

March, 2021

GCW Dispatch

Writers Working Together



GCW 2020-21 Poetry Contest

The 2nd Annual GCW Poetry Contest awards celebration was February 17, 2021. There was only one entry in two of the categories so the decision was made by GCW leadership and judges to do away with the categories and just award 1st, 2nd, & 3rd overall.

The winners are:

First—Karen DeFoe for her poem *Blackberry Buddhas*.

Second—Georgette Unis for her poem *Olive Branch*.

Third—David Anderson for his poem *Where He Proposed to Her*.

Third—Indra Kapur for her poem *Little Karmas*.

See the winning poems on pages 4 & 5 and the MIA poems on pages 6 & 7

Home page of GCW website sporting a newer streamlined look

The Communications Committee met on February 19, 2021, to talk about the Gold Country Writers logo, tagline and the color pallet for the website. Frank Nissen presented 16 examples for consideration. The committee narrowed to four all using a feather pen, a gold miner's shovel, a gold pan and a few nuggets. Website Manager, Robin DeLay, is asking for a GCW member to volunteer to serve as a content editor. A feature of the new website will be a blog page where members can post essays on various things of interest to writers. Email the submission to our new e-mail address: goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com.



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Margie is Back

Margie Yee Webb, who has been on a sabbatical of sorts, is back. We have sorely missed her expertise and connections in scheduling our always-interesting and timely monthly guest speakers. They consistently provide critical information pertaining to writing and publishing. She has lined up **Nina Amir** for the March program who will tell us via Zoom how to craft a book that sells. Turn to page 8 for the details.

PROSE

FROM THE PRES



Spring is peeking her head out to see if winter is gone by blooming yellow daffodils, white narcissi, and the pale blue of the rosemary buds on the bushes. Such a beautiful time of year with new beginnings for all of us.

Congratulations to our poetry contests winners; Karen DeFoe, Georgette Unis, David Anderson and Indra Kapur. The event was fun and educational, and we enjoyed being entertained by fellow GCW Poets. A big thank you to Terry Wicks for preparing the winning baskets. Additional thank yous to the three judges, and to Randy Whitwell, Michael O'Haver, Betsy Schwarzentraub, Bill Baynes, Skip Michael, Chery Anderson, Sheila Lopez and Jody Brady.

The unfortunate part of the day: a few poems never made it to the judges' tables and were therefore, not included in the judging. Our deepest regrets to Pauline Nevins, Debbie Griffin, Mary Jones, and Cathy Cassady. We have "Egg on our Face," as an organization to have made this serious mistake. I, and other GCW members, take full responsibility for this gross error, and have made pre-arrangements for it not to happen again. We have printed these poems in this month's newsletter for those authors who approve. In an organization the size of ours, "Errors" are called "Learnings." They should not happen again. Please accept our deepest apologies. The chapbooks are being reprinted to include all the poems entered in the 2021 Poetry Contest. Everyone who submitted a poem will receive the chapbook as a gift. The price is \$5 for others wishing a copy, which is a donation to GCW.

Michael O'Haver has created these chapbooks and is kind enough to have all proceeds go to the GCW.

The month of March has five Wednesdays, therefore, another GCW Event is being planned as I write this message to you. In 2020 we called GCW "Staying Alive and Thriving." Well, we made it through, and now in 2021 it is about "Thriving." Therefore, Spring is in the air and we will have a GCW "Thriving... Getting to Know You" event celebrating all the authors who published books this past year. We will also be introducing and getting to know our new members and learn about their interests. Hopefully, the weather will be good and we can have a Park Celebration.

We will have to wait and see.

CV-19 GCW Meeting Schedule

The Gold Country Writers are meeting by Zoom every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Just 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

Mar. 3, 2021 Business/Executive Meeting 10 AM-12 Noon via Zoom

Mar. 10, 2021 Drop-in Critique, 12:00 Inspirational Group, via Zoom

Mar. 17, 2021, 10 AM Special Quest Speaker, Nina Amir-How to Craft a Book That Sells via Zoom

Mar. 24, 10 AM Drop-in Critique 10 AM -12 Noon via Zoom

Mar. 27, 2021 1 PM, Open Mic, via Zoom

Mar. 31, 2021 10 AM - 12—5th Wed. Celebration —TBA (Look for detail in Chery's E-Blast)

In addition, we plan to have a map displaying where GCW members are clustered to facilitate carpooling. We will provide locations where GCW members live indicating how many live in Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, Auburn, Grass Valley and other surrounding areas. This should help lessen driving time and expense when planning to attend GCW events and provide connection with each other. The map will not display the addresses, only the cities, allowing members to contact those from their local areas. We will have "getting to know you" fun guessing games.

Keep Safe, Stay Healthy, and may your spirit soar,
Susan

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: Contact Sarah Pressler. Temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

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

Memoir: Contact Susan Thompson. They meet at members' houses 1st Thursday each month 1 p.m.

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein, meets via Zoom on 2nd & 4th Fridays from 2—4 p.m. Closed to new members.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets 1st Wednesday each month. Drop-in suspended due to Covid-19. Pre-read meets in small social dist. groups 5:45 p.m. at Rebecca's. No new members.

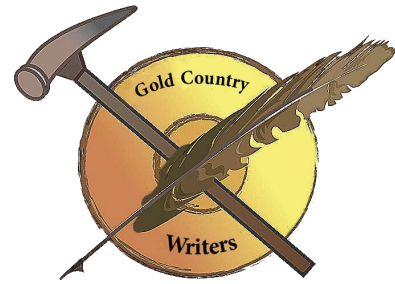
Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson, meets by e-mail

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

Spiritual/Inspirational: Contact Michael O'Haver, meeting via Zoom, 2nd Wed., 12:00 p.m.

Mystery (New Group) Contact Robin DeLey. Meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. Call for info. on place & method.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.



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:

Currently Open

Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:

Rebecca Inch-Partridge her
~ Science Fiction

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver

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

Submit newsletter material by the 15th of each month to GodsScribeMike@gmail.com
For Contact Info. see latest GCW Roster

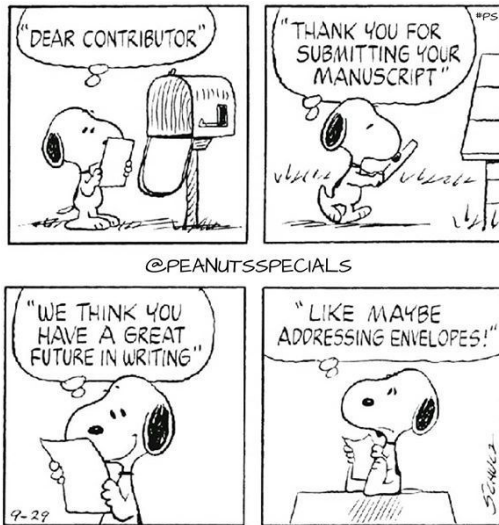
Member News:

Debbie Garneau Griffin, author of *The Eternal Conductor*, a Historical Fiction book about the underground railroad, announced that her book garnered mention in the Arts & Entertainment section of the Mountain Times in Killington, VT.

You can read what was said by going to this website:

<https://mountaintimes.info/haunted-house-in-fair-haven-subject-of-new-book/>

GCW Happenings & Events



Famous Writer's Quote

Almost anyone can be an author; the business is to collect money and fame from this state of being.

– A. A. Milne

Poetry Contest Winning Poems

1st-*Blackberry Buddhas* by Karen DeFoe

Last night I dreamed of summer
a kaleidoscope of images moving in dream time –
familiar country roads fields of alfalfa
the sun setting behind endless rows of cotton
Grandpa's tractor Grandma's gladiolas
the old grey Desoto the wringer washing machine
the tire swing hanging from the walnut tree
the mud pies in aluminum tins baking in the August sun
on the cracked sidewalk

of us –

running laughing

picking berries from tangled vines by the dry creek bed.

Blackberries sagged on the vines ---
fat little Buddhas

sweetness oozing from their thick-
et and we sticky to our elbows hands
full filled our mouths our tin buck-
ets and danced on sunburned
feet down the dirt road.



Karen DeFoe

Shaded by the canopy of the walnut tree we
blew the fuzz from dandelions watched it float away in the sum-
mer breeze.

You kissed my cheek – your mouth soft round. I placed a crown of
daisies on your head.

We shimmied up the apricot tree picked its honeyed delights
sucked pulp from plums the size of tennis balls ate watermelon
on the back porch—legs dangling over the cement steps—juice
running down our arms attracting a line of little black ants.

We itch from turning somersaults in the grass made wishes on
white butterflies captured blue-bellied lizards kept them in shoe
boxes with tiny holes poked through the lids.

At nightfall—moonlight streaming through open windows we lis-
ten to a chorus of crickets, cicadas, owls, bullfrogs—their music
lulling us to sleep.

The morning—I smiled as I picked a daisy from a supermarket
bouquet—slipped it in my pocket and went to buy blackberries.

2nd-*Olive Branch*

by *Georgette Unis*

A dove flies into
my studio window,
with tail and wings
fanned in flight,
sunlight on the tips
of its feathers
in a symphony
of whites, soft grays
and memories
of its singular melody.



Georgette Unis

When doves coo
in the morning,
I become a child
awakening to avian sounds
as they warm themselves
over telephone lines
against a brilliant sky,
musicians and easy targets .

Continued on Page 5

Poetry Contest Winners Continued

Olive Branch Continued

In the garage

my mother's back to me,
her pale green dress
tied with a gingham apron,
she labors removing feathers
from my brother's cache.

I ask why he killed the doves.
She complains

for barely a morsel,
terminates his escapades
after a wayward bone
pierces her hand.
To my young mind,
those are Noah's doves,
one, a divine messenger
to the weary ark of pairs.

3rd-*Where He Proposed to Her*

by David Anderson

When my mother died I
had no words—I had
spent my grief. In her
last days her mind lay
drained—an empty
sieve, a stone worn
smooth.



David Anderson

I could only think of the day my father asked me to drive
him to Lake Tahoe where we gazed at the transparent
blues of water and sky.

3rd-*Little Karmas* by Indra Kapur

The boy, about eight, tugs at my coat
I'm hungry, his sad eyes do say
I dig in my purse, two rupees I find
kept ready for just such a day

His sister runs up her eyes full of hope
Thank Ram, at last we can eat
I dig a bit more and bring up some coins
Maybe now they can have a real treat

The night train arrives from Calcutta,
But the boy and the girl do not leave
They rock to and fro on bare little feet
Their clothes tissue-thin, not even a sleeve

People rush here and there, bent on their tasks
A beggar means nothing you see, for karma
Takes care of the hungry,
The boat in this vast human sea

The boy and the girl in their previous lives
Earned this fate, as everyone knows,
How foolish are we who give money
When hunger is what their fates chose

I look once again and my heart does a turn
For there, leaning up on the wall,
The girl is now holding an infant,
New-born and wrapped in a shawl

She's bought some milk from a vendor
And soaked her blouse in the cup,
But the baby's too weak to suckle
And the girl must finally give up.

Our eyes meet again for a moment,
She is old beyond her young years,
Then the crowd closes in and swallows her whole,
as we retreat in defeat to our tears.



Indra Kapur

The MIA Poems

Please accept our sincere apologies for the problems of your poems being Missing In Action and not entering the contest. Please know it was not our intention and we truly regret this happening.



The MIA Poems will be added to the Chapbook. New revised chapbooks will be sent free to all contest entrants. If you want extra copies, or if you didn't enter the contest, please send your \$5 donation to Bill Baynes, the club Treasurer, at PO Box 5991, Auburn, CA

Big Lion Larry

by Debbie Griffin

Big Lion Larry
Didn't like newbie elves.
But the tree must be lit -
"I can't do it myself!"

So the elves they did gather
To untangle the lights.
They stretched out the strings
To reach dizzying heights.

Big Lion Larry growled -
"Watch where you're goin'!"
So none of the bulbs
Get stepped on and broken.

With Big Lion Larry,
Now perched in his bucket
The end of a string,
In his arm he did tuck it.

The elves watched in awe -
As UP! UP! he went -
To the very tip top -
'Till his truck arm was bent.

With a flick of his wrist
And a twinkle of eye -
To the top of the tree
The lights he did tie!

The elves on the ground -
In a circle they pranced!
But Big Lion Larry
Was having none of their dance.

For hours and hours
The elves they did toil -
The town Christmas tree
They tried not to spoil.

Then Big Lion Larry -
He swung to the ground.
All the newbie elves -
They gathered around.

With the flick of a switch,
The tree - it did light!
Big Lion Larry ROARED,
as he drove outta sight,

Passed Past

by Cathy Cassady

Forgive that girl
Who had no will
Who felt no love
And love her still

Forgive that girl
Who did not feel
That she was real
And love her still

Forgive that girl
Who felt betrayed
Who often strayed
And love her still

Forgive that girl
When no one would
See in her good
And love her still

Forgive that girl
Who cannot see
What others see
And love her still

Forgive that girl
And hope today
That girl can say
I love her still

The MIA Poems

Retrieved from limbo, somewhere in cyber-space
Giving them a home, their own place

With our most humble apologies
Everyone reading them agrees
They needed to be included.

There Are Lots of Ways to Be a Mom,

by Mary Jones

There are lots of ways to be a Mom.
It kinda starts young; you look around. Your heart starts to speak.
I can do this. I can be a Mom. I can do this better than you.
And so it begins knowing, wanting, for sure I want to be a Mom.

Another kinda moment the heart knows is the first wriggle
You feel in your womb, a little heart beating right in tune
The quiet heart beats give way to a cry, a cry, and another cry.
I can do this. Are you hungry, wet, or tired?
Mother and child draw near, close, touch, softly the heart says,
“I want to be your Mom.”
Three more wrigglers with heart beats come along. I can do this. I want to be your Mom

More kinda moments tug at her heart. I am hungry cries. Wet and tired feeling all alone they moan.
“I’ll be there. Yes, your pills are here.” Care, feed, listen, and settle with a touch...
I can do this. It’s like being a Mom.

Winds from here and there storm through her heart. I see.
Her hand gently strokes a warm head.
Wisely her eyes watch as they learn to make a bed.
Deliciously she smells dinner as she walks through the door.
Firmly her voice, “Who left these shoes in the middle of the floor?”

Sometimes words can be hard to find, yet understanding is always there.
While walking the dogs, I saw Jewel. “Cute, so, cute.” Look at her.
I am her Mom.
We sat and watched TV Elwood and me. Joy, so kind, so ready to please.
Look at him. He will always be my son.
We talked Jade and I. Loud and strong full of passion.
Look at her so much like me.
We journey Jaz and I. Real, authentic, true to herself.
Look at her my rainbow girl.

The winds of the world whirl and funnel through her heart. Amanda listens.
“I’ve got this. I want to be a Mom”
Now comes the Christmas celebration FULL I mean full of Weinstein creations.
In the west wing seventeen puppies wriggle with their Moms.
And life goes on and on. There are lots of ways to be a Mom.
So I am sending this scarf red and white
Just in case it might help me find the answer.
Where in the world is my daughter, Amanda?
She is somewhere loving someone



Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

March 17, 2021

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Nina Amir

How to Craft a Book that Sells

At the ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, Gold Country Writers proudly presents **Nina Amir**, author and coach

The average book today sells only about 250 copies per year and 3,000 in its lifetime. Improve your odds of becoming a successful author by producing a business plan for your book before you write a word. Learn how to determine if your book is not only a great creative idea but also marketable product—a viable business venture. Discover a proven process for crafting books that sell—to publishers and to readers—and evaluating if your book is ready to go to market (and if you are ready to become an author).

This session is appropriate for fiction writers and for nonfiction writers and for writers planning to self-publish or traditionally publish.

Session takeaways:

1. Discover the qualities of a successful author.
2. Evaluate whether or not you are an attractive publishing partner or savvy indie publisher.
3. Learn a proven process for producing a book with a higher-than-average chance of succeeding.
4. Find out why you shouldn't write your book as soon as you get the idea.
5. Consider new ways to ensure your book sells.

Nina Amir is known as the Inspiration to Creation Coach. As one of 800 elite Certified High Performance Coaches working around the world, she is the only one who works specifically with writers to get them from the light-bulb moment to the day they publish their work.

Nina is also an Author Coach who supports writers on the journey to successful authorship. She has written three traditionally published books for aspiring authors, *How to Blog a Book*, *The Author Training Manual*, and *Creative Visualization for Writers*, as well as a host of self-published books and eBooks, including the Write Nonfiction NOW! series of guides. She has had 19 books on the Amazon Top 100 List and as many as six books on the Authorship bestseller list at the same time. Nina is the founder of the Nonfiction Writers' University, the Write Nonfiction in November Challenge, and the Author of Change Transformational Programs. Most recently, she opened the doors to her Inspired Creator Community.



Gold Country Writers: "Writers Working Together To Promote and Improve Their Work"
~ A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization ~

Meetings are held every Wednesday of the month. **Third Wednesdays:** guest speaker presentation. **First Wednesdays:** business meeting. **Second and Fourth Wednesdays:** "Drop-In Critique" for members to get feedback on their work. For months with **Fifth Wednesdays:** social event. See website for details.

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/>

For more information, visit www.ninaamir.com