



## **July 2022 Dispatch**

Gold Country Writers is a non-profit volunteer organization of writers that meets every Wednesday at the Auburn City Hall Rose Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please email [goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com](mailto:goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com) to join or find out more. Website: [goldcountrywriters.com](http://goldcountrywriters.com). Facebook: Gold Country Writers. Mailing address: P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604.

## **President's Message**

On June 15 we had a wonderful workshop given by our own GCW member, Joan Griffin. It dealt with making use of the five senses to enrich our writing, no matter the genre. Joan provided us with several exercises in which we could practice the ideas she put forward. We had an excellent, lively and enthusiastic turn-out.

All the workshops Margie has arranged for us have been great successes, and this was one of the best. I hope we may look forward to many more work shops to hone our skills.

~ Frank Nissen

## **WINNERS OF THE 100-WORD CONTEST**

Three winners emerged out of the 28 submissions that Contest Chair Jody Brady collected and gave to three judges from another club who vetted them. Congratulations to Karen Clay, first place winner ('Oh what a lonely boy'), Jerry Elmer, second place winner ('The Fix'), and Rebecca Partridge, third place winner ('Julie'). They read their entries at the June Hats-Off Celebration, to the enjoyment of the audience. Hats off to all three - and to everyone who entered!

The winning entries have been published at the end of this newsletter.



Rebecca Partridge, Karen Clay, Jerry Elmer

## Hats Off Celebration

The "Hats Off" Celebration is a gathering to honor the hundred-word story contest (variously referred to as flash fiction). This year it was held at the Sizzler Restaurant. Three judges from outside GCW judged the entries and selected a first, second and third place winner. However, at our celebration, all those who entered a story read their work. After lunch, Susan Korn led the voting for the most unusual, colorful, bizarre headgear that many people wore to the event.

## Best Hat Winner

Randy Whitwell won the Best Hat Competition at the June Hats-Off Celebration with a prehistoric flora and fauna theme. Congratulations, Randy!

Right: Winning Hat. Below: Another crowd pleaser, Donna Brown.



## Meet Dierdre Wolownick

by Margie Yee Webb

We are thrilled to welcome Dierdre Wolownick, the oldest woman to scale Yosemite's iconic El Capitán at age 66 and again at 70, to Gold Country Writers on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, for her visual presentation on "How to Succeed at Anything." The public is invited to this free event. She will also be signing her memoir, *The Sharp End of Life: A Mother's Story*.

After the latest record-breaking feat on her 70th birthday last year, Dierdre and her son, Alex Honnold, were interviewed by Anderson Cooper in November 2021. Watch the interview via the link below. Honnold was featured in *Free Solo*, the Oscar-winning documentary that depicts his ropeless ascent of El Capitan.

Enjoy, then join us on July 20 when Dierdre will share some wisdom from the heights!

[Mom of 'Free Solo' climber on summiting El Capitán at 70 - CNN Video](#)

# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



## DIERDRE WOLOWNICK



### HOW TO SUCCEED AT ANYTHING

JULY 20, 2022  
10 AM TO NOON

Auburn City Hall Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

Dierdre Wolownick is the oldest woman to scale Yosemite's iconic El Capitan at the age of 70! In her memoir, *The Sharp End of Life: A Mother's Story*, she shares her journey that reflects a story of courage and persistence. Her son, Alex Honnold, is one of the worlds most famous climbers and the subject of the Oscar winning documentary, *Free Solo*, that depicts his ropeless ascent of El Capitan. Dierdre will share some wisdom from the heights - a visual presentation that shows how to conquer fear. If you can dream it, you can do it!



<https://dierdrew.us/>

**PUBLIC INVITED - FREE**

goldcountrywriters.com  
goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com

## Thanks to Joan Griffin

Joan was our June guest speaker. She gave a delightful, interactive and stimulating workshop on incorporating all five senses into our writing. Writing prompts, lemons, lemon candies and crayons transported our amygdalas to other worlds. For more about Joan, go to her website and blog: <https://joangriffin.substack.com/>



## Announcements

### GCW Election Results

Our new officers elected in June are below. They will become official on July 6.

External Vice President:  
Michael O'Haver

Treasurer: (re-elected)  
Bill Baynes

Thank you for your service to Gold Country Writers!

### We Need a Secretary

GWC has a splendid opportunity for an aspiring Secretary of the organization. The primary duty is taking minutes at the business meeting. This position can be shared by two members. If you would like to lend your talents to the group, please contact President Frank Nissen.

### New Dispatch Editor

If you haven't noticed yet, the *Dispatch*, our monthly newsletter, looks different this month. That's because we have a new editor, Lisa Schliff. She replaced Michael O'Haver, who was elected External VP.

## Kudos and Appreciation

Betsy Schwarzentraub, Susan Korn, Michael O'Haver, and Cathy Cassady staffed our booth at "Words and Music" on May 15 in Elk Grove. Thank you very much!

A special shout out to Susan Korn and helpers, who provided the beautiful decorations and wonderful cakes for the 100 Word Celebration at Sizzler's.....Thank you, Susan & friends!

Rebecca Partridge has a publisher, Black Rose Writing of Texas, for her young adult science fiction book, *Escaping the Dasha*, to be published in March of 2023.

Phil Jacques recorded guest speaker James L'Etoile's May presentation,

which is posted on the Auburn Community You Tube channel. Margie will write up the event and Mary Helen Fein will post it on our website. Chery will post about it on our Facebook page.

David Anderson's book of poetry, *What Was Within*, is coming out in about a month from Christian Faith Publishing, a hybrid press. He is in our poetry group. Congratulations!

To the team working on our anthology, *Ink Spots*, doing terrific work.

Frank Nissen's group, 'Street Posse', is forming to help launch his book, *Fortune's Call: A Gold Rush Odyssey*. It will be released this August. (More posse members are welcome).

## Calendar of Events

### July 5

**2:00 p.m.** - Memoir Group

### July 6

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Combined Executive and General Business Meeting

**5:45 p.m.** - Evening mixed genre Round Table Pizza, 370 Elm Avenue, Auburn

**5:45 p.m.** - Children's Lit at Round Table Pizza

### July 9

**1:00 - 4:00 p.m** - Novel Group

### July 12

**1:00 p.m.** - Memoir Share Group

### July 13

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Drop-in Critique

**12:00 p.m.** Inspirational Critique Group

**12:00 p.m.** - Poetry Group

**2:30 p.m.** - Science Fiction Group at Leaf & Bean

### July 20

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Speaker Meeting with Dierdre Wolownick, "How to Succeed at Anything."

**1:00 p.m.** Mystery by Hybrid (Zoom and Robin's park)

### July 21

Deadline for the Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest.

### July 27

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Drop-in Critique plus Tweaking Critiquing with Joan Griffin and Rebecca Partridge

**12:00 p.m.** Poetry Group

**2:30 p.m.** Science Fiction Group at Leaf & Bean

### July 29

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Read & Review

Depoe Bay Coffee Shop

893 High Street, Auburn \*see article below in this newsletter

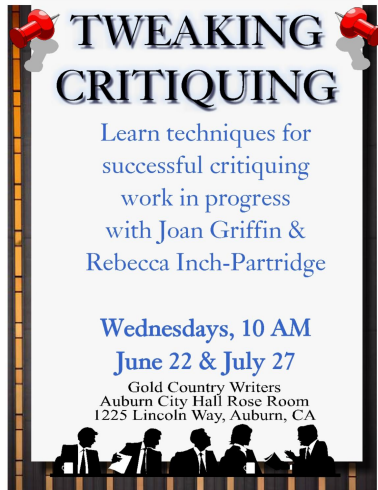
**\*All events take place at the Rose Room of Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, unless otherwise indicated.**

### Read and Review at Depoe Bay Coffee Shop

Hone your listening and discussion skills on July 29 when Barbara Young and Mary



Jones share reading from their books. Young will read from *The Heart That Rocks Health Care: Nurses Move From Stress to Success*. Jones will share *Ten Thousand Baby Kisses*. Kelly Lardner is the coordinator of Read and Review.



The Drop-in Critique meeting will have two members offering "Tweaking Critiquing". Rebecca Inch-Partridge and Joan Griffin gave the same talk last summer and it was very popular. They presented the first part in June. The second half will be Wednesday, July 27 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Auburn City Hall, Rose Room. GCW is the sponsor of Open Mic for the Spoken Word in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library. Bring some of your work to read for eight minutes and bask in the applause.

### GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

by Margie Yee Webb

Thanks to the expertise of Philip Jacques, Gold Country Writers member and Studio Manager of Auburn Community Television, some of our speaker programs are available for viewing on the ACTV YouTube channel. To our great appreciation, Phil has been filming speaker presentations and editing them for posting. For those members who may have missed a speaker presentation or want to catch it again, they can stream it on ACTV. Here is the link:

**<https://m.youtube.com/user/actv20>**

Following are the presentations that have been filmed, with the links, which are also posted on our GCW website ([goldcountrywriters.com](http://goldcountrywriters.com)).

**Mary Helen Fein**, "Writing Family History ~ A Process," March 16, 2022.

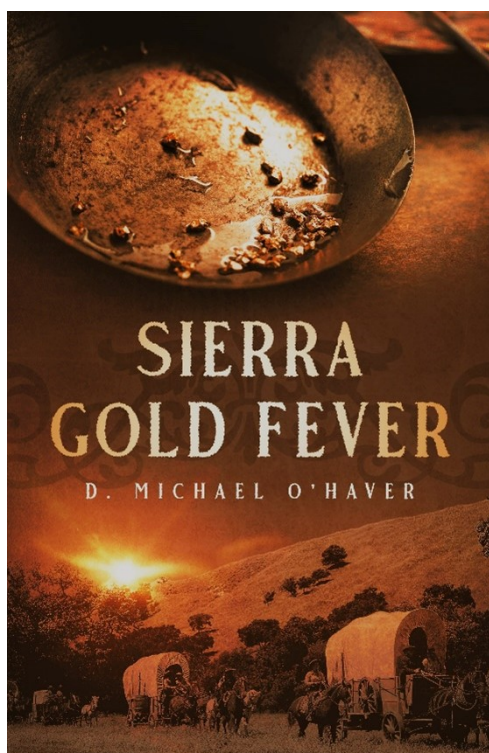
**<https://youtu.be/P1jiaQ0mPo>**

**James L'Etoile**, "Exploring Character," May 18, 2022.

**<https://youtu.be/rgB4jBclBvk>**

**Joan Griffin**, "Spice Up Your Writing With Sensory Details," June 15, 2022.

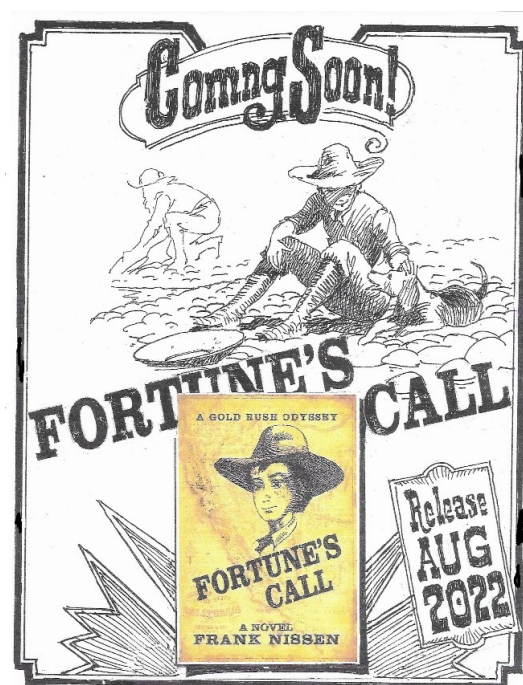
**<https://youtu.be/F5m34xaTWOo>**



*Sierra Gold Fever* is a Gold Rush story with something added. The hero, Jason, is in Grass Valley working to get a stake so he and his fiancée can get married. The heroine, Elizabeth, tires of waiting for Jason to strike it rich and decides to travel west on a wagon train to join him in the goldfield.

The historical fiction book is being published by Ambassador International, has undergone editing, and the cover has been finalized. The only thing remaining is to complete the internal formatting, which is expected to be accomplished shortly.

~ Michael O'Haver



My debut novel, *Fortune's Call*, will be available from Amazon after August 4, 2022, from Black Rose Writing, the publisher.

It simply would not *be* without the support, encouragement, and excellent input from my fellow writers at GCW.

A special note of thanks to former member Sheri McGuinn and current member Rebecca Partridge, both of whom worked wonders as editors. Many thanks to all of you.

~ Frank Nissen

**Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:**  
Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Contact group leaders, on your latest club roster to learn the current schedule for your group.

**Children's Lit:** Contact Sarah Pressler. Meets at Round Table Pizza in Auburn the first Wed. of the month. New members welcome.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy:** Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of

**GCW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS &  
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**PRESIDENT:** Frank Nissen

**V P - INTERNAL AFFAIRS:** Barbara Young

**V P - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MARKETING &  
EVENTS:** Michael O'Haver

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 Philip Jacques. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Elm Street Round Table Pizza. Meeting time is 12 noon to 2 p.m. Open to new members.

**Memoir Share:** Old Group Revived. Contact Terry Wicks. Meets 2nd Tues each month at 1 p.m. at Allan Brigham's, 12420 Leeds Drive, Auburn; emphasizes sharing & caring, not in-depth critiquing. 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.

**Evening Mixed Genre:** Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Drop in at Round Table Pizza, 1st Wed. of the month, 5:45 p.m.

**Flash Fiction:** Meetings resume. Contact Chery Anderson. Meets via e-mail.

**Poetry:** Contact Georgette Unis. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed. @ 12 noon. Sharing poems in the Rose Room. Open to new members.

**Mystery:** Contact Robin DeLey. Meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. in the park across from Robin's place & via Zoom. Open to new members.

**Inspirational, Spiritual Revived:** needs a leader, contact Rebecca.

**TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Baynes

**SECRETARY:** VACANT

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Margie Yee Webb

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chery Anderson

**WEB MASTER:** Mary Helen Fein

**GROUPS COORDINATOR:** Rebecca Inch-Partridge

**READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR:** Kelly Lardner

**DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Lisa Schliff

**DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER:** Cathy Cassady

## Correction for June Newsletter

The report in the June newsletter reported no book sales at the 'Words and Music.' However, three of the four authors -- Betsy Schwarzentraub, Susan Korn, and Cathy Cassady -- sold a book and some notecards. Betsy also met the more than twenty writers there and handed out our new GCW brochure. Susan met and secured a Master of Ceremonies for our Tenth Anniversary Gala.

At right, Betsy reads from her latest book, *Tossed in Time*, at the gathering.



## Out of Town Happenings

San Francisco Writers Conference 2022

The 18th annual San Francisco Writers Conference will take place July 21–24, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. Highlights include: 100+ Presenters and 80+ sessions, the SFWC Poetry Summit, Writing for Hollywood Summit, and networking social events. For more on the



18th Celebration of Craft, Commerce & Community, visit:

<https://www.sfwriters.org/2022-conference/>

## Stories on Stage

Stories on Stage is presenting stories from the TWENTY TWENTY Anthology.

When: July 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: The Auditorium at Clara, 1425 – 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento

Cost: \$20 Admission

Purpose: Fund Raiser for Stories on Stage

Tickets: [tinyurl.com/sossfundraiser](https://tinyurl.com/sossfundraiser)

NO DIRECT SALES, BUT PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITY FOR WRITERS

## Winning Entries of 100-Word Contest

### 1st Place OH WHAT A LONELY BOY - Karen Clay

Bart tiptoed into his mother's closet. The eleven-year old grabbed a handful of hanging clothes and shook them, whipping up her fragrance. He inhaled. A tear escaped, but he wiped it quickly away.

"Big boys don't cry," Dad had said on that cold summer morning.

Bart had shivered then, and all day, through the service, in the graveyard.

The calico dress slipped off the hanger. He struggled with the zipper in the back.

At the full-length mirror he closed his eyes.

"Please can I see you?"

Instead of a Heavenly vision, his father's reflection stood beside him. Bart's knees buckled.

### 2nd Place THE FIX - Jerry Elmer

My craving is almost overwhelming. Dry mouth, pounding heart, knotted stomach – I know the

symptoms. The acrid smell of garbage rips my nostrils as I race down the alleyway, a shortcut to my

source. A sharp pain racks my leg as I bark my knee running past a dumpster. The wound stings as my

jeans rub on the bloody scrape. Ignore pain, concentrate on the goal: get there before it's too late!

Sprint through the park, tear around the corner. Whew, I made it! Bruno's waiting to sell me my fix.

Still five minutes till closing at Kelly's Doughnut Shop.

### 3rd Place JULIE - Rebecca Partridge

Julie exits the rest stop bathroom to find his truck gone. He's done this before. He'll come back when he thinks she's learned her lesson. She cries as she tries to figure out what to do. Her sister lives three hours away. He'll be back by then and there will be no escape.

A highway patrol car sits at the end of the parking lot. She gathers her nerves and approaches the officer.

He looks out the window at her. His expression is hard; tone unwelcoming. "Can I help you, ma'am?"

"No. Never mind. My husband will be here soon."

Gold Country Writers | P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604

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