



## February 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.



Bear River, January 2023

[Printable pdf file](#)

## President's Message

When we're little kids, we ask a lot of "Why?" questions. Some of us ask them so much, we drive our parents to distraction. As we grow, we are weaned off "Why?" We are admonished that it is nosy, intrusive, or impolite. And, eventually, acquiescing to society's dictates, most of us stop asking "Why?"

When you read a piece of excellent writing, the best thing you can do is ask why. Why is it excellent? Why does it inspire you? Why is it so eloquent? There is an old quip that artists chide each other with: "Steal from the best." I would like to offer an alternative version of that old saw: "Learn from the best."

~ Frank Nissen

## Tools to Polish Your Research Skills

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome Kathy Lynne Marshall to Gold Country Writers! On Wednesday, February 15, she will present "Research for Writers."

Kathy asks, "Writing family legacies or just want to polish your research skills for novels and nonfiction books?" Then she says she will "reveal the tools she applied to locate the details that have made her seven books rich in storytelling and fact." She adds, "You will learn how to develop and implement a research plan to improve your story's credibility, how taking a research road trip can enhance your setting and characters, and how to turn dry facts into engaging tales."

**Kathy Lynne Marshall** is a Diversity and Inclusion Specialist on behalf of our ancestors. She's written seven books that restore the American Historical Record by adding highly-researched, factual accounts of the lives of her European and enslaved African American ancestors. Her latest book is *Finding Marshalls: A Genealogy Trip with a Black & White Twist*.

Kathy also leads workshops to guide others in writing the untold stories of historically excluded individuals. She has delighted audiences at the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society conferences, The Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage conference, and local genealogy and writing seminars. She also serves as a consultant to West Virginia's Beverly Heritage Center. For more, visit her website:

<https://kathylynmarshall.com/>



# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## Kathy Lynne Marshall

# RESEARCH FOR WRITERS

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

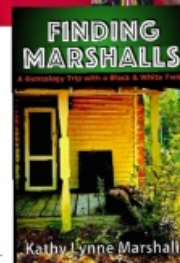
10 am to noon

Need to polish your research skills? In this workshop the speaker will reveal the tools she applied to locate details that have made her books rich in storytelling and facts. Learn how to develop a research plan to improve your work's credibility and turn dry facts into engaging tales. Marshall has written seven books that record the lives of her European and enslaved African American ancestors. Her latest is *Finding Marshalls: A Genealogy Trip with a Black & White Twist*.

**WORKSHOP: BRING PEN & PAPER**

**PUBLIC INVITED FREE**

[GOLDCOUNTRYWRITERS.COM](http://GOLDCOUNTRYWRITERS.COM)



**AUBURN AIRPORT  
BARNSTORMER ROOM  
13626 NEW AIRPORT ROAD  
AUBURN CA 95602**

## Thanks to Georgette Unis

by Lisa Schliff

We were fortunate to have poet Georgette Unis gift us with her poetry workshop, 'Sounding the Metaphor.' She defined metaphors and provided us with ample material to ponder. We read and discussed brief examples, and then plunged into five entire poems. 'White Owl Flies In and Out of the Field, by Mary Oliver, was a top crowd-pleaser. Georgette read a poem she had written. We also had a chance to try our own hands at composing a poem about love, a rose, the moon, joy, pain, etc. Several people in the audience read theirs out loud, to the delight of all. Her handout included the examples, the poems, and a glossary of terms. Georgette's own poem, 'Succession', is reprinted at the end of this newsletter.



GCW at Wings Grill and Espresso Bar with presenter Georgette Unis. Clockwise from left: Barbara Young, Margie Webb, Chery Anderson, Georgette Unis, Phyllis Kalbach, Libby Taylor-Worden, Hester Jones, Frank Nissen, Lisa Schliff, Kathryn Shields, Mary Jones, Brenda Sue Pignata, Susan Osborn

### **Are You a Poet and Don't Know it?**

Now is a great time to try your hand at a poem and enter it into the Gold Country Writers 2023 Poetry Contest. If you're already a poet, bring it on! Send your golden winner to: [GCW2023poetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:GCW2023poetrycontest@gmail.com). The deadline is February 15.



# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## Poetry Contest 2023

### Guidelines:

GCW members only may enter.

- One poem per person may be entered.
- Poems must be previously unpublished.
- Any Topic is acceptable.
- Any Form is also acceptable.
- Maximum number of lines is 42.
- Title, name, or contact information do not count as lines.
- No early or late entries.
- No changes can be made once the poem is entered.
- Font size 12 Times New Roman.
- Submit the poem by email to **GCW2023poetrycontest@gmail.com** in an attachment without the author's name.
- Enter your real first and last name and a short title of the poem in the email subject line.

*Enter January 18 to midnight February 15*

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

### Awards celebration:

March 29, 2023 10 am – 12 noon.

goldcountrywriters.com

## January Read and Review Report

Friday, January 13, was our first 'Read and Review'\*\* of the year. Ten Gold Country Writers met at Depoe Bay for a lively discussion. Kathryn Shields presented her recently published novel, "On the Point of a Star". Although it is geared to young adults, we older folk agreed there was much to be taken away from the strong message conveyed in the story, themes such as friendship, unconditional love and music. Kathryn has done a fine job of bringing the themes of a story that takes place in the past into the present.

We were also fortunate to have David Anderson with us, sharing his love of poetry in his book entitled *What Was Within*. David talked about writing poetry, explaining the difference between poetry and prose. In one of his online reviews, the reviewer commented on David's collection as one that "showcases his dexterity and skill in

many kinds of poetry.” I couldn’t have said it any better!

At our next Read and Review in April we will be discussing Lisa Schliff’s newly published historical fiction, *Fire in the Springs*, as well as Michael O’Haver’s poetry, *Sherlock the Peacock Mysteries, Vol. I*. Please consider joining us at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn on Friday, April 14, from 10:00 to 12:00. Books will soon be available for purchase from the author or online at Amazon. They can also be checked out of our own GCW library.

Kelly Lardner  
Read and Review Coordinator

\*\*‘Read and Review’ is Gold Country Writers’ own book club free to all members. We meet quarterly throughout the year. If you would like to get on the schedule with your published work, contact Kelly Lardner at [Irdnr@yahoo.com](mailto:Irdnr@yahoo.com). - Lisa Schliff, Editor

## KUDOS!

To Joan Griffin, who just signed a publishing contract with Black Rose Writing for her adventure memoir *Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail*. The projected release date is September 2023.

To Rebecca Inch-Partridge, who will teach three writing classes at Sierra College's Grass Valley College in February, March and April.

## Dues to go up April 1

Gold Country Writers dues will increase to \$60 for the year starting April 1. Between now and then, members can pay \$48 for the year. Please make your check out to Gold Country Writers and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to: Gold Country Writers, P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604.

**ALL GCW MEMBERS: Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Lisa Schliff, Dispatch Editor, for recognition in the newsletter: [onthebeamlisa@gmail.com](mailto:onthebeamlisa@gmail.com). We want to hear from you!**

## Word of the Month

Words are our tools. Lets have some fun with them! Submit an unusual word of the month to Dispatch Editor Lisa Schliff at [onthebeamlisa@gmail.com](mailto:onthebeamlisa@gmail.com).

**Ombrophobia** is an intense fear of rain, from intense weather to a drizzle. An ombrophobe might worry about acid rain, germs in rain, floods or other dangers. Ombrophobia is a type of anxiety disorder that can cause symptoms and emotions that affect daily life.

## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, February 1

**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

### Tuesday, February 7

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

### Wednesday, February 8

**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, Rebecca Inch-Partridge's home.

### Saturday, February 11

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

### Wednesday, February 15

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - Speaker Meeting: Kathy Lynne Marshall

**1:00 p.m.** - Mystery/Thriller Group via Zoom

### Wednesday, February 22

**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

**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.**

**Correction to January 2022 Dispatch:** Joy Hemp won the Funniest Sweater contest at the Holiday Party, not the most creative.

### GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

**Georgette Unis**, "Sounding the Metaphor," January 18, 2023.

<https://youtu.be/STtdiepCfa4>

**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

### 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





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

members.

**Science Fiction & Fantasy:** Contact Bill

Baynes, bbaynes303@aol.com or Frank Nissen,

f.j.nissen@icloud.com. Meets the 2nd & 4th

Wednesdays of each month at 2:30 p.m. Meet at

Rebecca Inch-Partridge's house..



## Out of Town Happenings

# Sierra Writers — Conference —

Sierra Writers Conference supports Nevada and Placer County writers of all genres and skill levels.

General Admission \$65

Online Critique Workshop \$40

**TICKET SALES END – Feb 7, 2023**

Online and In-Person talks and workshops.

[Click here to visit the conference website and buy tickets](#)

### **Focusing on Telling Our Stories: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Standing Guard Project and Sierra College Press**

Sierra College Press will host the 2023 Sierra Writers Conference featuring Maxine Hong Kingston, Kim Stanley Robinson, Paul Tran, and an amazing group of writers. Virtual and in-person workshops (Rocklin and Grass Valley campuses) are scheduled from Feb. 8 through Feb. 16 focusing on various elements of storytelling, writing, and community.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge will teach three writing classes at Sierra College's Grass Valley Campus.

"Write That Book! The First Half." Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM from 2/7/23 - 3/05/23,

"Write That Book! The Second Half Unlocked." Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM from 3/21/23 - 5/02/23

"Rewrite that Book! The Next Draft" Thursdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM from 3/23/23 - 4/27/23

For more information on this, and all the other writing courses offered through the OLLI program, visit [www.campusce.net/sierraolli](http://www.campusce.net/sierraolli).

Contact Rebecca at [rebeccapartridge@att.net](mailto:rebeccapartridge@att.net) if you have any questions.



### **Succession**

by Georgette Unis

In the days after the funeral  
and a montage  
of captured moments,  
smiles and perfect poses,  
old memories linger.

Clouds come and go like phases of grief,  
some benign,  
others moisture-laden  
and dark with a sense  
of the ominous.

My sister and I must find a new arrangement.  
We are now matriarchs who sound the depths  
for how to live this next phase  
as if truths reside in a turquoise pool  
where water reflects the sky.

Stillness becomes an art we must create  
in spite of our need for physical presence,  
tuned to the slow beats of a heart  
and the breath in, then out,  
while the mind rests

on a single item perhaps a rose,  
its modulate colors deepen  
from stem to petal edge,  
thorns a lighter hue

to catch our attention,

warn us of their potential pain.  
We may admire but not touch,  
for this is a process,  
its acceptance  
determined by will.

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

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