

January, 2021

# GCW Dispatch

Our mission is to support local writers



## STAYING ALIVE GCW VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



December 9, 2020 saw Gold Country Writers celebrating the holidays online. Below Left: [Dorothe Kress](#) who won the prize for the most interesting Christmas decorations with her carved nutcracker figurines.

Below Right: [Jan Collins](#) who ended the festivities as she led the singing of "Silent Night" in sign language.

Above Left to Right: [Susan Korn](#), [Kathryn Shields](#), and [Betsy Schwarzen-  
traub](#) passed out gifts at the park behind City Hall to members who drove by after the online celebration.

Although the group singing was hampered somewhat by disjointed Zoom connections, everyone had a great time.

More Pictures on Pages 3, 4 & 5

## GCW 2020-21 Poetry Contest Deadline Extended

The 2nd Annual GCW Poetry Contest opened November 18th. Enter your best effort in one of the three categories: 1) I wish we'd have a pandemic every year; 2) Finding Love, 3) Memories, Bitter or Sweet. The due date for poems has been extended to **January 15** at midnight. See November's *Dispatch* or Chery's E-Blast for complete entry rules and guidelines. The Poetry Contest celebration has been moved to February 19, 2021.

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## 2021 Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival

The Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival has been bringing the art of telling in the oral tradition to the Northern California community for five years. On January 23, 2021, the event will be presented as an online event on [zoom.us](https://zoom.us). Registration is on [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com) with the zoom link being sent the day before the program. The same link can be used throughout the day for any of the programs. There will be three times during the day for different events. At 11:00 a.m. Ed Lewis and Linda Kennedy will entertain children with stories and songs.

Continued on Pages 5 & 6

## PROSE

### FROM THE PRES



“Happy New Year” 2021,

I can hardly believe it; we are into a new year, and yet it seems like nothing has changed. The good news is we have a vaccine waiting for those of us who are willing to give science a try. The common ground here is we are wondering when our lives will be getting back to somewhat normal.

As for me, I cannot wait to give a hug again to my family, friends, and loved ones. I look forward to not having to wear a mask, and going back to my usual place in church. One thing the pandemic has taught us is the value of human connection, hugging, and smiling (without a mask on), being able to sit close to each other, singing together, and just enjoying the moment with each other. Yes, I miss the simple things in life that used to be free for the giving.

Anyway, let's reflect on 2020 for a brief moment. I would like to thank all the GCW members who played a vital role in making GCW “Thrive and Stay Alive” during this pandemic timeframe a success. There are many members who participated in the Zoom meetings and presentations. Other members were active at the park meetings, individual homes, and outside locations. It is because of your interest and passion for writing, and being part of something greater than yourselves that we all benefited. Thank you so much for hanging in there with me and supporting the club during these trying times.

I look forward to a New Year 2021, and I'm ready for all the good things that life brings. I'm thankful for your GCW friendship.

Susan

## Dues are Due

2021 Dues are half-price: Only \$24.

Pay online at Zelle to Gold Country Writers

at (650) 595-8667 or mail check to

P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604

## CV-19 GCW Meeting Schedule

The Gold Country Writers are meeting by Zoom every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Download the free Zoom App from the internet. To simplify things, we have arranged for a permanent ID: 88548554720 and the permanent password is 974226, for all the Club Zoom meetings.

### FIRST WED.

Combined Business & Board Meeting

### SECOND & FOURTH WED.

Drop-in Critique Meeting.

**THIRD WED.** - Guest Speaker

**FIFTH WED.** - (When Available)—Party Time

## GCW Scheduled Activities

**Jan. 6, 2021: Business/Executive Meeting 10 a.m.; Evening Mixed Genre 5:45 p.m.**

**Jan. 13, 2021: Drop-in Critique 10:00 a.m.**  
Inspirational Group suspended for January.

**Jan. 20, 2021: Meeting canceled due to Presidential Inauguration**  
Mystery Group meets at 1 p.m.

**Jan. 23, 2021: Auburn Storytelling Festival**  
(See pages 1, 5 and 6)

**Jan. 27, 2021: Guest Speaker Robin DeLey,**  
“Tips to Travel the Internet” 10 a.m. via Zoom  
Poetry Group 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Feb. 19, 2021: Poetry Contest Celebration**





## Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Rebecca Inch-Partridge

**Note:** Contact group leaders to learn the current CV-19 schedule for your group.

**Children's Lit:** Switched to Zoom. Contact Norma Lehr.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy:** Meets the 4th Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. Contact John Vester.

**Memoir:** Meeting once a month. Contact Susan Thompson for details.

**Novel:** Meets via Zoom on 2nd & 4th Fridays Closed to new members. Contact Mary Helen Fein for details.

**Evening Mixed Genre:** Meets @ 5:45 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge for details.

**Flash Fiction:** Conducted via e-mail. Contact Chery Anderson.

**Poetry:** Meets 4th Wed via Zoom @ 1:00 p.m. Sharing poems online with members. Contact Randy Whitwell.

**Spiritual/Inspirational:** Meeting suspended for January. Usually meets 2nd Wed. Seeking new leader. Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub.

**Mystery (New Group)** launched in Oct. Will meet 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. Contact Robin DeLey for details.

**For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.**



From Left to Right: Kathryn Shields, Barbara Young, and Randy Whitwell participating on the Staying Alive Drive-By on December 9, 2020.



## **GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs**

**President:** Susan Korn

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

**V P - Internal Affairs:** Karen Clay

Genre ~ Nonfiction & Memoir

**V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events:**

Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

**Treasurer:** Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

**Secretary:** Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction

**Assistant Secretary and Author Opportunities:**

Betsy Schwarzentraub

Genres ~ Christian Nonfiction, devotions,  
book reviews

**Guest Speakers:** Margie Yee Webb

Genres ~ Gift Books & Flash Fiction

**Membership:** Jody Brady

Genres ~ Short Stories & Self-Help

**Public Relations, Read & Review:**

Chery Anderson

Genre ~ Short Stories

**Web Master, Graphics & Cyber Security:**

Skip Michael

Genre ~ Science Fiction

**Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:**

Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Genre ~ Science Fiction

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael O'Haver

Genres ~ Christian Children's, Memoir, Non Fiction,  
Historical Fiction & Science Fiction

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

For Contact Info. see GCW Roster

# GCW Hapenings & Events

## California State Library Launches California COVID Diaries

"All Californians are welcome to submit typed or handwritten journals, letters, e-mail narratives and blog posts; photographs, videos and audio recordings; written or recorded interviews with family or friends; artwork and drawings; and other storytelling methods."

For more information, see:

<https://covididiaries.library.ca.gov/>

and

<https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/>

## Famous Writer's Quote



"I married an archaeologist because the older I grow, the more he appreciates me."

Agatha Christie



Susan at the Staying  
Alive Drive-Through  
Event

## GCW MISH-MASH POEM

### A Group Creation from GCW Holiday Party

Searching? Wondering? The perfect word to find?  
There is a plot at the end of the rainbow.  
Now you know.

Every year my Step-Father would put up the big Plastic Santa, Sleigh, and Reindeer on the roof of our house. By the time I was six years old, I had a secret wish he would fall off that roof, never thinking of the injuries....

"I woke up while it was still dark  
waiting for Duke to bark."

Fiddle Faddle Folderol  
Holidaze make Crazies of us all.

Our tree is a palm, hung with shells from the sea,  
A long walk on our beach brings peace unto me.

How many ways to enjoy the holidays?  
Food, presents, and family traditions.

Each ornament placed with love on the tree  
Awakens bygone memories in me.

The house is adorned with beautiful things.  
The emotions are flowing while everyone sings.

Pandemic holiday. How great. Ho ho.  
Facetime with kids and Zoom with friends. Oh, no!

Let's sing a song of Christmas cheer  
Cause COVID will be gone next year



## Storytelling Festival (Cont.)

At 2:00 p.m. is Open Telling where those who signed up when they registered can tell a five-minute story: a personal story, a folktale, or the audience favorite, a tall tale. In the evening five PROFESSIONAL tellers will have 20 minutes to tell tales:

- Noa Baum - Multi-cultural traditional folktales including Jewish heritage
- Eric Hurtt - Sacramento and Gold Country stories of the California Gold Rush
- Cynthia Restivo - Storyteller who spent many years with the International Theatre
- BZ Smith - Award winning teller of true-life tales & stories from her indigenous roots
- Linda Yemoto - Asian folktales and favorite nature stories for the whole family

The Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival is free to the public because of the generosity of our sponsors, the Arts Council of Placer County, Auburn Arts Commission, Poets & Writers, Gold Country Writers, and the Sacramento Storytelling Guild. For more info: [auburnstorytellingfestival.com](http://auburnstorytellingfestival.com) and Facebook.

## Wanted: In-Depth Memoirs Spin-Off Critique Group Coordinator

We have had a Memoirs Spin-Off critique group for a long time, thanks to Susan Thompson, but there is a need for another group that is aiming toward publication, either self-publishing or via traditional publishing. Anyone interested in leading such a group contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge or any of the GCW Officers or Board members.



Honey, our lawyer wishes us,  
but in no way guarantees,  
a Happy New Year.

## Gold Country Writers T-Shirts

For ordering GCW  
T-Shirts fill out the  
order sheet below:

Send to: GCW, P.O. Box 5991,  
Auburn, CA 95603

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Quantity	Size
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**Color (s):** Forest Green, Red, White, Black, or  
Slate Grey (GCW Members Group selection)



Terry Wicks participating in the Staying Alive  
Drive-By on December 9, 2020.

# Auburn Winter *Storytelling* Fest



## January 23, 2021

11:00 Children's Stories

GROWN-UP STORIES:

2:00 - 4:00 Open Telling

7:00 Professional Tellers Showcase:

NOA BAUM

BZ SMITH

ERIC HURTT

LINDA YEMOTO

CYNTHIA RESTIVO

**ALL DAY  
FREE!**



**EVENT ONLINE** [zoom.us](https://zoom.us)  
**Register at** [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com)

Presented by Foothill Storytelling Guild  
[auburnwinterstorytellingfestival.com](https://auburnwinterstorytellingfestival.com)



Poets & Writers