



April 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. In April, two meetings will take place at **the Barnstormer Event Center, Auburn Airport, 13626 New Airport Road: Wednesday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 26**. 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

Dear fellow GCW members,

The nice thing about writing, like drawing, is that there is no expected retirement "threshold." No one gently (or not so gently) nudges you out to pasture at a

designated age. You can keep on scribbling (in both cases) as long as your faculties hold up and your imagination stays awake. If we are blessed with it, good health pretty much covers the first part. The best way to keep the imagination going is to feed it. Keep looking, keep asking questions, the best one being “What if?” Seek out inspiration, be open to it when it comes upon you, or you it, unexpectedly. Be ready—and willing—to be amazed.

~ Frank Nissen

Flash Fiction is Everything Everywhere

by Margie Yee Webb

We are thrilled to welcome Susan M. Osborn for a workshop presentation to Gold Country Writers! On Wednesday, April 19, she will present “Creating Flash Fiction.”

The significance of flash fiction in the storytelling multiverse is expanding. Regardless of your approach to writing — pantster, planster, or plotter — this workshop will provide techniques about saying in 100 words what others say in a book. Susan has gleaned tips from a wide variety of experts to show how creating short, short stories is fulfilling, fast, and fun. Plus, there is a huge market for flash fiction including numerous contests with cash prizes.

Susan M. Osborn, Ph.D., M.S.W., is a creative nonfiction writer and author of *Awful Bosses Coloring Book*, which includes 26 cartoons and limericks, along with keys to dealing with stress and illnesses triggered by toxic workplaces. In her book *The System Made Me Do It! A Life Changing Approach to Office Politics*, she uses stories to capture the essence of five kinds of organizations and shows how to change an organization's story. She is also the author of *Assertive Training for Women*, and “How Stories Build Teams and Teamwork” in *Wake Me Up When the Data Is Over: How Organizations Use Storytelling to Drive Results*. She is currently working on a book that describes six ways to look at the world.

A member of Gold Country Writers, Susan has presented on a variety of topics to various audiences, including on creating story cards to writers.



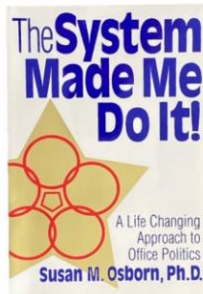
GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

CREATING FLASH FICTION

APRIL 19, 2023
10 am to noon



SUSAN M. OSBORN



PANTSTER? PLANSTER? PLOTTER?

Regardless of your approach to writing, this workshop will provide techniques about saying in 100 words what others say in a book. Susan M. Osborn has gleaned tips from a wide variety of experts to show how creating short, short stories is fulfilling, fast and fun. Plus, there is a huge market for flash fiction including numerous contests with cash prizes. **WORKSHOP: BRING PEN AND PAPER**

Susan M. Osborn, Ph.D., M.S.W., is a creative nonfiction writer and author of *Awful Bosses Coloring Book*, *The System Made Me Do It! A Life Changing Approach to Office Politics*, and *Assertive Training for Women*. She is currently working on a book that describes six ways to look at the world.

AUBURN AIRPORT BARNSTORMER ROOM
13626 NEW AIRPORT ROAD AUBURN CA 95602

PUBLIC INVITED FREE
goldcountrywriters.com

***PLEASE NOTE: THE SPEAKER MEETING LOCATION HAS BEEN CHANGED TO: ROSE ROOM, AUBURN CITY HALL, 1225 LINCOLN WAY. USE THE BACK ENTRANCE DOOR.**

Heart-Inspired Success

by Betsy Schwarzentraub

Barbara Young's March 15 presentation on "Manifesting Your Book" was an outstanding, interactive experience, bringing alive the holistic concepts of her book, *The Heart That Rocks Health Care*. It connected the roomful of writers viscerally with the flow of health in our writing process. "We are energetic beings. We convey energy," she said. "It's like a circuit: either it's on, there's flow, or it's off. . . . You make a circuit with your reader." To demonstrate that, she had a circle of people join hands, lighting up a measurable electrical circuit.

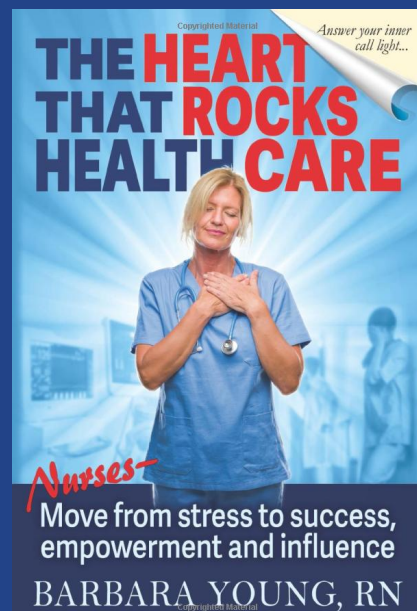
"Move from your heart out to others. It's our energy field," she said. Meditation (getting in touch with yourself) is the Number One way to get back in the flow, as well as drinking water, going for a jog, or other actions to release built-up static. It's A-B-C, she said: awareness, breath, and finding your center. That's the foundation for her distinctive AH SUCCESS process. "Hold space for positive possibilities," she said. "Here's to your heart-inspired success!"



Presenter, GCW V.P. Barbara Young



Rebecca Inch-Partridge, Barbara, and book



POETRY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2023 Gold Country Writers Poetry Contest had 18 members contribute poems that ranged from a “Healing Concerto” to “Into My Morning Shower.” Even Hell and Gods were represented. Here are the winning poems judged by three poets from another writing club:

First place: “Waiting for My Foot to Heal” by Claire Unis

Rain dances to its own rhythm, tat-tat-tatting and shushing, pausing
and syncopating while the clouds murmur loftily;

downtrodden red dirt swells and simmers, overflows
into rivulets, gushes and slows, then congeals pocked

by new tendrils of grasses, appearing like a 5-o-clock shimmer,
tentative verdancy under last summer’s white-gray leavings.

Only the apple tree remains tight-lipped, austere silvered and still,
pallid like a crescent moon impervious to winter sun

and waiting. I have counted the days: those past and those lined up
to waltz into view. I know the moon’s coy flirtation, her plumpness

hinted at, the way a breast strains to reveal itself as fecundity takes hold—
but all in time. Not just yet. I am the tree, frozen

while springtime prepares her costumes, dandelion tulle and lacy clover,
long-legged groundsel beside star thistle budding. Snap

last-year’s growth, turn it to kindling – or else wait for the planet’s
slow rotation, the sun’s incremental warming that reaches every dormant thing

eventually.

Second place: "Song of the Banned Book" by Bill Baynes

to be on the list
is to be noticed
to be acclaimed
to become the stuff
be named

it means being select
among the too many
a branch on the pyre
kissing the saint’s feet
unshamed

my quickened fiction
deemed combustible
is seen from afar
alight in the night
aflame

my fame like fire
like curling paper
soon turns to cinders
proud in my pain
I burn
I burn

Tie for third place: "Snow Covered Grass" by Karen DeFoe

I'd be sad without grapes,
the way they roll around in my mouth before
bursting, spilling their sweet-tart elixir,
leaving behind wet rags of skin across my tongue,
but sadder still if you buried me alive in excrement.
Being sad is a form of consumption, so perhaps
in the belly of sadness I could be digested
slowly, piece by piece, particle by particle.
I don't know. I don't want
to know. Why do you taunt me?
Previously you took my goldfish
and left me the glass bowl,
pebbles at the bottom in the cloudy, quiet water
then gave me my first burial at sea.
We watched the gold swirl in circles, propelled
by a quick flush, the fleeting pain.
Here, take my Girl Scout pin, my pop bead necklace.
I can't find my jacks, but take this lock of hair, my baby
teeth. Perhaps you could park your carriage
at the train station or inside the gates of Mar a Lago, you know,
where the birdies fly and classified Big Macs in secret sauce
are double-wrapped in documents and bundled in a confederate flag.
You can take that flag or the one-eyed jack who pisses in a public fountain
or the outcast who carries a concealed Glock stuffed in his jeans
or Father McCarthy who molests the altar boys at Holy Family
or the misogynist who beat his wife with a baseball bat for burning the bacon, but
please, do not take my lover. Do not take him
while he is pleasuring me or exercising at the gym or
driving from here to there. You already stole his
identity and forged his name on his tax return check,
cashed out his crypto in a digital flash,
but how slow you were with my best friend,
absorbing her ounce by ounce, pound by pound,
until the weak wind of her breathing whistled through the flutes of her bones.
I could see fear in her blurred, blue eyes,
her light dimming
daily, softer and softer, until ... I let go
of her hand,
pulled the shades, and

stepped out
onto the snow-covered grass.

Tie for third place: "Still Left Over, Left Behind" by Eldon Luce

Every day,
I walk up this small hill just outside my door; and
then back again. Past steel-barked trees along a road
covered with forest debris. Debris I thought I would
clear yesterday.

Or I walk
among the trees, ankle deep in the feeder-farm for
road debris, crunchingly calling from behind my back.
More chores stored in the past.

Sometimes
all of me stroll. Oft times only part of me goes:
the part still able to tackle the hill, able still to see
the tracks in the dirt beneath the debris. To face
the facts; the left-over and left behind tasks.

2023 100-Word Story Contest

by Margie Yee Webb

Mark your calendars for the 2023 GCW 100 Word Story Contest. Open to GCW members only, the contest will start on Wednesday, April 19, and end on Wednesday, May 10. The Hats Off Celebration to announce the winners will be on Wednesday, May 31.

Also, on Wednesday, April 19, join in for the "Creating Flash Fiction" workshop.

Read and Review in April

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 join us at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn on Friday, April 14, from 10:00 to 12:00. Books are 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.

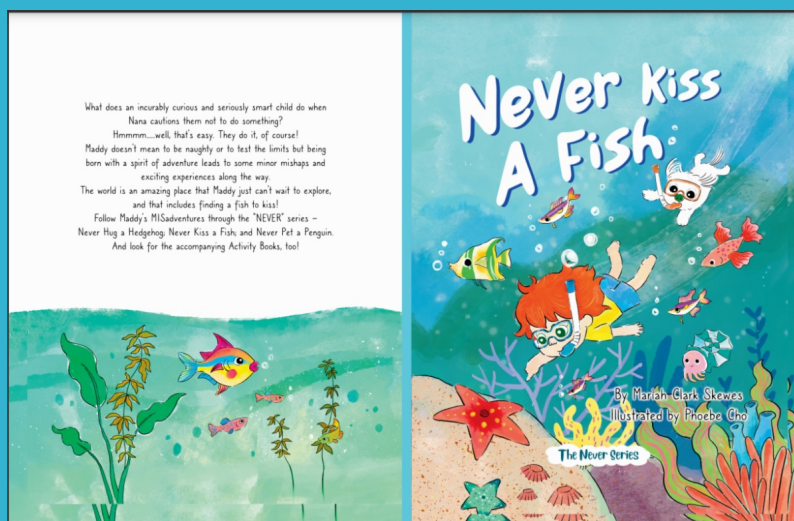
KUDOS!

To Sheila Lopez, who invites all creative women, ages 50+, to be featured on her website: booksbysheilaL.com. Contact Sheila at booksbysheilaL@gmail.com.

To Mary Boyle for the publication of her second book in a series, *Never Kiss a Fish*, a children's book which includes an Activity Book, available on Amazon.com.

To Rosanne McHenry for multiple media attention to her book, *'Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger'* (see the article in this newsletter), and for her next book as a patrol ranger on the American River, in the final editing stages.

To Rebecca Inch-Partridge for her out-of-this-world fabulous book launch party *Escaping the Dashia* on March 18. It was well-attended, filled with enthusiasm and featured a mini-Sci Fi museum.



Mary Boyle's newly published children's book

INVITATION TO ALL GCW MEMBERS

by Dora Cividino

Please join Board members and Committee chairs at our monthly business meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings are open to all members of Gold Country Writers. You will hear and learn about the issues that confront us as an organization such as the budget, updates on location, upcoming events and results of past events. And we will get to know each other more. Bring your ideas, questions and comments!



Thinking of becoming a member of Gold Country Writers? It's easy to join. Email your name, address, and telephone number to: goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com Please put GCW Membership in subject line We will mail you a more comprehensive membership questionnaire.

Gold Country Writers is here to support and encourage writers of all levels and all genres — whether Novels, Poetry, Science Fiction, Fiction or Memoirs or your own creative genre. Whether you are a beginner or an established writer — WELCOME.

Membership gives you: Critique groups, monthly speakers, networking, mentor program, Read and Review quarterly book club, monthly newsletter, website with your bio, and much more!

Renew Membership by May 1

Gold Country Writers dues will increase to \$60 for the year starting April 1. 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. Members who haven't renewed by May 1 will be removed from the club mailing lists.

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. We want to hear from you!

McHenry's Book Featured in Media

Rosanne McHenry's new book, *Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger*, has been featured in multiple media outlets over the past months. Here is a partial (!) list of them with links to visit and hear what she has to say.

The We Travel there podcast on Grand Staircase, Escalante:

<https://wetravelthere.com/escalante-utah-roseanne-mchenry/>

An Author Interview with Best-Selling Writer Heidi Eliaison:

<https://heidieliason.com/2022/09/08/author-interview-rosanne-mchenry/>

An excellent book review on the popular blog: Pages and Paws:

<https://pagesandpaws.com/2022/10/06/outdoor-memoir-delights-in-trip-tales/>

An article in the Auburn Journal this week:

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/272203/guest-columnist-for-the-birds/>

A fun and engaging interview with Susan Rushton's 'Ah Muse: The Writer's Show' on Auburn Community Television, September 18, 2022:

<https://youtube.com/@actv20>

Possible New Critique Groups

by Jody Brady

Several people have voiced interest in forming a new group of members working on memoirs or full-length books. When working on an ongoing story, it works better if the readers are familiar with the story up to that point. If you are interested, email a note to Jody Brady at: jodyjojody@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, April 4

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

Wednesday, April 5

10:00 a.m. - noon Combined Executive and General Business Meeting, Barnstormer Event Room, Auburn Airport

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

Wednesday, April 12

10:00 a.m. - noon - Drop-in Critique Rose Room, Auburn City Hall

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Poetry Group, Rose Room, Auburn City Hall

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Inspirational Group, Rose Room, Auburn City Hall

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Children's Lit Group, Rose Room, Auburn City Hall

2:30 p.m. - Sci Fi and Fantasy Group, Rebecca Inch-Partridge's home.

Saturday, April 8

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

Friday, April 14

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Read and Review book discussion of novel *Fire in the Springs* by Lisa Schliff and poetry book *Sherlock the Peacock Mysteries, Vol. 1* by Michael O'Haver, Depoe Bay Coffee Company, 893 High Street, Auburn

Wednesday, April 19

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Speaker Meeting: Susan M. Osborn, Creating Flash Fiction, Rose Room, Auburn City Hall

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

Saturday, April 22

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Open Mic for the Spoken Word, Auburn Library, Beecher Room, 350 Nevada Street

Wednesday, April 26

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Drop-in Critique, Barnstormer Event Room, Auburn Airport

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Poetry Group, Auburn Airport

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Inspirational Group, Auburn Airport

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Children's Lit, Auburn Airport

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

2:30 p.m. - Sci Fi and Fantasy Group, Rebecca Inch-Partridge's home.

Flash Fiction - Via e-mail only.

***The Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, has been repaired and will be the default location for some meetings in April and all meetings in May.**

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

GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

Barbara Young, "Manifesting Your Book," March 15, 2023.

<https://youtu.be/tlv972i2ZE0>

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 Critique Members: It would be great to see you at the Wednesday drop-in critique meetings once in awhile, as readers and/or listeners.

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinators: Jody Brady and Sarah Pressler

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:

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 COORDINATORS: Jody Brady and

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 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..

Sarah Pressler

READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR: Kelly Lardner

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Schliff

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER: Sarah Pressler



Out of Town Happenings

7th Annual Sierra Poetry Festival

Saturday, April 15 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
The Center for the Arts
314 W Main St.
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Nevada County Arts Council presents a full day of poetry, performance, workshops, youth voices, open mic, slams, connection, inspiration.

For details, visit: <https://www.sierrapoetryfestival.org/>

2023 Earth FEST CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 23
Nevada City, California

This is the 2nd Annual Earth Festival . This year the event will move onto Broad Street and there will be great additions including a electric vehicle car show, a rock wall, and more! The deadline to register for all vendors is April 2nd.

Retail Vendors – \$75: All retail items including crafts and mass-produced wares. All retail vendors should offer environmentally friendly products.

Educational Booth – \$50: For educational only booths offering free handouts, brochures, and displays. No sales.

Interactive Activity Booth – \$25: Interactive activities are highly encouraged for this event. We are aiming to educate and inspire attendees through hands-on demonstrations and environmental activities. No sales.

BOOTH REGULATIONS

- 10×10 space
- Electricity Prohibited

Contact: Michael O'Haver, if you have a book that can be considered environmentally oriented, 530-595-9728. Each participating member must share in the entry fee. This is a juried event, so we might not be accepted. Michael has all the equipment we will need for setup: tables, chairs, book racks, canopy, and signs.

California State Fair Author's Booth

1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento
July 14 through July 30

Visit the Author Booth at the State Fair and check out what's selling and who's selling it. It's too late to submit for this year, but next year presents a new opportunity for Gold Country Writers. The booth organizer is M.L. Hamilton, Mystery and Fantasy novelist.

Writing Classes in Grass Valley

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

"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.

Contact Rebecca at rebeccapartridge@att.net if you have any questions.



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

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