

February, 2022

GCW Dispatch



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Breaking News

Bill Baynes got the word from Auburn City Hall that the Rose Room will not be open until February 1st.

DUES ARE DUE

They are back to the full-time amount of \$48 for the year. Mail check to P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604



The 2022 Auburn Winter Storytelling Fest was held on January 22. It was held on Zoom. Anyone could tune in and tell a story during Open Telling.

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Shelley Wagner, our Special Guest Speaker on January 19, 2022 conducted an interesting and helpful workshop: *Let's Write Poetry*. It was especially beneficial to those preparing to enter the GCW Poetry Contest.

She started by introducing Haiku and Senryu style poetry. Strict Japanese Haiku has 3 lines, 5 syllables in lines 1 & 3, and 7 in line 2. We were given the chance to write in one of these styles.

Shelley then covered the Villanelle style. This style can have rhyming schemes.

Next was the Pantoum which is a poetic folk form sung in 15th century Malaysia.

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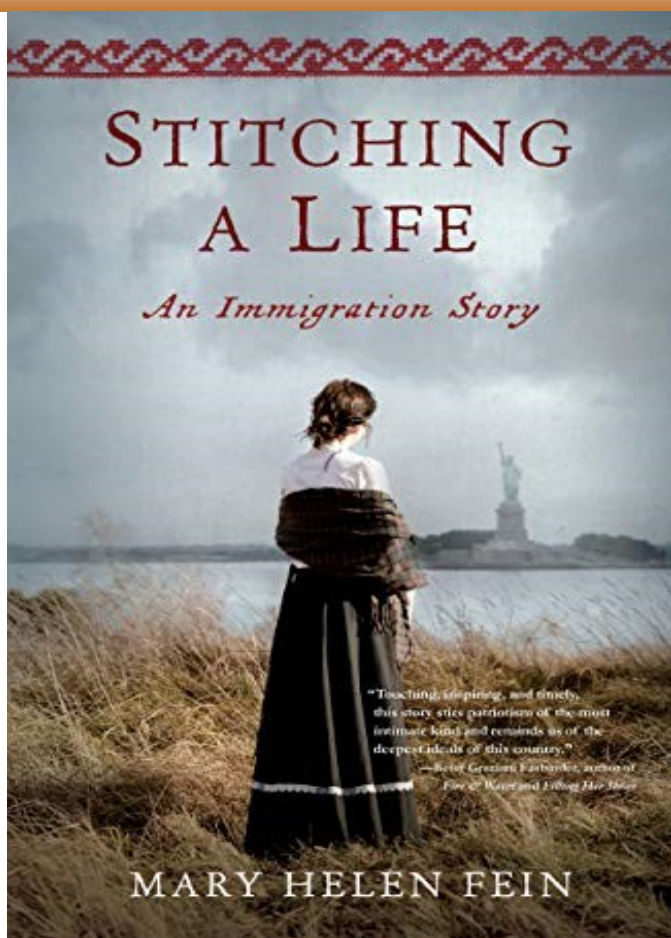


The Gold Country Writers Poetry contest will close on March 2nd of 2022. You can pick your topic and your poetic form, so there is no excuse for not entering. Just so it hasn't been previously published.

Randy Whitwell is the poetry contest chairman. His phone number is 916-233-5136

We will feature the winning poems in the April issue of the *Dispatch*. They will also be included in the GCW Anthology being compiled by Chery.

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Mary Helen Fein is giving a virtual presentation for New York City's Tenement Museum on **February 8, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm PST**. The presentation will be about her book *Stitching A Life: An Immigration Story*. This presentation is part of a series of "Virtual Book Talks" that the Museum is putting on to feature authors. The museum is holding these talks via YouTube Live. It is open to all and it is free. The museum has put up this webpage about the presentation with the link needed to join the meeting:

<https://www.tenement.org/events/virtual-book-talk-stitching-a-life/>

Mary Helen is also our Special Guest Speaker on March 16th on this same topic.

Read & Review

Our next book reviewed will be on April 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at Depoe Bay. We'll be discussing Betsy's new book *Tossed in Time* and possibly one other.

GCW has several copies of each book on hand available for check out. Email Kathryn Shields if you are interested in checking out copies. Kelly Lardner is the Read and Review Coordinator.

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. The Drop-in Critique meetings on 2nd/4th Wednesdays are no longer at the Gold Country Church but will be held at the Canyon View Community Center in Auburn.

Third Wednesday: Special educational programs of general interest to all, open to the public. Topics change each month. These are currently being held via Zoom. See the last page for the Speaker of the Month.

Fifth Wednesday: On the rare occasion 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.

Member Kudos

Kathleen Shields, who just applied for her Fictitious Name, Wonder All Around. She also showed us the design for her book, *On the Point of a Star*.

Frank Nissen, who is waiting for his galley proof of *Fortune's Call* from Black Rose publishers.

Betsy Schwarzentraub, who invited us all to her free workshop based on *Tossed In Time* on Sat., Feb. 12. For details see page 5.

Mary Helen Fein, related to her book, *Stitching a Life*, about her mother. She went to New York for research to see where her mother had lived and got her book in the Tenement Museum bookstore! They asked her to do a virtual book tour.

Chery Anderson, who will speak by Zoom to the Chico-based North State Writers on **Feb. 21**. And we can join in! Thanks also to Margie Yee Webb for the suggestion. Contact Chery if you want to watch.

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) Open to new members.

Memoir: NEW GROUP Contact is Philip Jacques (for the next three months at least). Meets the 1st Tues of each month. 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 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: On hold. Contact Chery Anderson, meets by e-mail.

Poetry: Contact Georgette Unis. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed. @ 12:30 p.m. Sharing poems via Zoom until the Rose Room is available. Open to new members.

Mystery Contact Robin DeLey. Meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Open to new members.

For contact information refer to the latest GCW Roster.



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

V P - Internal Affairs: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction, Short Stories,
Poetry

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events:
Vacant

Treasurer & Membership: Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

Secretary: Betsy Schwarzentraub

Genres ~ Christian Nonfiction, Devotions,
On & 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*



GCW Poetry Contest Rules and Timeline

Entry deadlines—Open 2/2/2022, Closes 3/2/2022

Guidelines:

- ◇ GCW members only may enter.
- ◇ One poem per person may be entered.
- ◇ Poems must be previously unpublished.
- ◇ Open topic
- ◇ Any form is acceptable i.e.: Haiku, sonnet, free verse.
- ◇ Maximum number of lines is 45.
- ◇ Title, name, or contact information do not count as lines.
- ◇ No early or late entries.
- ◇ No changes can be made once the poem has been entered.
- ◇ Font size 12 Times New Roman.
- ◇ Please provide your real name along with a pen name.
- ◇ Enter GCW Poetry Contest in the subject line of the email.
- ◇ Attach, do not paste, poem to email and send to: **gcw2022poetrycontest@gmail.com**

Gold Country Writers reserves the right to publish the winning poems.

Place and time of awards celebration to be determined.

Upcoming Important Events

Feb 2: 10 a.m., CGW Combined Business & Board meeting, via Zoom. Chery will send the link

Feb 2: Open entries for poetry contest

Feb 4-16 Beijing Winter Olympics

Feb 8: Mary Helen Fein's virtual presentation on YouTube for her book *Stitching a Life*. Go to:

<https://www.tenement.org/events/virtual-book-talk-stitching-a-life/> for the link.

Feb 12: *Tossed in Time* Workshop, see Page 5

Feb 13: Super Bowl LVI, Bengal Tigers vs Rams.

Feb 16: Special Guest Speaker

T.E. Watson: Why Do You Write What You Write? Why He Writes What He Writes. See pg 7 for details.

Feb 25: Stories on Stage, 7 p.m. See page 5

March 2: Close of entries for GCW Poetry Contest. Awards celebration to be determined.

Famous Writer's Quote

Rejection slips, or form letters, however tactfully phrased, are lacerations of the soul, if not quite inventions of the devil—but there is no way around them.

— Isaac Asimov

Shelley Wagner —Let's Write Poetry (Continued)

Next was the Prose style. This style combines alliteration, repetition, and rhyming.

She then covered non-traditional forms, such as Blitz, Acrostic and Shape poems.

Blitz poetry has 48 lines of short 2-3 word phrases.

Acrostic poetry has the 1st letter of each line spelling a word.

Shape poetry is when the shape of a poem takes on its subject.



2022 Auburn Winter Storytelling Fest (Cont.)

"The most dangerous animal in all of Africa was outside my cabin door! I could hear it - ROARRRING." Sheila Arnold, a professional storyteller from Virginia, was telling about her photo safari, and the listeners were hanging on every word. For 20 minutes she kept trying to get a picture of that hippo she could hear then she realized the roaring was from her cabin mate snoring.

So went the evening program as four professional tellers told tales of ancient kings, vaulting over bulls, an African safari, and an underwater love story in the caves of Hawaii. Earlier in the day the not-quite-pros had five minutes to tell a story during Open Telling. Ed Lewis, a childhood development professor, facilitated a workshop on learning to see the "story" in everyday anecdotes. He spoke about the day he adopted his step-daughter - who was 45 years old. The story had the makings of a sentimental yarn with a humorous twist. Since the all day program was on Zoom, it attracted a worldwide audience with viewers from Mexico, Canada, India, Australia, and England. The U.S. was represented by Texas, Kansas, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, Idaho and Arizona among many others. Tickets handed out for free numbered 163. The event is sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County and a grant from Poets & Writers Magazine funded by the National Endowment of the Arts. The 8th Annual Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival is set for January 28, 2023.

Tossed in Time Workshop

SAVE THE DATE – Quit just marking time after the lockdown! You're invited to a ***Tossed In Time: Workshop Seasons workshop*** on Saturday, Feb. 12, led by GCW member Betsy Schwarzentraub. It will be from **9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in person at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove (just east of Hwy. 99). The interactive workshop is free. Her book, *Tossed In Time*, will be available for purchase but you don't have to have the book to participate. Masks and distancing. Lunch provided. To register call Betsy by Feb. 1 at (530) 334-0305. She'd love to see you there!

Thanks so much! — Betsy

Editor Needed

Herb Tanimoto has finished a novel and is looking for an editor to proofread and help publish his book of historical fiction. Contact him at herbtan@earthlink.net. He lives in Cool.

Poets Wanted

The Sacramento Storytelling Guild meets at the Poetry Center in Downtown Sacramento once a month. They are partnering with poets to read poetry along with the storytelling. Participants have about eight minutes and can be on Zoom or in person. Contact Andy Laufer for more information or to volunteer, go to:

storyteller@sacramentostorytellersguild.org.

Stories on Stage Sacramento presents authors Jess Walter and Naomi Williams

for an evening of live literary performance at the CLARA Auditorium

After two years of virtual performances, award-winning literary performance series Stories on Stage Sacramento will return to the live stage on February 25 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at the CLARA Auditorium for an evening of performances by professional actors and conversation with the authors and actors. The evening, featuring best-selling author Jess Walter and local-favorite Naomi Williams, represents a concerned, careful and hopeful re-entry to public performances for this Sacramento literary staple.

Author Jess Walter is a National Book Award finalist, a *New York Times* #1 Bestseller, and winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Award. He has published seven novels, including *The Cold Millions* and *Beautiful Ruins*. His fiction has been selected three times for Best American Short Stories as well as the Pushcart Prize and Best American Nonrequired Reading.

Naomi J. Williams is the author of *Landfalls*, long-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. She was educated at Princeton, Stanford and UC Davis, lives in Sacramento, and teaches with the MFA program at Ashland University in Ohio.

Jess Walter's short story, "Before you Blow" and Naomi Williams's short story "After the Operation" will be read aloud by professional actors Julie Anchor and Kellie Raines.

Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test in the last 72 hours is required. Masks are required at all times. Seating will be socially distanced to keep our audience as safe as possible as we gather for this live event.

Mozart



Born on January 27, 1756, he was given the incredibly long moniker of Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. His father taught him and his sister to play instruments and managed their careers.

At the age of six, Wolfgang played to Empress Maria Theresa in the palace in Vienna. He then jumped up into her lap and hugged and kissed her. The little boy prodigy, in the powdered wig, became the talk of the town.

By the age of twenty-five, and well-traveled, he had 350 compositions to his name. He opted to remain in Vienna as a freelance musician, writing commissioned pieces and giving piano lessons - thus escaping the clutches of his over-bearing father. It was the most prolific period of his life.

In 1782 he married Constanze Weber in the Gothic cathedral of St. Stephen, in Vienna. The couple stayed together until his death despite several affairs. They had six children, only two of whom survived infancy.

The movie *Amadeus* was about the competition between Mozart and Salieri, commanded by Joseph II. Mozart was only 30 years old at the time and at the peak of his career but only earned half of what Salieri made for his performances. The emperor preferred Salieri's work.

Mozart wrote over 600 works during his lifetime, including 41 symphonies and 27 piano concertos. *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Don Giovanni* are three of his most famous operas. He is also famous for his *Requiem Mass*. If his music were played without stopping piece after piece, it would take eight, 24-hour days to play it all. St. Stephen's, where Mozart was buried at 35 is still a landmark in Vienna. That he is remembered and revered 231 years later speaks volumes - or symphonies.



- Jody Brady

Read it out loud to yourself. Does the sound of the poem suggest changes or improvements?

Critiquing Your Own Poem

By David Anderson

For Contest Judges:

Submit your best work. Review, revise and revise as needed. Revision is writing. You want the editor to read the poem twice.

What is the **theme of the poem**? **Its goal**? Or, what is at stake? **Title.** Does it work? Why or why not? Best not to take a phrase from a short poem. Rather, one that contrasts or complements the poem.

Form. Free verse is the rule these days. Does it take advantage of the rhythm, rhyme and sound of particular forms? If prose or prose-y, is it appropriate to the goal of the poem?

Content. Does the content match the form?

Diction. Is it simple? Indirect? Elevated? Appropriate? Used uniformly throughout? Are unusual words checked for spelling and meaning?

Rhythm. If written in a given form, does it match appropriately? If free verse, do the phrases match the meaning?

Narrator and audience. Who tells the story? Who is the audience?

Follow the submission guidelines. Cover sheet or not, font type, font size, margins, placement of your contact information, length of poem, etc. Note if they require 32 lines including title and spaces between the stanzas. If one thing is off, the poem will be rejected. If font type and size are not specified, use Times Roman or Book Antiqua twelve point, both of which are readable. Do not center a poem on the page unless the form requires it.

Categories or themes of the contest. I feel that the theme can be interpreted broadly, especially if there are only four to seven or so categories. A good poem may win the judge's eye even if it is true: that the judge is not feeling well, has heartburn, or argued with their significant other, and just can't be pleased the day they read your poem.



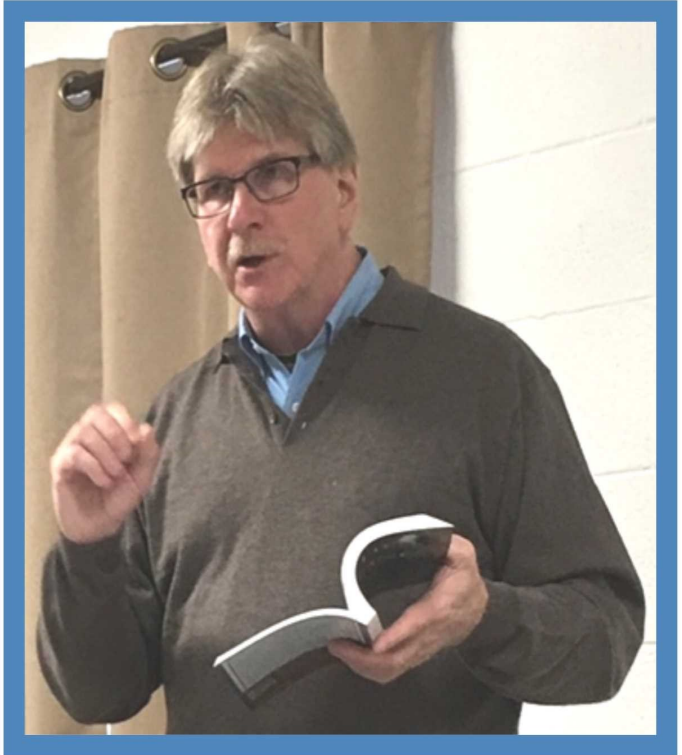
GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

"Why Do You Write What You Write?"

Why He Writes What He Writes.

T.E. Watson

An award-winning author of children's books, T.E. will examine the reasons we write. A writer of everything from political science to magazine columns for almost 47 years, he has settled into what he enjoys most - writing children's books. He hopes to help his audience find the reason that will make them become the writers they want to be. There will be questions and answers throughout the session. Info: www.tewatsononline.com



FEBRUARY 16, 2022
10 AM TO NOON PST

Online at zoom.us - email for link:
goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com

