

July, 2021

GCW Dispatch

Getting Back to Normal

Forging Better Writers

100



Word Story

Contest



And the winners of the 100-Word Story Contest for 2021 are:

First Place — Bill Baynes (L)—
A Friendship Found

Second Place — Jody Brady (R)
—The Heavy Suitcase

Third Place — Rebecca Inch-Partridge (Center)—
JW at the Door

1st, *A Friendship Found*

They come toward me, the Boss, as usual, in the lead. He runs with wings wide, discarding all goosely dignity, his neck – normally bent backward like a horn – stretched straight.

Horribly honking: “Gimme! Gimme!”

I hear a scream -- a little girl between me and the onrushing flock. I swoop her up, deposit her on a large rock, out of reach.

Continued on Page 4

Inside July 2021 Issue

Pg 1-100-Word Story Contest Winners, New Officers, Guest Speaker-Diane LeBow
From Life to the Page

Pg 2-Prose from The Pres, GCW Meeting Schedule, Calling All Members

Pg 3-Spin-Off Critique Groups, Important Club Events, Author's Quote, Officers & Committee Chairs

Pg 4-100-Word Stories Contest Winners, Susan Osborn Profile, Member News

Pg 5-Lincoln Poetry Contest, Web bios, Member Poem, Book Review, Best Hat winner,

Pg 6- July Guest Speaker Susan Osborn



New Club Officers

Shown above are the newly-elected Gold Country Writers Officers. On the left is Betsy Schwarzentraub (Secretary). In the middle is Frank Nissan (President). On the right is Barbara Young (Vice President of Internal Affairs). They will serve two year terms starting this July. Bill Baynes will continue as Treasurer.



Diane LeBow (above) a well-traveled photojournalist spoke June 16th on *From the Road to the Page*. Her travels (alone) include: Afghanistan, Guatemala, Honduras, Libya, and Cuba. She started her career when the women's rights movement was still young. Travel writing has changed with the internet. Diane feels the key to getting published is finding the narrative hook. She has found good photos help sell her writing.

Her advice when interacting with people: just be yourself and avoid politics, don't take notes in front of people, and you'll find most people are willing to help, especially a damsel in distress.

With all the traveling she's done, Diane says U.S. culture is more violent than most foreign ones. She feels you do your best writing when writing about what is most difficult for you.

Diane's next book: *Dancing on the Wine-Dark Sea: Memoir of a trailblazing woman's travels, adventures, and romance*. At Amazon & bookstores.

PROSE

FROM THE PRES



Well, we are well into Summer time, the temperatures keep rising, and the sun keeps shining.

Everything is looking up with social distancing and mask laws being relaxed around the state.

It is good news for most of us who are very anxious to get back to business as usual.

I'm happy to say the Rose Room in Auburn City Hall is finally open to receive us on Wednesdays between 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Many of our Spin-Off Groups meet at different times, so check page three of your newsletter for the correct times. Great timing to be back in the Rose Room and out of the heat of the park. Although, School Reserve Park has served us well during the worst of the pandemic.

Also, a wonderful support system was our Zoom meetings which became available to us and actually saved the day for GCW. Zoom is safe, fun, and still allows for social interaction when we have meetings and events. It also provided us with a challenge in how to creatively celebrate an event and offer programs in which all members could engage and participate. Personally, I want to thank all Zoom Managers for your help and efforts during this new age of technology. I, personally, do not think Zoom meetings will be going away in the near future or for GCW either.

This is my last monthly column to all the GCW Members as your President. After two years of challenges from shoulder replacement surgery to Covid throwing us a curve ball, it's been an interesting journey. My greatest hope was that we would not lose too many members due to the pandemic. As it turns out, almost 90% of GCW members have signed up for another year.

I would like to congratulate, Frank Nissen, our new GCW President, who was just elected in June of 2021. I would also like to congratulate Barbara Young, as our new GCW Vice President. I have personally worked with both Frank and Barbara and find them to be excellent candidates for these leadership positions.

Please join us at our GCW Installation of Officers event the first Wed. in July, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Rose Room. There will be refreshments and celebration as we congratulate the new officers, and recognize the outgoing officers. At GCW, we have stuck together thru "thick and thin," and we came out not only Surviving but Thriving.

I sincerely want to thank all my Executive Officers and Board of Directors, and all others who have supported me during these past two years. I have made many wonderful and kind friends, too. I'm so proud of all of you Gold Country Writers.

WE ARE THE BEST!

GCW Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss organizational business. All are welcome to attend. This is followed by a closed meeting of the Lead Team.

Second & Fourth Wednesday: Drop-In Critique. Members present samples of their writing to the group (a maximum of five pages, double-spaced), and everyone at their table gets to offer his or her critique.

Third Wednesday: Special educational programs of general interest to all, open to the public. Topics change each month. See Page 6 for the Speaker of the Month.

Fifth Wednesday: On the rare occasion that there is one, we have a special program at the City Hall, or meet at a local restaurant for brunch. Join us for fun and socializing with members and guests.



Calling all GCW Members!

The Dispatch is meant to be for and by members. We would like contributions from you. Those who would like to share stories, articles, blog posts, information about your published work, etc. please send them to Michael O'Haver at godsscribemike@gmail.com before the 15th of the month.

We'd like to know more about you and your writing life.

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Note: Contact group leaders to learn the current schedule for your group.

Children's Lit: Contact Sarah Pressler. Meets 3rd Thurs., at 1 p.m. in Sarah's yard through the summer. Open to new members

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

Memoirs for Publication: Inaugural meeting on July 7, 5:30 at Round Table Pizza, with evening mixed group, see Rebecca.

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein. Meet every other Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Mary Helen's house. 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: Contact Randy Whitwell. 4th Wed. 12:00 p.m. in the Rose Room.

Inspirational: Contact Michael O'Haver, Meeting 12:00 p.m. 2nd Wed. in the Rose Room. Open to new members.

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.



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

V P - Internal Affairs: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events:
Vacant

Treasurer & Membership: Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

Secretary: Betsy Schwarzentraub

Genres ~ Christian Nonfiction, Devotions,
& Book reviews

Guest Speakers: Margie Yee Webb

Genres ~ Gift Books & Flash Fiction

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 15th of each

month to GodsScribeMike@gmail.com

For Contact Info. see latest GCW Roster

Upcoming Important Club Events

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

July 7: Monthly Business and Executive Meeting at the Rose Room 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Installation of Club Officers and other leaders.**

July 24: Open Mic for the Spoken Word, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Auburn Library Park, 350 Nevada St. Contact Chery at taleteller2@gmail.com

Famous Writer's Quote

If you write one story, it may be bad; if you write a hundred, you have the odds in your favor.

- Edgar Rice Burroughs

100 Word Story Contest Continued

First Place —Bill Baynes— *A Friendship Found (Continued)*

“What an awful noise!” She scowls.

I hand her a crust. “Throw it to him.”

She does and laughs as Boss stuffs his mouth, then tosses back his neck to swallow.

“I’m Anna,” she says.

“I’m the Bread Man.”

Second Place — Jody Brady —*The Heavy Suitcase*

Ralph was sweating and struggling, dragging a huge bag down the street.

Harvey asked him, “What is that?”

“It’s a suitcase too heavy to carry.” Ralph said.

“The cage of a canary?” asked Harvey.

“No, a suitcase too heavy to carry.”

“A painting of Typhoid Mary?”

“No, a suitcase too heavy to carry.”

“A swimsuit made of terry?”

“No! A suitcase too heavy to carry.”

“A rock found on the prairie?”

“No! A suitcase too heavy to carry.”

“A Pie that taste like cherry?”

“No. Are you a religious man?”

“No.” Harvey said.

“Good.” Ralph said and shot him.

Third Place —Rebecca Inch-Partridge— *JW at the Door*

I stood at the door next to my mother, eager to share the latest issues of the *AWAKE!* Magazines.

As a know-it-all teen, I felt ready to overcome any objections the householder might try. But I certainly wasn’t ready for the man to come to the door naked. I froze.

Mom’s hand shot out to cover my eyes. “We won’t keep you,” she told the man calmly. “You must be freezing.”

It was 80 degrees that day. The man sputtered and closed the door.

Years later I got her joke and realized my Bible thumping mother was pretty darn cool.

Member Profile—Susan Osborn

Create Your Story Card with Story Coach Susan M. Osborn

This month marks the return of in-person speaker meetings and we are jumping in with a participatory workshop. On July 21, Susan M. Osborn will present “Kick Start Your Writing with Story Cards” where everyone can let their creativity shine. (See flyer on page 6.)

A member of Gold Country Writers, **Susan M. Osborn**, Ph.D., M.S.W., is a freelance writer and story coach. She has made presentations and led workshops on storytelling to a wide variety of business and professional organizations, including the World Future Society and the Organization Development Network “Best in the West” Conference. For three years, she taught “Storytelling as a Leadership Tool” at Chapman University.

Her *Awful Bosses Coloring Book* includes 26 cartoons and limericks, along with keys to dealing with the stress and illnesses triggered by toxic workplaces. Her book *The System Made Me Do It! A Life Changing Approach to Office Politics* uses stories to capture the nature of five kinds of organizations and shows how to change an organization’s story. She is also the author of “How Stories Build Teams and Teamwork” in *Wake Me Up When the Data Is Over: How Organizations Use Storytelling to Drive Results*, and *Assertive Training for Women*.

Her background includes 25 years as a business and management consultant; 30 years as an adult educator; and experience as an organizational change agent, human resources manager, corporate trainer, social worker, parole agent, and director of an educational program in a men’s prison.

Arrive to this workshop to connect and create, and leave inspired with your original story card.

Member News

Philip Jacques was asked to do a reading of NY Times Best Selling author Tod Goldberg’s book *The Low Desert*. You can see this presentation on YouTube, here is the link—
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TQERJIQH0>

Rebecca Inch-Partridge is giving a class—*Get That Book Written* through Auburn Park & Rec: www.auburnrec.com The introductory session is free but you have to register at the website above. The intro. will be July 13, 2021, 6-7:30 PM at Canyon View Community Center, 471 Maidu Dr., Auburn, CA 95603. The 9-week class itself will be Tuesday nights at the same place, 6-7:30 PM, starting July 20 (no session 8/17). Cost is \$90-Resident, \$100 others. This class is offered via Zoom and Rebecca offers the class free if you can run the Zoom part.

GCW Happenings & Events

Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest



If Life Were a Game Show...

Ø Five (5) 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

<https://friendsofthelibrary.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

Club Website Bios—Max of 100 Words

Those of you who have bios on the GCW website need to cut them down to a maximum of 100 words. Those longer will be eliminated.

Please e-mail them to the club address ASAP:



Above is Joy Hemp winner of the best hat at the Hats Off 100-Word Story Contest June 30, 2021.

SPACES

Mary Jones

See the space between

Dew drop	Petal
Apple blossom	leaf
Snow flake	eye lash

Blades of grass

Onion rings	knife slice
-------------	-------------

Listen to the echo in the spaces between

Heart beat	heart beat
------------	------------

Tic	Tock
-----	------

Pencil	Paper
--------	-------

Echo from the valley floor	Mountain top
----------------------------	--------------

Drops round the rock forced to the rushing river

Be in the space between

Just before lovers hands touch

Womb opens	pain
------------	------

Womb shuts	birth
------------	-------

Mothers eyes	baby's gaze
--------------	-------------

Sun on the horizon

Sunrise	sunset
---------	--------

Birth	Death
-------	-------

Between my heart beats love carves a wound

It echoes in the silence

Closing the gap	waiting
-----------------	---------

Love of others reaches to heal

Like the morning dew

MEMBER BOOK REVIEW.....By Jody Brady

One of our members, **Nanci Lee Woody**, has written a wonderful book – TEARS and TROMBONES.

I was engaged in the story from the first page. Inspired by real life, it tells the story of a young boy whose only dream was to be a trombone player. Taunted by an alcoholic father and supportive but weak mother, he held on to his dream. A clingy girlfriend and the woman he truly loved keep you wondering if he'll ever find sincere happiness. Another plus is the local angle of his attendance at Sacramento State and playing in local venues with famous headliners. It took Nanci eight years to write the book and it shows in its meticulous story line and language. I loved it!

Gold Country Writers
present

SUSAN M. OSBORN

Kick Start Your Writing with Story Cards

A participatory
workshop
July 21, 2021
10 AM to Noon

Auburn City Hall
Rose Room
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn CA 95603



Tap into your treasure trove of imaginative power and intuitive wisdom by creating an original story card.

Takeaways from this workshop include: awareness of the benefits of creating story cards; a card you can use to write or illustrate a story you have written; and two frameworks for using your card as a visual story prompt.

goldcountrywriters.com goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com