



## January 2023 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](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

Think of the following as a jar of candy:

In place of sugar and peppermint,  
you have texture, rhythm and sound:  
Schenectady, fandango, pontificate,  
perambulate. Nestle, toot, clack, and boom.

Twenty-three skidoo.

Mississippi, mandrake, Pensacola, Kalamazoo.

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs.

Set aside the meanings for a minute. Just enjoy the sounds.

It's a kind of music.

Every society has evolved a palette of sounds and rhythms  
that color their speech, that gives their speech a distinctive  
"texture." Even standing fifteen feet away, you can hear  
the difference between French and German, or Mandarin and  
English.

Whether you're writing description or dialogue, be alive to  
the sound, the delight of your language.

~ **Frank Nissen**



# Gold Country Writers

## Sounding the Metaphor

### GEORGETTE UNIS

January 18, 2023  
10 am to noon

Poems are meant to be spoken, like stage productions, preferably to an audience. Metaphor, simile, and semantics are tools to craft a line and verse. What sounds serve the images we use to transform abstract words such as love, fear, joy, pain, etc., into concrete images? Let's play!

Georgette Unis has been published in several literary journals and is the author of two books of poetry, *Tremors* and *Watercolors in the Desk Drawer* published by Finishing Line Press.

**WORKSHOP: BRING PEN & PAPER**



**PUBLIC INVITED**

**Auburn Airport**

**Barnstormer Room**

**13626 New Airport Road**

**Auburn, CA 95602**

<https://goldcountrywriters.com>

## Holiday Party a Hit!

by Lisa Schliff

A well-attended, festive, delicious and informative Holiday Party took place on December 14 at the Barnstormer Event



Center. Gold Country Writers had a chance to shmooze and eat delicious food. We voted for the funniest, most glamorous and most creative sweaters, There was a Yule Log raffle. Quite a number of authors talked about their published works in front of their personalized displays.



The sweater winners are: Kathryn Shields for funniest, Susan Korn for most glamorous, and Joy Hemp for most creative.

Mary Boyle, one of our newest members, won the beautiful Yule Log, which was handmade by Barbara Young.

GCW President Frank Nissen presents his recently published novel, *Fortune's Call*.



Margie Yee Webb



Jody Brady





Wendy Coles-Littlepage tends the party buffet table.

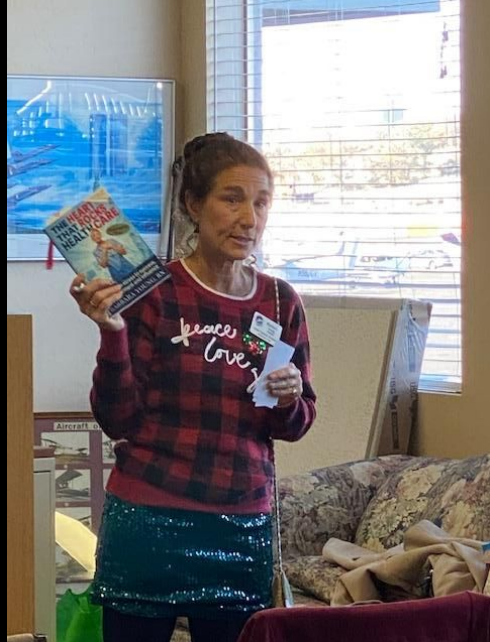
Susan Korn set up her stunning Victorian Village collection to add to the party decor and ambience.



Mary Boyle designed a 'hedgehog' fruit bouquet in keeping with her newly published book, *Never Hug a Hedgehog*.



Lisa Schliff brought her electric menorah for Hanukkah which reflects the Jewish holiday traditions of her novel's main characters.



**Barbara Young shares her non-fiction book, *The Heart That Rocks Healthcare*.**



**Susan Osborn, Ph.D., talks about her book, *Awful Bosses Coloring Book*.**

## Dear Members,

Much thanks to all who attended the holiday celebration - guests, new and current members, including authors and those members we haven't seen in a while. The energy of gathering and sharing through socializing, networking and enjoying the food and beverages was festive and uplifting. There is no caterer that could have done better than the superb contribution of everyone's favorite holiday dish. I appreciate those who dressed and paraded for the holiday sweater contests, those who participated in the raffle and the cookie exchange, which was a delicious-looking success.

I was amazed by the line-up of our authors and the collection of their written works. The stories, wit, creativity, experience, and professionalism that they conveyed in their presentations and displays was both exciting and emotionally stirring. *You*, members, and your talents are the *Gold* in Gold Country Writers.

Thanks to each of you for making it a marvelous occasion and spontaneously contributing to set up, clean up and load up, which made it enjoyably worth the effort. I further, deeply appreciate the generous and creative ways the following original people didn't hesitate when asked to help make this event happen:

COMMUNICATION GURU: Chery Anderson

WOOKIEES: Bill Baynes, Frank Nissen

AMBIANCE ARTISTS: Susan Korn, Lisa Schliff & Terry Wicks

AUTHOR TABLE MUSES: Chery Anderson and Kelly Larder

FOOD GODDESSES: Karen Clay, Dora Cividini, Donna, Wendy, and guest, Jessica

COOKIE QUEEN: Joy Hemp

HOLIDAY SWEATER CONTEST DIVA - Jody Brady

MUSIC WIZARD: Sarah Pressler

PHOTOGRAPHY PIXIE: Lisa Schiff

WELCOME, MEMBERSHIP & VOTING BALLOT BOX TABLE SET UP ELVES: Kathryn Shields, Terry Wicks, and Bill Baynes

GREETER FAIRY: Kathryn Shields

SECURITY GNOME - Terry Wicks

Warm and gracious hugs,

Barbara Young

Vice-President of Internal Affairs

Gold Country Writers

## Read and Review at Depoe Bay

by Kelly Lardner, Read and Review Coordinator

On January 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, we'll be reviewing Kathryn Shield's book, *On the Point of a Star*, and *What Was Within*, poetry by David Anderson. Get a copy of the books, mark your calendars and come to the Depoe Bay Coffee Company, 893 High Street, Auburn.

Here is an excerpt from the amazon.com synopsis of Shield's novel:

...Fourteen-year-old violin prodigy, Milana Nicholes, has lived her whole life touring the world's concert stages with her famous parents. Now her parents are divorcing and she is shuttled off to rural Gold Run, California, to live with her artist aunt. She hates the country. That is, until she meets banjoist, Alexa Mae King...But, while reaching for their shared star, each girl struggles with a family crisis, faces the affects of jealousy, and deals with peer bullying.

### Future dates for Read and Review:

April 14     *Fire in the Springs*, historical fiction by Lisa Schliff  
                Poetry by Michael O'Haver

July 14        *Stitching a Life: An Immigration Story*, young adult historical fiction by  
Mary Helen Fein  
                Poetry, to be announced

October 13   *Tear in a Bottle*, historical fiction by Kristin Wall  
                Poetry, to be announced

# *On the Point of a Star*



## **Are You on the GCW Website yet?**

by Mary Helen Fein

Did you know that each member of Gold Country Writers is entitled to have their own biography page on our website, [www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)? Some members have not yet created their page, and others may want to update their pages with their latest achievements. To get your page up and running on the Internet, for all the world to see, just send these materials to our webmistress, Mary Helen Fein at: [maryhelen@maryhelenfein.com](mailto:maryhelen@maryhelenfein.com):

1. A written biography from one paragraph, up to one page in length. This might include:
  2. Your history as a writer
  3. The genre(s) you work in
  4. What you are working on now
  5. Any previous or planned publications
  6. Your email address if you want to be contacted
  7. A photograph of you
  8. Photographs of all your book covers
  9. A link to your website
  10. What else do you do? Music, art, mountain climbing, Pilates?



Take a look at some other members' pages by going to the website and clicking the main menu item MEMBERS and then BIOGRAPHIES.

Mary Helen will work with you to create your page from the above materials. It usually takes only a day or two to get the page done.

## KUDOS!

To Barbara Young, Internal VP, for throwing a brilliant GCW Holiday Party, enjoyed by all! Please see Barbara's Dear Members letter for kudos to all volunteers.

To Lisa Schliff, whose novel, *Fire in the Springs*, was chosen by two book clubs in Grass Valley for their January meetings: Temple B'nai Harim and a local group..

**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](mailto:onthbeamalisa@gmail.com)**

## Michael O'Haver's Book Launch Party For Novel, *Sierra Gold Fever*

Attendance was moderate, with only three people besides GCW members.

Everything went according to the agenda, except Michael didn't do any readings as planned. Terry's gold Panning demonstration was a big success. Her knowledge and actual experience panning was impressive.

Big thankyous to Terry and Barbara who helped out with much-appreciated supplies and covering the kitchen and serving line.

The food was authentic wagon train and miner's camp grub.

There were 8 books sold.





Terry Wicks teaches gold mining

## Victorian Christmas Fair Book Sales

by Michael O'Haver

The 2022 Nevada City Victorian Christmas Fair ran for five days in December. A newly added category called Micro Vendors permitted groups needing a smaller booth, and not requiring membership in the City Chamber of Commerce to participate. Although poor weather curtailed full participation, Gold Country Writers was present for four of the five days. Three of the six members who participated sold books for a total of six books earning \$80. The sales did not cover the cost of the booth, which was \$150, but since the fee was split up among the participants, no one lost a significant amount. The three who sold books were Michael O'Haver – 4, Bill Baynes -1, and Jan Collins – 1. The one who was there the most sold the most proving it helps to be there to promote your hard work. Hopefully, next year more will choose to participate.

## Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, January 3

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

### Wednesday, January 4

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

### Wednesday, January 18

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Georgette Unis, Sounding the Metaphor  
1:00 p.m. - Mystery/Thriller Group via Zoom

### Wednesday, January 25

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

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

**Wednesday, January 11**

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

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

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

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** - Children's  
Lit Group

**2:30 p.m.** - Sci Fi and Fantasy  
Group, location TBD

**Friday, January 13**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Read and  
Review, Kathryn Shields and David  
Anderson, Depoe Bay Coffee Co.

**Saturday, January 14**

**1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Novel Group,  
Mary Helen Fein's home. Currently  
full.

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

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** - Children's  
Lit

**1:00 p.m.** - Memoir Share Group,  
currently full.

**2:30 p.m.** - Sci Fi and Fantasy  
Group, location TBD

**Flash Fiction** - Via e-mail only.

**\*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.**

**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/P1jiaqQ0mPo>

**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:** Contact Karen Clay, karen@karenclay.com. Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 5:45 at Round Table Pizza.

**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.

**Memoir Share:** Contact Terry Wicks, terryshenhouse@gmail.com. Meets 4th Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. at Max's, 110 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn. Emphasizes sharing & caring, not in-depth critiquing.

**Mystery & Thriller:** Meetings are via zoom at 1 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Contact Robin Deley: robindeley@gmail.com.

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

**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

members.

**Science Fiction & Fantasy:** Contact Bill Baynes, [bbaynes303@aol.com](mailto:bbaynes303@aol.com) or Frank Nissen, [f.j.nissen@icloud.com](mailto:f.j.nissen@icloud.com). Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month at 2:30 p.m. Location TBD.



**Table decor at Holiday Party**

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

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