



## September 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

The Prez's rant. Words are your tool box, words are your paintbrush; better yet, your palette. Read great writers to see how artfully they wield their tools. Writing, paradoxical as it might seem, is a visual medium. Your words evoke images and emotions in the reader's mind. Your words must do all the work. The more words you have in your tool box, the more eloquent the picture you can paint. Be inspired by any eloquence you find. Savor it. Strive for your own eloquence.

~ Frank Nissen

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



## AMY ROGERS



### Write a Thriller Novel Using Craft Tips From the Pros

September 21, 2022  
10 A.M. to Noon

Well-written thriller novels share craft features that allow the author to deliver what the reader wants.  
Learn some of the craft to make your thriller or other novel succeed.

*Learn the rules before you break the rules.*

*Consider the absolute importance of point of view.*

*Learn the 3-part formula for what makes a story.*

*Discover the three bad openings that pop up again and again.*

*Kayak or inner tube: what kind of characters do you write?*

**PUBLIC  
INVITED**

Amy Rogers, MD, PhD, is a Harvard-educated scientist, novelist, journalist, and educator. She has published three science-themed thriller novels in the style of Michael Crichton, and a non-fiction compilation of local science journalism she wrote for INSIDE Magazine. <https://www.amyrogers.com>

**AUBURN CITY HALL  
ROSE ROOM  
1225 LINCOLN WAY  
AUBURN, CA 95603  
[www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)**



## A Hearty Thanks to Frank and Susan

Our August speakers, Mentor Program Chair Susan Korn, her speakers, Mary Mohs and Jody Brady, and GCW President Frank Nissen, educated and entertained the GCS membership with their fine presentations. Those who attended now know more than most about Susan's Mentorship Program and Frank's expertise in film-making and animation.

The presenters and attendees overcame the challenge of a flooded Rose Room, switching venues at the last minute. The show must go on!



### **Correction for August Newsletter**

Dierdre Wolownick's son is Alex Honnold, not Hunnold. Here again is the link to his website for The Honnold Foundation.

<https://www.honnoldfoundation.org/>

## **IN MEMORIAM: ALAN BRIGHAM**



## **A Fond Farewell**

We lost my father, Alan Brigham, on Friday night (August 19). He had a very quick medical issue that took him in a matter of hours. Gratefully there was no pain and myself (son) and Beverley (daughter) were with him at the time of his passing. The Gold Country Writers Group was so important to him. We thank you all for the time he spent with the group. We will advise Memorial details as they emerge. It will be in the four-to- five week time frame.

Thank you again!!

Russ Brigham

A truly rich and eloquent voice has been stilled. It is our loss. Perhaps the best way to honor and remember Alan is to always aspire to the kind of powerful simplicity and heart-felt humanity that he brought to his writing and shared with us in his readings. We may hope that his family will somehow complete his project in his spirit.

Frank Nissen

It was at Susan Thompson's memoir group. A charming older man was reading this beautiful story of a young man traveling the world as a crew member on a ship. I was transformed to that ship. I smelled the salt water, heard the ship's bell. This older man's name was Alan, and in the coming months I enjoyed his wonderful stories. He became a wonderful friend and I loved it when we met at his house for groups. When I would attend the business meetings, my eyes would scan the room till I spotted him enjoying his coffee. I would relax then knowing he was present and we would enjoy a chat later. Rest in peace Alan. Our friendship will never be forgotten. You are one of a kind. A diamond on this journey. Till we meet again. Love, Terry Wicks

Good-bye, old friend. I loved you then as I love you now. You were one of a kind. A wonderful English Gentleman. Listening to your romantic writings of yesterday allowed me to capture some thoughts and moments of your younger days. I'm proud to say I knew you well. With love and tears in my heart....until we meet again. Thank you for the memories.

Susan Korn



Alan was often at our Drop-in Critique meetings reading from his hand-written manuscript. He was in the process of writing FIVE books at one time for his five grandchildren. His willingness to share his vast store of knowledge and his sense of humor will be missed.  
Chery Anderson

Please note: Live website links in this newsletter are in blue. Click and enjoy!

## SAVE THE DATE . . .

**We are... GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS**



**We are... Celebrating 10-year anniversary**  
**Saturday, September 24, 2022**

**We are... At the Auburn City Hall**  
**in the Rose Room**

**We are... Wearing semi-formal or Western wear**

**We are... Looking forward to seeing you**

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

## Posters for The Gala

This is a time-sensitive message for the Gala on Saturday, September 24. We will be celebrating our tenth GCW Anniversary on this day. It will be a special event and soon you will be receiving your invitations to attend. Please note: **all authors** are encouraged to have a **12 x18" poster** of their published book covers for advertising and colorful displays.

We will be displaying all authors' book posters in the Rose Room the day of the event. Betsy Schwarzentraub had hers made at Staples on a glossy cover. If you are interested in a poster presentation of your books, you need to get started. We will announce in the near future when to deliver them to the Rose Room. Thanks to all.

Questions about the Tenth Anniversary Celebration? Contact committee members Barbara Young, Betsy Schwarzentraub, or Chery Anderson.

Susan Korn, GCW Celebration Chair

## Opportunity to Volunteer for GCW

Gold Country Writers is offering complimentary dues for the first person to step up and take on the fulfilling, fascinating and fun position of Secretary for a two-year run. In the meantime, officers and committee chairs will rotate the minute-taking duties at the monthly business meeting. Contact GCW President Frank Nissen.

## Sell Your Books and Volunteer at the Gold Country Fair



Authors who want to sell books at the Gold Country Fair (September 8-11) must sign up for a shift at the Gold Country Writers booth. The following shifts are available:

September 8th, 4 p.m. – 11 p.m.

September 9th, 4 p.m. – Midnight

September 10th, 11 a.m. – Midnight

Authors must bring their own seller's permits and pay their own sales taxes. They must provide pricing information for each title, including sales tax, rounded off to the nearest whole dollar amount. GCW volunteers cannot make any sales (\$12.95 or the like) that require coins for change. Sales must be by cash or check only.

Authors can supply up to one dozen books total for all their titles, delivered to the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall on Wednesday, September 7, from 10 a.m. until noon. On the afternoon of September 8, they can be delivered to our booth near Armory Road at the fair. Authors can replenish their supplies during their shifts.

Contact Michael O'Haver ([godsscribemike@gmail.com](mailto:godsscribemike@gmail.com)) to sign up for booth duty or Bill Baynes ([bbaynes303@aol.com](mailto:bbaynes303@aol.com)) for staffing instructions or for questions about getting a permit.



## KUDOS!

To Michael O'Haver, whose children's story, "The Mystery of the Pig Who Flew," won a blue ribbon at the Nevada County Fair this year. Congratulations, what a great honor for our External Veep!

To Rebecca Inch-Partridge, who announced she will be a panelist at the World Sci Fi convention in Chicago in September.

To Rebecca Inch-Partridge and Joan Griffin for the "Tweaking Critiquing" presentation.

To Kathryn Shields for being interviewed by Jeaninne Escallier Kato on Jeaninne's ACTV program, "Staging the Third Act." Thanks, and congratulations to Jeaninne and Kathryn! You can watch the interview on Youtube.com at [Staging the Third Act Kathryn Shields](#).

To Chery Anderson for stepping in as secretary in July and August.

To Wendy Coles Littlepage for selling books by invitation at the Avid Reader in Sacramento.

To Phil Jacques for videotaping the speaker presentations. GCW is grateful.

### Nanci Lee Woody's Book in *STYLE Magazine*!

by Margie Yee Webb

Congratulations to Nanci Lee Woody! The August 2022 issue of *STYLE Magazine* includes Nanci and her novel, *Tears and Trombones* — one of ten authors and

their books featured in the “Book Club: Local Authors” article. The local print magazine, which features authors and their books annually, can also be viewed online.

### **Tears and Trombones by Nanci Lee Woody**

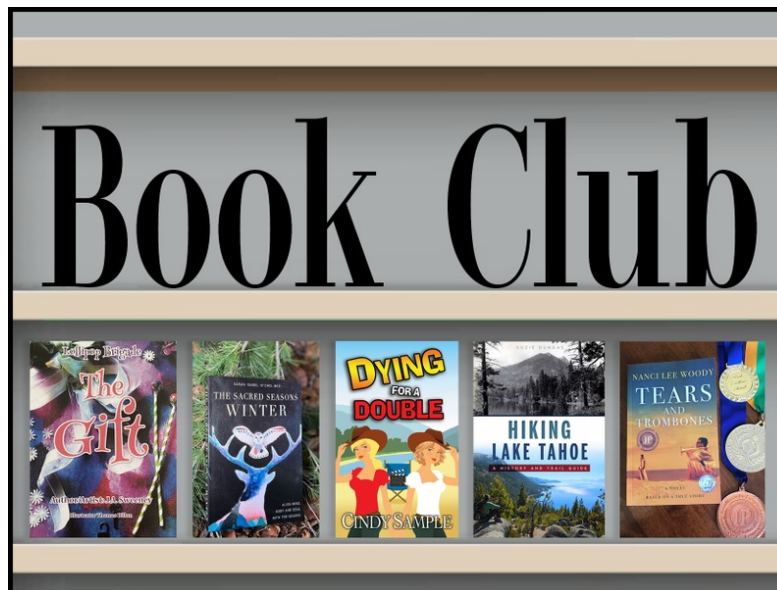
A depression-era boy wants badly to become a classical musician against the wishes of his hard-drinking, heavy-equipment-operating father. His long-suffering mother wants him to escape the kind of life she’s had and supports his musical dream. Tears and Trombones is a roller coaster of highs and lows with humorous twists and poignant turns.

Nanci Lee Woody, a Roseville resident, was a teacher, textbook author, and Dean of Business at American River College before writing her prize-winning novel.

Book Club: Local Authors | Style Magazine

<https://www.stylemag.com/2022/07/28/407079/book-club-local-authors>

Nanci Lee Woody's book cover image is on the far right below.



### **Janet Collins published in *Upper Room***

by Betsy Schwarzentraub

Congratulations and kudos to Janet Collins for having her August 2 devotion published in the July-August *Upper Room*. As you know, *Upper Room* is translated into a number of languages and literally goes to millions of people around the world. She has touched many hearts and lives!

I appreciated reading about how her one experience with Gladys inspired her to learn American Sign Language and use it in so many ways in her family and ministries! She was right when she said, "We never know when God can use some small circumstance to make a big difference."

## **Calendar of Events**

**Tuesday, September 6**  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Memoir

**Tuesday, September 13**  
1:00 p.m. - Memoir Share at Max's,



Group at Round Table Pizza, 370 Elm Avenue, Auburn

**Wednesday, September 7**

**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

**Thursday, September 8**

**4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.**  
Gold Country Fair (GCW booth)

**Friday, September 9**

**4:00 p.m. - midnight**  
Gold Country Fair (GCW booth)

**Saturday, September 10**

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Novel Group  
**11:00 a.m. - midnight**  
Gold Country Fair (GCW booth)

**Sunday, September 11**

**11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.**  
Gold Country Fair (GCW booth)

110 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn

**Wednesday, September 14**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Drop-In Critique  
**noon** Poetry Group  
**noon** Inspirational Critique Group  
**2:30 p.m.** - Science Fiction Group.  
New location TBA.

**Wednesday, September 21**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** Speaker Meeting with Amy Rogers.  
**1:00 p.m.** Mystery Group by hybrid (Zoom and Robin's park)

**Saturday, September 24**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** GCW 10th Anniversary Gala

**Wednesday, September 28**

**10:00 a.m.** Drop-in Critique  
**12:00 p.m.** Poetry Group  
**2:30 p.m.** Science Fiction Group at new location TBA

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

**\*See Critique Group List in this newsletter for group leader, contact person and more details.**

## Upcoming in October

**October 7** - Read And Review will discuss Frank Nissen's book, *Fortune's Call*.

## Polish Your Work for the 2022 San Francisco Writing Contest!

by Margie Yee Webb

The San Francisco Writers Conference announced the 2022 San Francisco Writing Contest with entries due September 30, 2022. Entries, self-published or not-yet published, must fit into one of four categories:

\* Adult Fiction

\* Adult Nonfiction (including memoir)

\* Children's/YA Books

\* Poetry

Entries: up to 1500 words, and should be first 1500 words of a novel or book, an essay, article, novella, short story, novelette, etc.

Poetry Entries: up to three poems with up to 1500 words total.

Prizes: Grand Prize is registration to the 2023 San Francisco Writers Conference, and 1st Prize in each of the four categories will receive \$100. Winners and finalists in each category will receive publication of their entry in the 2022 SFWC Writing Contest Anthology.

For complete details and fees, visit

<https://www.sfwriters.org/2022-writing-contest-overview/>

Gold Country Writers' members who were finalists in past SF Writing Contests include: Nanci Lee Woody, Donna Brown, Kathleen Ward, and Jody Brady.

Good luck!

### **Call for Entries: IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards**

The Independent Book Publishers Association announced the 35th Annual IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards is open for entries. With 57 categories recognizing excellence in book editorial and design, publishers of print books or audio-books with a 2022 copyright date may enter based on these two deadlines:

\*September 30, 2022 — primarily for titles published January 1 - August 31, 2022

\*December 15, 2022 — primarily for titles published September 1 - December 31, 2022

For complete details, visit:

<https://www.ibpabenjaminfranklinaward.com/>

### **GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV**

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

<https://youtu.be/P1jiaqQ0mPo>

**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>

**Dierdre Wolownick**, "How to Succeed at Anything," July 20, 2022.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8e9EiQksIVQ>

### 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 each month at 2:30 p.m. New location TBA. 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 Max's, 110 Grass Valley Hwy, 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.

### GCW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Frank Nissen

V P - INTERNAL AFFAIRS: Barbara Young

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

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: VACANT

## Out of Town Happenings

### Face In A Book authors table

The Face In A Book bookstore in El Dorado Hills has invited Gold Country Writers to send three authors to staff a table on the sidewalk on Sunday, September 18 from 10 a to 11 a.m. The store will take 40 % of any sales. Claire Unis, Kelly Lardner and Barbara Young will participate. Books must be sent before the event.

## Great Valley Bookfest Manteca

Date: October 8

Place: Bass Pro Shopping Center, Highway 120, @ Union Road exit 280 Lifestyle Rd., Manteca

GCW will send four members for a writer's panel discussion: Barbara Young, Kathryn Shields, Betsy Schwarzentraub, and Frank Nissen.

Writers Panel Topics:

1. Choosing your genre as a writer
2. Writing research today
3. Publishing Today – Traditional, Vanity, Self-Publishing, or Hybrid?
4. Finding the time to write

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

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