

November, 2021

GCW Dispatch



Forging Better Writers



LIFE WITH LITERARY ICONS

by Jody Brady

Books and articles about San Francisco invariably mention THE BEATS as icons of the city's legendary history. The Beats were rebellious, creative souls who were exciting enough to crack society's 1950's norms of behavior. Sadly, as Cathy revealed, life as a Beat wasn't all fun and games. They were victims, as famous people often are, of their own outlandish publicity and hype.

Cathy Cassady Sylvia gave an excellent presentation via Zoom, to GCW October 20th. Cathy was the eldest daughter of Neal Cassady, the inspiration for many writers, including Jack Kerouac's character Dean Moriarty in Kerouac's 1957 novel, *On the Road*, and Allen Ginsberg's poetry.

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Annual GCW Leadership Planning Day

September 29, 2021, all GCW leaders met at Sizzlers and planned out the activities for 2022. We started out by **listing things that worked well this last year (and should be continued*)**:

- ◆ Susan's great leadership
- ◆ Phone tree*
- ◆ Website & logo updates*
- ◆ E-Blasts*
- ◆ Newsletter*
- ◆ Sheila's Zoom coordination
- ◆ Small group critique leader, Storytelling Festival
- ◆ Open Mike*, X-Mas holiday party*, contests*, Business meetings*, Face in a Book*

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The traditional Thanksgiving has its roots in the first Thanksgiving celebrations, when there were harvest festivals, or days of thanking God for plentiful crops. It simply reminds us of the year 1621 when the Pilgrims held a thanksgiving event, which later became a tradition for the entire United States. In the first Thanksgiving celebrations, a thanksgiving feast was organized in which there were dishes like boiled turkey, corn, fruits, vegetables, along with fish, which was packed in salt, and meat that was smoke cured over fires. The Pilgrims had invited their neighbors, Native American Indians, to share the Thanksgiving dinner. Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving that was to be shared by all the colonists and the neighboring Native American Indians.

Even in modern times the people love to follow the Thanksgiving traditions because the importance of the things involved in the traditional Thanksgiving has not been reduced for them in any way. The most significant Thanksgiving customs that are still popular are: **Family and Friends, The Autumn Harvest, Offering Prayers, Thanksgiving Dinner, & Eating Turkey.**

Word Play

The *Washington Post* sponsored a Style Invitational, asking readers to take any word from the dictionary; alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter; and supply a new definition. Here are some recent winners:

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the reader who doesn't get it.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very high.

Foreploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of obtaining sex.

Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously.

Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease.

Karmageddon: It's, like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like a serious bummer.

Glibido: All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a refund from the IRS, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

And, my favorite... *Ignoranus*: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

Member Kudos

GCW Members Named SF Writing Contest Finalists

Congratulations to **Kathleen Ward** and **Jody Brady** — Finalists in the 2021 San Francisco Writing Contest! Kathleen for “**Refugees in the New World—Gaby’s Quest**” in the YA/CHILDREN category. Jody for “**Crosswalk Analysis**” in the ADULT NON-FICTION category.

Entries, up to 1500 words, were also in POETRY and ADULT FICTION. Grand prize and 1st prize in each category to be announced in November. Winners and Finalists in all four categories will be published in the **2021 SFWC Writing Contest Anthology**.

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 our usual meeting place 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 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

Read & Review

Friday, October 8th seven of us got together at Depoe Bay to review Bill Baynes' book, *The Occupation of Joe*. Bill gave us the background story of how the book came to be. A good discussion ensued and several people were able to get their review on Amazon. Thank you, Bill, for writing such a great story and allowing us to review it.

Our next Read and Review will be January 14th, 10:00 a.m. at Depoe Bay. We are reading *Tears and Trombones* by Nanci Lee Woody. GCW has several copies on hand available for check out. Email Kathryn Shields if you are interested. Kelly Lardner is the Read and Review Coordinator.

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. at Sarah's home, can take new members.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Leaf and Bean (across from the Court House) Suspended through Dec., open to new members when we resume in January.

Memoir: **NEW GROUP** Meets the 1st Tues of each month Contact is Philip Jacques (for the next 3 months at least). The group meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. currently on Zoom, open to new members.

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein, meets 2nd Saturday each month, at private home from 1—4 p.m. Closed to new members.

Memoir Share: Old Group Revived, Contact Terry Wicks, contact her for days, time & place. Meets in person & emphasizes sharing & caring, not in depth critiquing.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Drop in at Round Table Pizza, 1st Wed. of the month, 5:30 p.m.

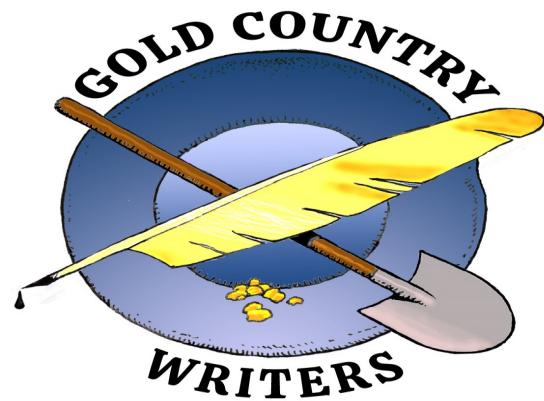
Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson, meets by e-mail, on hold

Poetry: 4th Wed. 12:00 p.m. Contact Randy Whitwell. Sharing poems via Zoom, 2022 Georgette Unis takes over, open to new members

Inspirational: Contact Michael O'Haver, 2nd Wed. 12 noon at the Gold Country Church, 11641 Blocker Dr., Auburn, CA

Mystery Contact Robin DeLey. Meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. via in person & Zoom, Hybrid, open to new members..

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.



GCW Officers, Board Members

& Committee Chairs

President: Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

VP - Internal Affairs: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction

VP - 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: Chery Anderson

Genre ~ Short Stories

Web Master: Mary Helen Fein

Genre~ Novel, Poetry

Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:

Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Genre~ Science Fiction

Read & Review Coordinator:

Kelly Lardner

Genre~ Memoir, 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

GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS PRESENT -



WRITERS DIGEST

**Log-in with your library card.
Choose Placer County Library**

[northnet.overdrive.com/
northnet-placercounty/
content/media/6337188](http://northnet.overdrive.com/northnet-placercounty/content/media/6337188)

Famous Writer's Quote

"TELL ME AND I'LL FORGET. SHOW ME,
AND I MAY NOT REMEMBER. INVOLVE
ME, AND I'LL UNDERSTAND."

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Upcoming Important Events

Webinar — On Nov 1—*Your Legal Rights and Making Your Contracts Work for You*, Featuring Umair Kazi and Adam Schear, at 9:30 a.m. PST

Webinar — On Nov 3—*The Acquisitions Process: What Should Authors Know?* Featuring: Jennifer Baker, at 4 p.m. PST.

For more information on these webinars, go to authorsguild.org.

Nov 24: No Meeting, day before Thanksgiving

Nov. 27-28: Placer County Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair (The weekend after Thanksgiving)

Dec 15: GCW Holiday Party

The Great Valley Bookfest



The annual Great Valley Bookfest took place on October 9, 2021 in Manteca. It was held alfresco, amid the shops of the Promenade at Orchard Valley. A slight breeze circulated the positive spirit of the author-vendors and book enthusiasts on the otherwise sunny day filled with author presentations, workshops, cooking demonstrations, a parade, and other performances.

Wearing Gold Country Writers shirts and badges, four members, Rebecca Inch-Partridge, Joan Griffin, Susan Korn and Barbara Young, spoke and entertained questions in the Authors Nook. They were one of five panels of authors from area writer's organizations including: Northern California Publishers and Authors, San Joaquin Valley Writers, California Writers Club, and Sacramento Suburban Writers Club. The setting was informal, beside a large pond with active and vocal water fowl, and a resounding fountain.

The GCW panelist-authors addressed topics related to the main subject, "So you Think You Want To Write?" These included: myths vs reality of writing, challenges and benefits, what makes someone write, and why they personally write.

To the final topic, Rebecca, with expertise in "making someone's lump of coal into a diamond" as an editor, said she writes for coping, growth and fantasy because "writing is cheaper than therapy." Joan has a strong background in teaching. She said writing "is fun." From Susan's experiences in life and corporate health leadership, she said, "I had a story I had to tell." Finally, Barbara, with a 35-year career in nursing, said, "I do it for creative expression."

The GCW poster stood in the foreground before panelists as a professional detail.

Cathy Cassady (Cont. from Pg. 1)

Cathy revealed what life was like interacting with these infamous writers and poets. Not until she was older did she realize the difficult youth her father survived. Neal and his friend Kerouac didn't fare well; they both died young and addicted, Neal at forty-one and Jack at age forty-seven. Their friend, Allen Ginsberg, lasted longer, passing away in 1997 at age 70. Although they are gone, they are not forgotten. High schools and universities have Beat classes. There are still legions of fans and a **Beat Museum** is in San Francisco's North Beach, surrounded by the bookstores, bars and coffee houses the group frequented, including City Lights Books.

Cathy described how her mother, Carolyn, lived with and loved these troubled men. She was a talented writer, visual artist and theatrical set and costume designer in her own right whose talents were overshadowed by the antics of Neal and his friends. After their mother passed at age 90 in London, her three children were surprised by the volumes of writing Carolyn left behind which included journals, poems, novels, screenplays, articles and letters which Cathy has used to create two books, *Poetic Portrait; Carolyn Cassady Revealed in Poetry and Prose* and *Travel Tips for the Timid; Or What Guidebooks Never Tell* (lighthearted tales her mother wrote and illustrated about her first trip to Europe). Cathy's goal is to publish her mother's work and have Carolyn's talents recognized.

Learn more about Cathy and her family at
www.cathycassady.org and
www.nealcassadyestate.com



That brilliant idea can come at any time.
Always have a way to record it for the future.

Annual GCW Planning Meeting (Cont. from Pg. 1)

Things that didn't work so well:

- ◆ In-person meetings (COVID)
- ◆ Writing critiques on Zoom
- ◆ Zoom orientations {Leasers & users}
- ◆ Getting all member bios on the club website
- ◆ Moving our meeting place more than once

What additional things we need to do next year:

- Schedule guest speakers
- Workshops on the crafts of writing (stressing cross-genre topics)
- Critiques (more structured for drop-in critiques)
- 10th Anniversary Gala and anthology
- Something to attract young writers

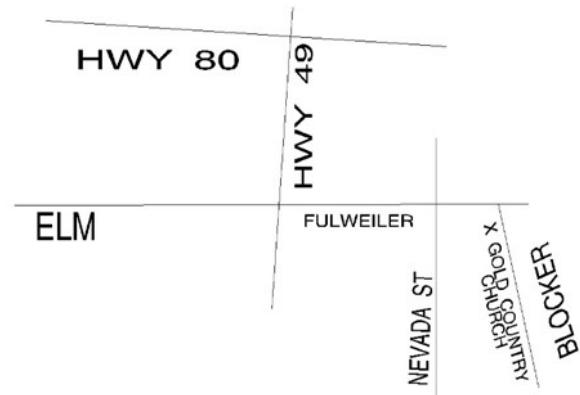
We ended with an exercise designed and illustrated by Frank. The take-away things we learned were:

- 1) Stories are developed by "Contrast."
- 2) Interest is created by the unusual.
- 3) When writers observe unique things about the world and sprinkle them in their stories it draws the readers in and works well.

New GCW Meeting Location

Gold Country Church youth room 11641 Blocker Dr, Auburn.

Take Hwy 49 off Hwy 80 going toward Grass Valley. Turn left at second traffic light (old cemetery on the left) and go straight at first light across train tracks (look both ways). Make right into the Creekside Business complex and look for sign.



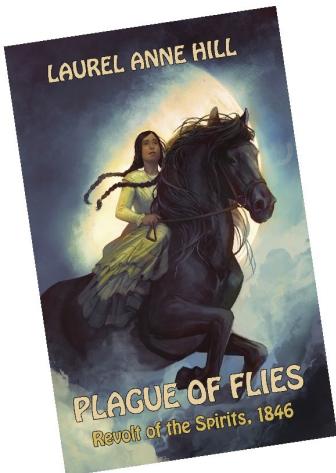
GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS present

"Writing What You Used to Know"

NOVEMBER 17, 2021
10 AM TO NOON



LAUREL ANNE HILL



Memories play hide-and-seek among the storage bins of our brains. Whether we write fiction, nonfiction or both, sooner or later the keys to knowledge rust—if they can be found at all. Award-winning author Laurel Anne Hill, who started writing and forgetting at an early age, will share her approach to writing what she used to know.

More information at <https://laurelannehill.com>

REQUEST ZOOM MEETING ID AT:
goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com
goldcountrywriters.com