – mainly Joy Hemp, current club Treasurer; Sharyn Martin, past club Secretary; Chery Anderson, VP of External Affairs; Betsy Schwarzentraub, VP of Internal Affairs, and the rest of the officers and Lead Team.

Skip Michael



**Karen Levy- A Search for Home through Words**

Karen Levy, author of *My Father's Garden*, a memoir, spoke at the February 15, 2017 GCW. Her tips on writing memoirs included:

- ✚ Have your audience in mind while writing. It saves editing.
- ✚ You don't have to have an agent if you are willing to do the leg work yourself.
- ✚ Show who you are.
- ✚ List what you collect.
- ✚ List the types of books you read.
- ✚ List where you have lived.
- ✚ List what movies you like.
- ✚ Organization can be by vignettes.
- ✚ If people in your book don't give permission to use their name, just change the names.
- ✚ 15% royalties is typical.
- ✚ If you go with traditional

publishing, it is more complicated than the writing itself.

- ✚ Read writers who sound like what you want to sound like.
- ✚ Don't give up on traditional publishers. There are many smaller houses that will fit your needs. Look for a good match.

### Kindle Direct Publishing

now does print on demand paperbacks as well as e-books. They have up to 60% royalties, after printing costs. They offer free ISBN for your paperbacks. You can reach paperback readers through Amazon websites in the US, Europe and Japan.

They plan to add more print features in the future, including the ability to order proofs and author (wholesale) copies at cost, and expanded distribution to bookstores.

# Special Events

## Writing with Hemingway

Paul Chollet/Cathy MacHold will teach Hemingway-inspired writing at the Placer Adult School, 4 Mondays starting March 6, 13, 20 & 27, Cost \$57. **Not a GCW Event**

## GCW Special Guest Program

March 15, 2017, 10-Noon at the church, **Gina L. Mulligan**  
-Writing Historical Fiction in a Modern World

## Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, noon, at Auburn Library, March 25, 2017.  
Contact: Chery [Taleteller2@gmail.com](mailto:Taleteller2@gmail.com) **Not a GCW Event**

## Art Bistro, Rocklin Open Mic Night

for storytelling, singers, poets, comedians - third Tuesday of each month- March 21, 2017, 6 PM, 6848 Five Star Blvd. Suite 6 Rocklin, CA 95677 **Not a GCW Event**

## 100-Word Story Contest Awards & Celebration

at Sizzler, March 29, 2017, 10 AM – Noon. Cost for salad bar, includes drink, tax & tip- \$13.30, bring a guest & join in on the fun – **Definitely a GCW Event**

## Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Tuesdays Noon-1 PM at Placer Co. DeWitt Center Justice Center, Richardson Dr. & B Ave. Auburn,  
Contact: Michael O'Haver, [Godsscribemike@al.com](mailto:Godsscribemike@al.com) **Not a GCW Event**

## Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

*Coordinator - Pauline Nevins -530/637-9163*

**Historical Fiction:** Contact Michael O'Haver – 530/268-2490. They meet once a month on the 4th Thursday, at 11:30 AM at The Daily Egg, 844 Lincoln Way, Auburn

**Children's Lit:** Contact Norma Lehr–530/878-8421. They meet at Norma's home on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs., 2-4 p.m.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy:** Contact Hester Jones–805/905-9034

**Memoirs:** Contact Linda Franklin–530/878-2138. They meet online and by phone when needed.

**Novel:** Contact Ann Reh– 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at La Bou



## GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

**President :** Skip Michael  
916/601-1044 Genre ~ Sci. Fi.

**Vice President - Internal Affairs:** Betsy Schwarzentraub  
530/333-0852

Genre ~ Christian Nonfiction

**Vice President - External Affairs:** Chery Anderson

530/613-1153 Genre ~  
Storytelling

**Treasurer:** Joy Hemp  
650/799-5828 Genre ~ Self-Help & Inspirational

**Secretary:** Michael O'Haver  
530/268-2490 Genre ~  
Christian Children's Books & Poetry

**Assistant Secretary:**  
Kathleen Ward 209/704-0719  
Genre ~ Short Stories

**Mentor Coordinator:**  
Susan Korn 530/888-9971  
Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

**Marketing GCW & Events**  
Joyce Rule 916/521-5177  
Genre ~ Short Stories

**Author Opportunities:** June Gillam 530/820-3020  
Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers & Poetry

**Membership & Guest Speakers**  
Margie Yee Webb 916/213-0798 Genre ~ Gift Books

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael O'Haver 530/268-2490

Submit newsletter material by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to [GodsScribeMike@aol.com](mailto:GodsScribeMike@aol.com)