

June, 2021

GCW Dispatch



Forging Better Writers

100  **Word Story Contest**

The 100-Word Story Contest for 2021 officially started May 5th. Chery Anderson (530/613-1153) and Betsy Schwarzentraub (530/334-0305) are the coordinators. There is a new e-mail address just for our contests, see below.

The rules are as follows:

Only one entry per GCW member allowed. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to each entrant. The Hats Off celebration will be held on June 30, 2021 in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall. Hyphenated words will count as one word. There will be non-club member judges. There will be a prize for the best hat.

Start Date—May 5, 2021

End Date—June 2, 2021

E-mail—contest@goldcountrywriters.com

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes will be awarded and the stories will be printed in the July *Dispatch*. Details on the awards celebration are forthcoming.



**E J DeBrun**

May Guest Speaker

**The Hero's Cycle: A Quick Overview of the Monomyth**

When stories are told, whether in books, on film at the movies or on TV, writers often use Christopher Vogler's *Monomyth, the Hero's Cycle*. It comes in three acts:

Act 1 - The Setup-what's normal, may include some backstory, an inciting incident happens, rising action follows and what is at stake is made clear.

Act 2 - The hero may show reluctance to step up. Often a mentor is found that urges the hero on. There may be a plot twist that sets the scene for the finale.

Act 3 - The hero comes through and saves the day.

**The hero** makes the key decisions and reaps the consequences. He provides readers the window into the story. He must provide growth, action and sacrifice and deal with death.

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**Rose Room Reopens**

Our old meeting place at Auburn City Hall, the Rose Room, will be available again starting June 15, 2021.

We may still have to practice social distancing and wear face masks but at least we will be indoors. Our Spin-Off Critique meetings will again have the option of this meeting place, as well. Go to or call Auburn City Hall to schedule any additional meetings.

## PROSE

### FROM THE PRES



Nothing but GOOD NEWS: June is “Busting Out all Over,” just look around at all the beautiful flowers blooming, and how the trees are filling out again with healthy green leaves. The birds’ nests are filled with new sounds of babies saying “feed me.” As many of us are trying to somehow get back to our normal lives again and wondering whether to wear a mask or not, it is still very confusing. I hope it will not be too long before we know what to do again - that means having fun without a mask and back to hugging.

We here at GCW are very busy with election nominations for 2021-2022 Executive Officers and Board of Directors positions becoming vacate in July 2021. We have a nice list of candidates but there are a few vacancies that still will need to be filled. If you are interested in volunteering and participating with this great Leadership Team let us know.

So happy to have Margie Yee Webb, GCW Director of Educational Speaking, return to GCW. Margie always has such great speakers join us on the third Wednesday of every month. I learn so much from all of them.

In addition, June brings the GCW “100 Word Contest” which we will be celebrating for the first time in the Rose Room at the Auburn City Hall. **On June 16, 2021 we will be back in the Rose Room once again and normal life returns with our location being inside a lovely building with restrooms.** The School Reserve Park has been wonderful to gather as we were homeless during the worst period of the pandemic. We enjoy seeing each other when weather permits and gathering, even if six feet apart and with masks. Thank you, Zoom Managers, for saving the fort when we had no home base.

Well, my Presidency is almost over and next month will most likely be my last article to all of you. I’m getting a little melancholy, so I’ll save my last words for the July issue. Enjoy the summer and enjoy GCW.

Susan Korn

## GCW Meeting Schedule

The Gold Country Writers meet via Zoom or at the School Reserve Park in Auburn every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Typically, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting each month will be the combined **Business & Executive** meeting and Sheila will e-mail the Zoom link a few minutes before the meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> meetings each month will usually be **Drop-in Critique** meetings and Chery will e-mail the link a few minutes before the meetings. Third Wednesdays are reserved for **Special Speakers**. If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month look for a **planned social event**. For the Spin-Off meetings, the group leader will e-mail you the link just before the meeting.

See page 3 for the list of Spin-Off Critique Groups.

### Zoom In for the Trailblazing Diane LeBow

This month’s speaker may give you the travel bug, unless you already have it due to COVID-19 restrictions for over a year. Be sure to Zoom in on June 16th for Diane LeBow presenting “A trailblazing woman’s tales of travel, adventure, and romance; from life to the page”—see flyer on page 5. More about Diane follows.

In addition to being chloroformed and robbed on an Italian train, **Diane LeBow** has worked for women’s rights in Afghanistan, ridden a camel through locust swarms on the Libyan Sahara, and searched for Amazon women’s descendants among Mongolian horsewomen. Her work has appeared in many anthologies and other publications, including *Salon, Via, Image*; and Cleis, Seal, Schocken, and Travelers’ Tales presses; and has won many awards, including thirteen Solas Awards and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Douglass College (Rutgers University) for her writing, photojournalism, women’s rights work all over the world, and as a pioneer of women’s studies and innovative college teaching in Paris, Holland, and the USA. She earned one of the first PhDs in Women’s Studies, University of California (Berkeley/Santa Cruz). Her travel memoir, *Dancing on the Wine Dark Sea: Memoir of a trailblazing woman’s travels, adventures, and romance*, will be published in the Summer of 2021.

Some of the COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted and Diane’s tales may just nudge you to pack your bags. Safe and happy travels!

## 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. Meets 3rd Thurs., at 1 p.m. in Sarah's yard through the summer.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy:** Contact John Vester. Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Leaf and Bean (across from the Court House)

**Memoir:** Contact Susan Thompson. Suspended due to Covid-19 until July.

**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. Drop in at Round Table Pizza, 1st Wed. of the month, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Poetry:** 4th Wed. 12:00 p.m. Contact Randy Whitwell. Sharing poems via Zoom

**Inspirational:** Contact Michael O'Haver, Meeting 1:00 p.m. 2nd Wed. Meet at the City Hall Rose Room.

**Mystery** Contact Robin DeLey. Meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. Hybrid Zoom and at School Reserve Park in Auburn.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.

## Upcoming Important Events

**June 2: Monthly Business and Executive Meeting** at the School Reserve Park 10 a.m.-12. **Election of Club Officers and other leaders.**

**June 26: Open Mic for the Spoken Word**, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at the Auburn Library Park, 350 Nevada St. Contact Chery at [Taleteller2@gmail.com](mailto:Taleteller2@gmail.com)

**June 30:** 100-Word Contest Awards, Rose Room 10 a.m.

### Elk Grove Writer's Guild Summer Zoom Classes

**June 19 at 2:00 p.m. – Branding and Marketing** – This enlightening class will be presented by ML Hamilton, a prolific mystery author.

**July 17 at 2:00 p.m. – Pen Names and Finding Your Niche** – Cheryl Stapp will present this informative topic. Cheryl is a Northern California Historian and author.

**August 21 at 2:00 p.m. – Journey of a Self-Published Author** – Margaret Duarte author of an award-winning psychological fiction series *Enter the Between*.

Costs for all three classes – \$25.00, Individual – \$10.00

Go to the Event page at [www.egweg.org](http://www.egweg.org) to register



## **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

Genre ~ Science Fiction

**Newsletter Editor:** Michael O'Haver

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

Submit newsletter material by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to [GodsScribeMike@gmail.com](mailto:GodsScribeMike@gmail.com)  
For Contact Info. see latest GCW Roster

# GCW Happenings & Events

## DeBrun Continued from Page 1

**Shadow** - Represents the negative force working against the hero's progress. It can be a human figure, an external force or a deeply repressed aspect of the hero.

**Mentor** - Teaches and protects the protagonist, provides gifts the hero needs to complete his journey. Sometimes the hero himself is his own mentor. The mentor's character is optional, his function is not.

**Threshold Guardian** - This is the roadblock that sets up the conflict. His form may vary but his function is to test the hero. He may or may not be the main antagonist.

**The Antagonist** or the bad guy is the one who doesn't grow or change. He can have some redeeming qualities but must hold fast to his bad-guyness.

**The Protagonist or hero** is the guy who changes or grows. He should have some flaws. His growth need not be explicit it can be implied, at the end.

Modern stories have multilayered plots. It is OK to change the Point of View. The internal journey of the characters makes the connection with the audience. You can turn a bad guy into a good guy if you remain true to the characters' qualities.

*Star Wars* was used as an example—**Luke Skywalker** - farm boy who's called to become a Jedi and the hero. He is reluctant to take up the challenge and save the princes. **Hans Solo** grows from a Solder of Fortune to a true hero. **Obi-Wan Kenobi** is the mentor. And of course, **Darth Vader** and the **Emperor** are the bad guys.

Good Books—*A Writer's Journey & The Hero With a Thousand Faces* (by Joseph Campbell)

## Famous Writer's Quote

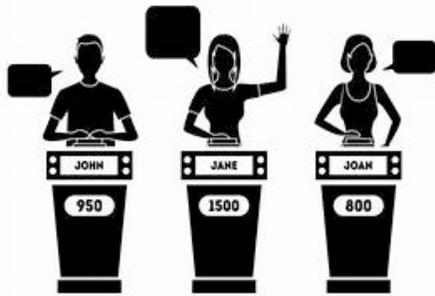
*There's no such thing as writer's block. That was invented by people in California who couldn't write.*  
- Terry Pratchett



The Cinco de Mayo gathering at School Reserve Park for our club business meeting.

# GCW Happenings & Events

## Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest



### If Life Were a Game Show...

**\*\*1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category\*\***

Ø Five contest categories, selected from the names of popular TV game shows, include the following: **Let's Make A Deal, To Tell The Truth, The Price Is Right, Family Feud, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire**

Ø Poets may submit a maximum of three poems. Select three of the contest categories and submit one poem from each. There is no entry fee.

Ø Poems may be in rhyme, free verse, Haiku, or other accepted poetry forms and of any length, up to a maximum of 60 lines.

Ø **Young Poets**, 18-years of age or under, are encouraged to submit poems and will compete in a special "Young Poets" category.

Ø **Entry Forms and Contest Rules** can be downloaded from the following website:

<https://friendsofthelincolnlibrary.org/voices-of-lincoln-poetry-contest>

or blog:

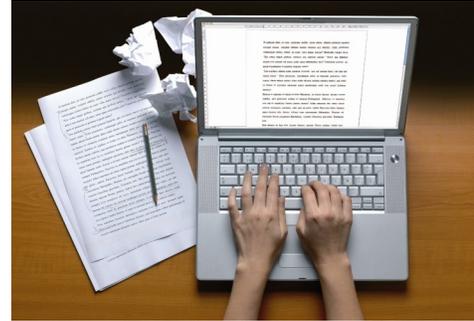
<https://slolowe44.blogspot.com/2021/03/2021-voices-of-lincoln-poetry-contest.html>

Ø **Contest Deadline:** Poems must be received **no later than Tuesday, July 20, 2021**. Early submissions are appreciated. Questions: contact Alan Lowe at [slolowe@icloud.com](mailto:slolowe@icloud.com)

### Club Website Bio-100 Words Max

June 30th: Deadline for GCW website bios, limited to a max. of 100 words. Longer bios will be eliminated in our efforts to streamline and upgrade our website. Those of you who don't have a bio this is your chance to get one posted. Email bios to:

[goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com](mailto:goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com)



## Calling all GCW Members

*The Dispatch is meant to be a newsletter for and by the members of Gold Country Writers. We are seeking stories and articles to include in our monthly newsletter from our talented membership. We know there are interesting essays, articles, poems and entertaining stories that our members write and we'd like to devote a column to those.*

*Please send your contributions to Michael O'Haver by the 15th of the month at [godsscribemike@gmail.com](mailto:godsscribemike@gmail.com)*



### Make **M-A-G-I-C** for Gold Country Writers!

Got Ideas to help our group? Great!

Let your board know!

Gold Country Writers' Event/Program

Proposal Guide

### What Cha Got?\*

*Helping you Introduce, Improve, Intensify, Incorporate and Implement Your Ideas*

[Click here](#) for the form.

We'd love to hear your ideas!

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# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



## Diane LeBow

**"A trailblazing woman's tales of travel, adventure, and romance; from life to the page"**

Diane LeBow will share tastes and tips from the life of a trailblazing woman traveler such as how life has changed for women over the decades since she hit the road. She has won awards for her writing, women's rights work and photojournalism, all over the world. She is a pioneer of women's studies and innovative college teaching in Paris, Holland, and the USA. Hear stories of her encounters with women in different cultures, turning disasters into interesting tales, and romance on the road.



**JUNE 16, 2021**

**10 A.M. to Noon**

**Meeting on Zoom.us**

email for link:

**goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com**

**https://goldcountrywriters.com**

Click on mailing list at [www.dianelebow.com](http://www.dianelebow.com) to receive updates.

