



Forging Better Writers

August 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. 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.



Happy Independence Day!

[Printable pdf file](#)

President's Message

The month of August begins a new leadership for Gold Country Writers. I would like to introduce myself to all our new members, and re-introduce myself to those who I

have not seen in a while. My name is Susan Freire-Korn, and I have been a member of GCW for ten years. I'm a Past President of GCW, from 2019 to 2021. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, those years we held most of our meetings and events on Zoom. We had some events in the park, where we wore masks and practiced "social distancing."

This year It was my honor to accept the role as President for Gold Country Writers. I truly believe this is one of the best associations I've ever joined. Our common ground is that we all love to write and learn.

August is promising to be a fun and active month for all members. We will be presenting, "We are Gold Country Writers," on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. We'll introduce all the new and existing members and review the opportunities and benefits GCW offers for your annual membership dues.

The fifth Wednesday, August 30, we will have a writing retreat at Terry Wicks' home in Penryn, CA. It's a beautiful ranch with lush plants and flowers, ponds, and a swimming pool. If you want to stay for lunch, pack a brown bag for the picnic area. Flyers for this event are available.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know all your names and personalities. Writers are fun and creative people.

~ Susan Korn



Chery Anderson reads her poem in honor of outgoing Gold Country Writers President Frank Nissen. Susan Korn, incoming President, front center, and Betsy Schwarzentraub look on.
(Photo by Randy Landenberger)

Two Special Programs on August 16

On August 16, we will have two Special Programs: “We are . . . Gold Country Writers” followed by “Authors at Book Clubs.”

President Susan Korn invites everyone to join in for “We are . . . Gold Country Writers” — sharing knowledge, welcoming everyone, and getting acquainted.

Everyone is also invited for the “Authors at Book Clubs” panel discussion. Nanci Lee Woody — author of *Tears and Trombones: A novel based on a true story*, and Pauline Nevins — author of *Fudge - The Downs and Ups of a Biracial, Half-Irish British War Baby*, will share their experiences and insights speaking with readers at book clubs. Nanci and Pauline have each attended several book clubs — by invitation — to discuss their book. They will also share how the book clubs reached out to them. Other authors will be invited to share any experiences they have had with book clubs reading their books.

Nanci Lee Woody wrote her award-winning novel, *Tears and Trombones*, after retiring from teaching and writing college textbooks. She has completed the pilot for a streaming series converting the novel into eight episodes for television. She has published short stories and poetry in various print publications and online magazines. Currently, she is working on a memoir and, as always, poetry. Nanci is also an artist and photographer.

Pauline Nevins has a degree in Communication Studies from Sacramento State University, and is a contributing columnist to *The Auburn Journal*, a Northern California newspaper. Her second book, *Bonkers for Conkers*, includes many of her newspaper columns and the stories behind them. *The Last House Before Spain*, due out this year, is a compilation of her recent columns. Her debut novel, *Silence and Lies*, is also scheduled for publication this year.

President Susan Korn presents

We are...
GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

We are...
SHARING KNOWLEDGE

We are...
WELCOMING EVERYONE

We are...
GETTING ACQUAINTED

AUGUST 16, 2023
10 AM to Noon



Nanci Lee Woody



Pauline Nevins

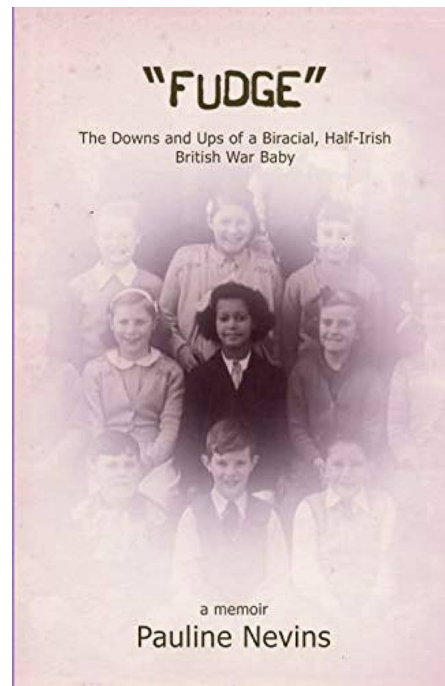
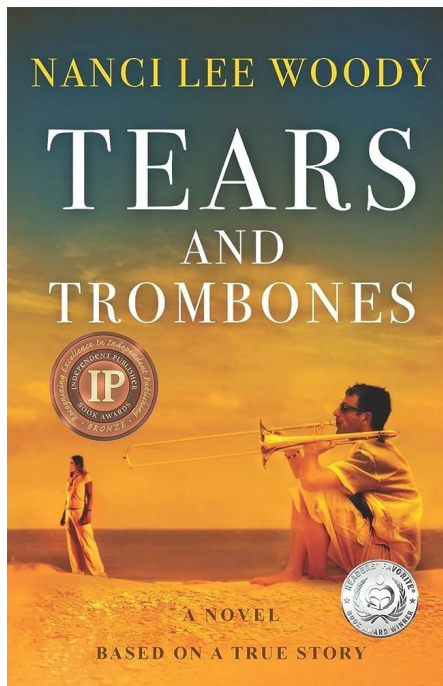
AUTHORS AT BOOK CLUBS

How to share insights, provide additional information, and promote a discussion to enhance readers appreciation

PUBLIC INVITED - FREE

Auburn City Hall Rose Room
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

www.goldcountrywriters.com



Appreciation for Guest Speaker ML Hamilton

by Lisa Schliff

Author and independent publishing maven M. L. Hamilton warned us that she would inundate us with information, and she was true to her word. We heard the ins and outs of traditional versus independent publishing by virtue of her own trials and errors. She learned the right of refusal and world rights the hard way by losing them. She won them back, though, a testimony to her strength and resolve. She stressed branding as an important marketing technique. She has a black and white scheme for every murder mystery novel, with the word 'Murder' in red. The key, she informed us, is a uniform look across your book series. She used the locale of San Francisco as a theme and underscored it with images of the famous city on the book covers. She has sold 109,055 books on Amazon to date. E-books and audio books sell the most.

Along with her prolific writing (71 books so far), she also has a career as a high school English teacher going on thirty years.

Hamilton impressed everybody with her well-articulated and extremely informative PowerPoint presentation. We left with a wealth of publishing and marketing knowledge.



M. L. Hamilton lectures.
(Photo by Lisa Schliff)



(Photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Delightful lunch gathering at Old Town Grill, open to all Guest Speaker Program attendees. Clockwise from left: Lisa Schliff, Susan Osborn, Chery Anderson, Susan Korn, Joan Griffin, Margie Yee Webb, M. L. Hamilton, Sarah Pressler

Special Event for the Short Story Contest

Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest ended on July 26 with some 60 entries. The 1500 maximum word count contest attracted writers from Placer and surrounding counties to enter. The ten finalists will be honored on October 7, 2023, with an event held in the

Auburn City Hall Rose Room. The first, second, and third-place winning stories will be read and the writers awarded a cash prize in gold coins.

The keynote speaker for the award celebration is Laurel Anne Hill, an author and teacher. Her talk is "A Short Story is Not a Very Short Novel." A celebrated author and expert in short story writing, Ms. Hill will share techniques for crafting powerful short stories and discuss what sets this literary form apart.

A Fine July Read and Review



Clockwise from left: Margie Yee Webb, Kelly Lardner, Mary Jones, Shelley Wagner, Mary Helen Fein, Jody Brady, Kathryn Shields
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Mary Helen Fein with her novel, *Stitching a Life*.
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)

by Kelly Lardner

On Friday, July 14, eight GCW members met at Depoe Bay for Read and Review. Our guest author, Mary Helen Fein, spoke about her latest book, *Stitching a Life*. It's the story of her grandmother's escape from Lithuania in the early years of the last century, arriving in New York, working in the garment industry. Some of us at the table shared our own ancestors' stories of immigrating to the U.S. during that time.

Our next Read and Review is scheduled for Friday, October 13 when we will be reviewing *Tear In a Bottle* by Kristen Wall. The story takes place in 1863 in Mexico during the revolution. A copy is available in our GCW library and can also be purchased on line.

At this time I would like to hear from any of our **poets** who would like to have their published book reviewed when we meet in October.

Gold Country Fair Booth

The Gold Country Fair will take place from September 7 to September 10 at the Gold Country Fairgrounds, 209 Fairgate Road in Auburn. We have a much better booth

assignment than last year. Sellers will evenly share the booth fee; therefore, the more that participate, the lower the cost. To date, participants are: Frank Nissen, Michael O'Haver, Kathryn Shields, Barbara Young, Susan Osborn, Bill Baynes, & Marlene Bell.

Contact Michael if interested in selling your books at this fair in Auburn, either at the next GCW meeting or via phone or e-mail at:
209-595-9728 or Godsscribemike@gmail.com

All participants must have current California Seller's Permits.

What is Read and Review?

by Mary Helen Fein

Gold Country Writers invites our members who have published a book to participate in our quarterly book club called "Read and Review." Members read the book in advance, and then gather together to discuss it. Subjects that often come up are reactions to the book, and feelings the book may have evoked in the reader. Often people tell stories from their own lives that parallel events in the book and have made it more interesting to them. Other topics may include short readings of special passages by participants.

Many attendees are writers as well, so they may have questions about the author's writing process. When do you write? What is your approach? How did you do your research about the time and place of the setting?

Writers are always looking for ideas about how to improve their own writing, so this can be a good opportunity to gather some new ideas. Read and Review is NOT a critique group. The book has already been published, so comments on how to improve it are not relevant. Everything can be improved, but only before it is in print!

The group meets in the back meeting room at Depoe Bay Coffee Roasters, 893 High Street in Auburn, Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The next Read and Review will be in October. Members and the general public are welcome. Contact Coordinator Kelly Lardner at Irdnr@yahoo.com for more information.

Presentation on Launching Your Book

Rebecca Inch-Partridge will share the do's and don'ts of a book launch directly after the business meeting on Wednesday, August 2. The presentation will start at 12:15 p.m. She threw a pretty spectacular book launch recently, and will have a lot of good information for those of who are considering a launch of a book you are about to publish or will publish sometime in the future.

KUDOS!

To Dorothy Kress, whose book, *The Risk: Forbidden Love Behind The Iron Curtain*, won the Gold Award for Fiction from Northern California Publishers & Authors on June 25.

To Mary Boyle, who just published a new children's picture book, *Quirky Grandma Jean*. It's available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble bookstore.

To Susan Osborn, who will lead two seminars: "Creating Flash Fiction," for the Renaissance Society at CSUS (California State University, Sacramento), which will convene for six weeks on Friday afternoon from September 8th to October 13th; and "Looking at the World With New Eyes," for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Sierra College, Roseville Center. It will convene for six weeks on Tuesday from October 24th to November 28th.



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!

Requesting Photos of Critique Groups

by Sarah Pressler

I'd like to post pictures on our Facebook page of GCW critique groups hard at work. They can be posed or candid. Please send them to: Sarah Pressler at: sarahpressler2@gmail.com.

Also, if you visit the Facebook page regularly, that will generate more traffic and interest in Gold Country Writers. Please visit our FB page!

FOR KUDOS IN DISPATCH: Blow your own horn!

Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Lisa Schliff, Dispatch Editor, for recognition in the newsletter: onthebeamalisa@gmail.com. We want to hear from you!

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

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, August 2

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

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. -

Presentation on launching a book by Rebecca Inch-Partridge.

5:45 p.m. - Evening mixed genre, Pizza Factory, 13470 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

Wednesday, August 9

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

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

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

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

2:30 p.m. - Sci Fi and Fantasy Group, Flames Restaurant, 13434 Lincoln Way, #3215, Auburn (Raley's Shopping Center).

Saturday, August 12

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

Tuesday, August 15

Noon - 2:00 p.m. Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn. Currently full.

Wednesday, August 16

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Speaker Meeting: Susan Korn's Mentor Program and Nancy Lee Woody and Pauline Nevins: Authors at Book Clubs

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

Tuesday, August 22

Noon - 2:00 p.m. Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn. Currently full.

Wednesday, August 23

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. - Memoir Share Group.

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

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

Flash Fiction - Via e-mail only.

Saturday, August 26

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

Wednesday, August 30

10:00 - noon + - Writers Retreat at Terri Wicks' home in Penryn.

***All meetings take place at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, 1226 Lincoln Way, Auburn, unless otherwise indicated.**

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

GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

Lois Ann Abraham, "Feelings, Nothing More Than Feelings," May 17, 2023.

<https://youtu.be/vIBHahFBang>

Susan M. Osborn, "Creating Flash Fiction," April 19, 2023.

<https://youtu.be/5O3JNYOJi7Q>

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>

***Spin-off Critique Group information can also be accessed on the GCW website:** <https://goldcountrywriters.com/genre-specific-critique-groups/>

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinators: Jody Brady

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 Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, on 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.

GCW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Susan Korn

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:

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Drop in at Pizza Factory, 13470 Lincoln Way, Auburn, 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: Contact Betsy Schwarzenraub at: betsy@generousstewards.com. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Bring your own lunch.

Memoir Critique: Contact Phillip Jacques. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd. Auburn. Meeting time is 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Memoir Share: Contact Terry Wicks, terryshenhouse@gmail.com. Meets 4th Wednesday each month at 12 noon. 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 Flame Restaurant and Tap Room, 13434 Lincoln Way, #3251, Auburn.

Margie Yee Webb

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chery Anderson

WEB MASTER: Mary Helen Fein

GROUPS COORDINATOR: Jody Brady

READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR: Kelly Lardner

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Schliff

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER: Sarah Pressler



Out of Town

GCW Members at The Writers' Coffeehouse

by Margie Yee Webb

Gold Country Writers members Chery Anderson, Margie Yee Webb, and Libby Taylor-Worden gathered with 16 other



Libby Taylor-Worden (standing

writers for The Writers' Coffeehouse on July 16 at Face In A Book Bookstore in El Dorado Hills Town Center. The lively discussion ranged from what we were working on to critique groups to thoughts about AI in writing. We appreciate Face In A Book for hosting this event in the community.

at back, on left), Margie Yee Webb and Chery Anderson (sitting on right side)
(Photo by Janis Herbert)

www.goldcountrywriters.org

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

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