



December 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. **At this time we are meeting in the Barnstormer Event Center, Auburn Airport, 13626 New Airport Road.** Email goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com to join or find out more. Website: goldcountrywriters.com. Facebook: Gold Country Writers. Mailing address: P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604.



[Printable pdf file](#)

President's Message

An old Chinese sage expressed many of his ideas in short gems of wisdom. One of them is, "The pick of words that tell the truth." In the context of writing, I have taken the liberty of interpreting this phrase as the pick of words that convey the most efficiently, the most powerfully, the most clearly what you want to say.

I have been in a number of critiquing situations where a phrase or passage was being discussed, and the author reveals, "What I really wanted to say was. . ." And their spontaneous statement had ten times the power, clarity, and eloquence as what was on the page.

Whatever metaphor you use for identifying your "truth": your "gut," your "bones," your "muse," listen to it carefully. Don't talk yourself out of it. You owe it to yourself and to your readers.

Oh. And Happy Holidays.

~ Frank Nissen

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY



The poster features a blue banner at the top with the text "Gold Country Writers" in yellow. Below the banner are various holiday decorations including blue and green ornaments, pink stars, and a twisted orange candy. The main title "Holiday Pot Luck & Membership Kick-off" is written in large, bold, red letters. Below the title is the date "December 14, 2022" and the location "Auburn Airport Barnstormer Room, 13626 New Airport, Auburn, CA 95602". The website "www.goldcountrywriters.com" is also listed. The entire poster is decorated with yellow stars.

Gold Country Writers

**Holiday Pot Luck
& Membership Kick-off**

December 14, 2022

Auburn Airport Barnstormer Room, 13626 New Airport,
Auburn, CA 95602

www.goldcountrywriters.com

GCW Internal Vice-President Barbara Young will chair the upcoming **Holiday Potluck Party** for members and their guest. Please note that this event isn't open to the general public.

Remember to bring a favorite dish to share with others. There will also be a cookie exchange. If you want to participate, bring two dozen cookies. Each participant will receive an assortment of cookies.

There will be a holiday sweater contest. The categories are: Funniest, Most Glamorous, and Most Creative. There will be three winners.

It's that time of year and books make terrific gifts! We are having a Book Shop & Swap for member authors to make a one-minute pitch and display their book poster, books and business cards. Come early to set up. Keep it simple, as space depends upon the number of participants. There are about twenty already. Each author must manage their own space, swaps and sales, accounting, change, etc.

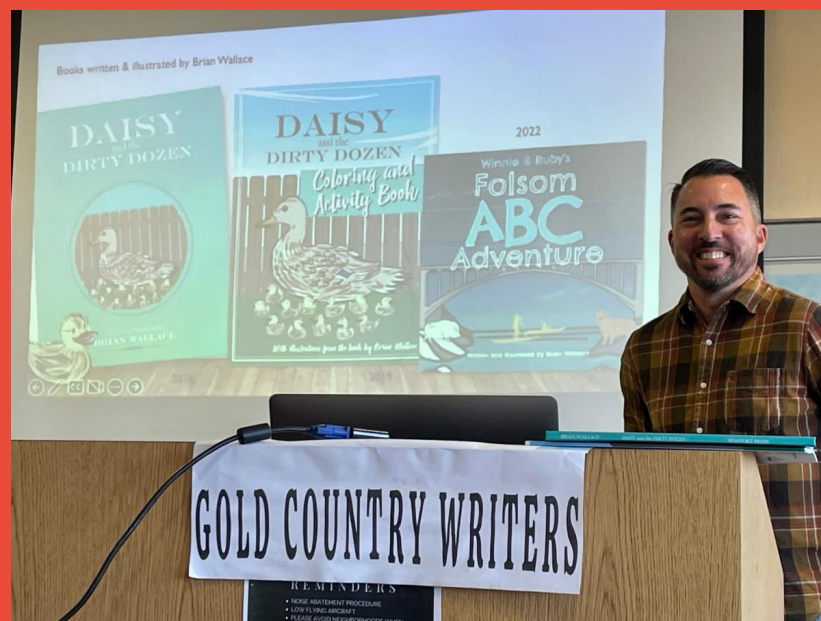
Please take the opportunity to renew your membership in Gold Country Writers at this festive event. See you there!

Many Thanks to Brian Wallace

by Lisa Schliff

Our November speaker, Brian Wallace (pictured below with his three published children's books) proved to be more than just a quack. He shared with us his captivating story of a mama duck who hatched her twelve ducklings in his backyard and then taught them to swim in his pool. This singular event inspired his children's book, "Daisy and the Dirty Dozen." He also beautifully illustrated the story. Brian went on to local fame with interviews on several TV news and talk shows. His video of the entire brood coasting down the waterslide into the pool was and still is the highlight of the internet, media, presentations to schools, and to our GCW audience as well. We were simultaneously entertained and inspired!

See video of the real-life Daisy and the Dirty Dozen sliding down the swimming pool slide at: <https://www.daisyandthedirtydozen.com/>





Speaker Lunch at Wings

by Lisa Schliff

Now that GCW meetings have moved to the Barnstormer Event Center while we await completion of repairs in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall, we are hosting our monthly speaker for lunch at the nearby restaurant, "Wings Grill & Espresso Bar." It's walking distance from the meeting room, and serves hot and cold sandwiches, soups and salads. All attendees at the monthly speaker meeting are welcome to have lunch with the host.



Ink Spots: First Published Book of Award Winners

by Chery Anderson

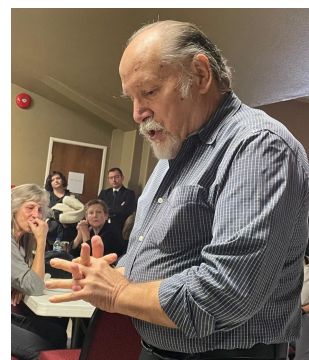
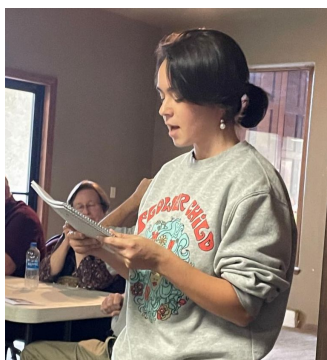
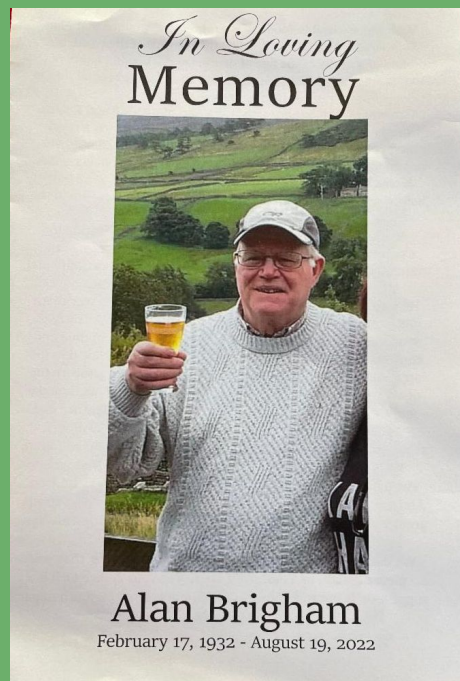
"You don't need many words to capture a story's essence." This sentence begins the Amazon blurb for the Gold Country Writers 10th Anniversary Anthology: *Ink Spots, Award Winning Flash Fiction and Poetry*. The stories range from the first year of the GCW contest when the goal was limited to 59 words to several years of winning 100-word stories and includes the poetry contest winners. There are 35 pieces in all from 25 writers. Tales include death, humor, dark humor, loss, sports, childhood, and much more. A

Kindle version is in the works, and the paperback is available for \$8 at the California Welcome Center at 1130 High Street in Auburn and on Amazon.com.

Alan Brigham's Memorial Service Well-Attended by GCW Members

by Lisa Schliff

Alan Brigham was bid adieu by almost a dozen GCW members who attended his Memorial Service on November 4th. His many family members were there to greet us all, and we were able to convey our condolences. During the service, we learned about Alan in greater depth, in particular his loving relationships with his wife, brothers, children, grandchildren and one great-grandson. We also heard about his amazing and versatile talents: engineer, machinist, soccer player, inventor and storyteller, among others. He leaves a huge gap in our membership as well as his family, but at the same time leaves behind gentle, witty and warm memories. He was truly a special individual, and we were fortunate to know him.



Leylu Delgadillo reads her poem
to honor the moment.

Kathryn Shields shares her
thoughts.

Frank Nissen speaks to friends
and family of Alan Brigham.

Book Launch Party

Michael O'Haver is publishing his Christian Historical Fiction book, *Sierra Gold Fever*, on December 28, 2022, at the Barnstormer Room, Auburn Municipal Airport, 13626 New Airport Road, Auburn, CA, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The theme is Western/Gold Rush, and refreshments will be served. The author will have books to autograph and sell. There will be prizes for guests, games, a photo booth, and much more. All are invited. RSVP by Dec.21 to Michael at 530/268-2490.

Read and Review at Depoe Bay

by Kelly Lardner, Read and Review Coordinator

In January, we'll be reviewing Kathryn Shield's book, *On the Point of a Star*. Kathryn's book targets young readers, and we're looking to pair it with a book of children's poetry. Get a copy of the book and mark your calendars for January 13, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Depoe Bay Coffee Company, 893 High Street, Auburn.

Are You on the GCW Website yet?

Jody Brady encourages all members to put their profile information and picture on the Gold Country Writers website. This will be helpful in getting to know one another.

www.goldcountrywriters.com

Order New GCW Polo Shirts

Wear a Gold Country Writers polo shirt proudly with our logo on the front left from Vista Print. Order them on Vista Print.com, which already has the template for our logo. The price is \$39 plus tax and shipping.

The shirts are Sport-Tek Micropique Sport-Wick Polo or Jerzees Pique Polo Shirt, which means you have two types to choose from.



KUDOS!

To Rebecca Inch-Partridge for her contribution to GCW as Group Coordinator. Thank you, Rebecca, for all you have done.

To Jody Brady and Sarah Pressler for accepting the Critique Group Coordinator position as co-leaders.

To Leylu, Frank Nissan, Kathryn Shields and Terry Wicks for sharing their thoughts and feelings at the memorial reception for Alan Brigham.

To Lisa Schliff for landing two presentations of her new book, *Fire in the Springs*, at Temple B'nai Harim in Grass Valley and Writers Resource in Nevada City, both in February. Also, Temple B'nai Harim book club chose her book to read and discuss for January.

ALL GCW MEMBERS: Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Lisa Schliff, Dispatch Editor, for recognition in the newsletter: onthbeamalisa@gmail.com

Visit GCW Victorian Christmas Booth

by Lisa Schliff

GCW landed a booth at Nevada City's Victorian Christmas outdoor event this year. The booth is located on the first block of Commercial Street in front of the Heartwood Restaurant. Please be sure to visit the booth if you attend this event starting this Sunday, December 4th, and say hello to Michael O'Haver, Barbara Young, Lisa Schliff and others. They will be selling their published books and those of other GCW members who contributed to the cost of the booth. Below are the dates and hours of the Victorian Christmas:

Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, December 7 and 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 6

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Memoir Critique Group at Round Table Pizza, 370 Elm Avenue, Auburn

Wednesday, December 14

10:00 a.m. - noon - HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY & Membership Kick-off
noon - 2:00 p.m. - Poetry Group

Wednesday, December 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

Saturday, December 10

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Novel Group

Tuesday, December 13

1:00 p.m. - Memoir Share Group at
Max's, 110 Grass Valley Hwy,
Auburn



noon - 2:00 p.m. - Children's Lit
Group

Wednesday, December 21

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Children's
Lit

Wednesday, December 28

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Drop-in
Critique

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Poetry Group

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Inspirational
Group

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Children's Lit

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Book
Launch Party for Michael O'Haver

***All events take place at the
Barnstormer Event Center,
Auburn Airport, 13626 New
Airport Road, unless otherwise
indicated.**

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



Save the Dates

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Georgette Unis

"Sounding the Metaphor"

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Kathy Lynne Marshall

"Research for Writers"

Create a Display Board for your Book

by Betsy Schwarzentraub

As you plan for book sale opportunities or launch parties, a poster display board can

highlight what you want people to notice the most about your books. I created a Word document of text, plus separate files of the photos I wanted to insert. I made sure I had a legal right to use the photos (not violating copyright laws), by choosing pictures from **unsplash.com** or **pixabay.com**, or providing my own photographs.

I sent those to my local Staples store in both Word and PDF, and then went into the store in person to work out the order with them, sign and pay up front for it. If I had done this at least two weeks before I needed the posters, I could have had the local store send the posters to their Design Team (which would have allowed me to have borders on the posters, for instance, which makes a nicer finished look). However, because I needed the finished posters in just a few days, the Staples Print Department employee allowed me to type the text directly on their computer and place the photos where I wanted them. Once I had the text typed in, she graciously came over to tweak the placement according to my wishes. What a gift!

I chose 18" by 24" foam board for the posters, matte finished but then laminated, and ordered cardboard stand-up backings at the same time. That way the posters can stand on their own or be propped up flat on a window ledge.



Betsy's poster display board for her newly published book.

GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

Amy Rogers, "Write a Thriller Novel Using Craft Tips From the Pros," September 21, 2022.

<https://youtu.be/VmJ4wBKLRa0>

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

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

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

<https://youtu.be/F5m34xaTWOo>

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

<https://youtu.be/rgB4jBclBvk>

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

<https://youtu.be/P1jjaqQ0mPo>

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: sarahpressler2@gmail.com. Meets at 12:30 p.m. at the Barnstormer Event Center, Auburn Airport the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. New members welcome.

Evening Critique: Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:45 at Round Table Pizza. Karen Clay is the contact person.

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

Flash Fiction: Meets once a month via e-mail. 100-word stories in response to writing prompts. Contact Chery Anderson: goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com. New members welcome.

Inspirational Group: Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month after drop-in critique in same location as the general meeting. The group uses the opposite side of room from the Poetry Group. Bring your own lunch. Betsy is the contact person: betsy@generousstewards.com.

Memoir Critique: 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. Closed to new members.

Memoir Share: 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.

Mystery & Thriller: Meetings are via zoom at 1 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Contact Robin Deley: robindeley@gmail.com. No meeting in December.

Novel Group: Mary Helen Fein is the leader. Meets 2nd Saturday each month at Mary Helen's

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: Dora Cividino

GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Margie Yee Webb

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chery Anderson

WEB MASTER: Mary Helen Fein

GROUPS COORDINATOR: Jody Brady and Sarah Pressler

READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR: Kelly Lardner

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Schliff

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER: Sarah Pressler

home from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed to new members.

Poetry: Contact Georgette Unis: georgetteunis@gmail.com. Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday from noon to 2:00 p.m. Sharing poems after the Drop-In Critique. Open to new members.

Science Fiction & Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge, rebeccapartridge@att.net. Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month at 2:30 p.m at Rebecca's house. No meeting in December.



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

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