



## September 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](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.



We love to write. They love to read.

[Printable pdf file](#)

## President's Message

Hello, September! Gee, where did the summer months go?

For those of you who were unable to attend, "We Are Gold Country Writers," the presentation on August 16, it was a very informative event. The Gold Country Writers, "Leadership Team" did a "knock-out" presentation on all the benefits, opportunities, and events GCW offers. If you would like any of the following:

- a GCW Action 2023 Calendar
- a list of Gold Country Writer Membership Benefits
- a GCW Mentorship Program handout,

contact me at **Susankorn130@yahoo.com**.

Barbara Young, GCW Internal Vice President, will be chairing the GCW General meeting in September. I will be recovering from surgery and may not be present. To all the members of GCW, enjoy the rest of this beautiful weather before fall starts to drop her leaves, and the sprinkles of rain come our way. Happy writing.

~ Susan Korn

## Strategies for Writers of Fiction and Memoir

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome Sands Hall for a presentation to Gold Country Writers! On Wednesday, September 20, she will present "Overlapping Strategies in the Writing of Fiction and Memoir."

She says, "A story is a story, whether it's one we've imagined or one we've lived. And while there are differences in what may drive a writer of fiction and a writer of memoir to begin their projects, once we're writing, there are some very useful similarities."

Novelist and memoirist Sands Hall will outline aspects of craft useful to the fiction writer — including plot, character, point of view, and the use of scene — and will discuss how to apply those ideas effectively to memoir. Known for her respect for and emphasis on writer's craft, Sands says "this will be useful to writers no matter their chosen genre."

**Sands Hall** — author, professor, theatre artist, singer-songwriter — is the author of a novel, a book on the craft of writing, and most recently of the award-winning memoir, *Reclaiming My Decade Lost in Scientology* (Counterpoint Press); Blackstone Audio produced the audio book, read by the author. Other publications include prize-winning essays and stories. Her extensive theatre experience, as playwright, actor, and director, not only allows her to offer a unique perspective on writing, but also infuses her teaching. She is on the staff of the Community of Writers — summer writing workshops held in Olympic Valley, California. <https://sandshall.com/>

# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



## SANDS HALL

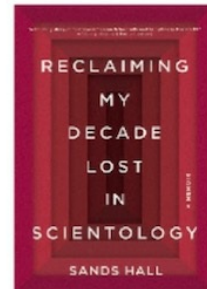
# "Overlapping Strategies in the Writing of Fiction and Memoir"



A story is a story, whether it's one we've imagined or one we've lived. And while there are differences in what may drive a writer of fiction and a writer of memoir to begin their projects, once we're writing, there are some very useful similarities. In this talk, novelist and memoirist Sands Hall outlines aspects of craft useful to the fiction writer - including plot, character, point of view, and the use of scene - and discusses how to apply those ideas effectively to memoir. Sands is known for her respect for and emphasis on writer's craft; this talk will be useful to writers no matter their chosen genre. For more: <https://sandshall.com>

SEPT. 20, 2023  
10 a.m. to noon

AUBURN CITY HALL ROSE ROOM  
1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn CA 95603  
<https://goldcountrywriters.com>



PUBLIC INVITED FREE

**Thanks to Nanci Lee Woody, Pauline Nevins,  
and GCW President Susan Korn**

by Lisa Schliff

Authors Nanci Lee Woody and Pauline Nevins shared the stage and presented a world of information and shared experiences in their quest for book club readings and signings. Their strategies range from word-of-mouth invitations to magazine ads. Pauline suggested sending an article to area magazines, then mentioning your published book. She has addressed nine clubs already. Nancy recommended using someone's home and offering a list of discussion questions and homemade snacks. She read and signed for Solo Friends,

and 75 people showed up! Bottom line: use various strategies, be prepared, and reread your book in case of detailed questions. Good advice from two great ladies.

GCW President Susan Korn opened the Guest Speaker Program with an introduction and overview of our organization. First-time guests learned about the Mentor Program and membership benefits, and old-timers were reminded of them. She distributed packets in bright yellow folders that included the Gold Country Writers History 2011 - 2016, a description of the Mentor Program, a list of Gold Country Writers benefits, and the Gold Country Writers Critique Guidelines.

She also introduced the Board Members and Committee Chairs to the group in attendance.

Thank you, Susan, for an outstanding presentation.



**Nanci Lee Woody and Pauline Nevins share their book club experiences.**



**Dispatch Editor Lisa Schliff points out highlights of the GCW online newsletter.**

(photo by Bill Baynes)



**Delightful lunch gathering at Old Town Grill, open to all Guest Speaker Program attendees. Clockwise from left: Chery Anderson, Margie Yee Webb, Pauline Nevins, Nanci Lee Woody, and Susan Osborn.**



**Auburn City Hall Council chamber room**

(photo by Margie Yee Webb)

## **Short Story Contest**

The Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest ended on July 26, and the Celebration of Winners is slated for Saturday, October 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. A grant from the Auburn Arts Commission will allow GCW to use the Auburn City Council chambers for the event. The chamber room is on the first floor of Auburn City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way. There will be book signing and refreshments downstairs in the Rose Room. Attendees can ride the elevator one floor up to the chamber room. The ten finalists from the contest will be honored. Keynote speaker, Laurel Anne Hill, will give a presentation titled "A Short Story Is Not A Very Short Novel."



# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## SHORT STORY CONTEST 2023



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**LAUREL ANNE HILL**  
"A Short Story Is Not  
A Very Short Novel"

## AWARDS CELEBRATION

**Saturday**  
**October 7**  
**1 – 3:30 PM**

Auburn City Hall Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn California 95603  
[www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)

**PUBLIC INVITED**  
**FREE**

Poets & Writers



Gold  
Country  
Media



### Gold Country Writers Fair Booth

by Lisa Schliff

The Gold Country Fair will take place from September 7 to September 10 at the Gold Country Fairgrounds, 209 Fairgate Road, Auburn. Please visit the Gold Country Writers booth if you are at the fair, and say hi to your fellow members!

To date, we have fourteen participants: Frank Nissen, Michael O'Haver, Kathryn Shields, Barbara Young, Susan Osborn, Bill Baynes, Marlene Bell, Susan Korn, Betsy Schwarzentraub, Rebecca Partridge, Cindy Ruth, Libby Taylor-Warden, Mary Boyle,

## GCW Secretary Position Open

by Lisa Schliff

The Secretary position will be open starting January 2024. If you want to explore this wonderful opportunity to contribute to Gold Country Writers, please come to a general meeting. They take place the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. You can talk to the outgoing Secretary, Dora Cividino, about the duties and benefits of this Board position. Duties involve taking minutes of the general meeting, emailing the final version to the Board, and amending corrections. Get to know the Board members and Committee Chairs and learn how Gold Country Writers operates behind the scenes.

## Read & Review: Save the Date in October

by Kelly Lardner

Our next Read and Review will be Friday, October 13th. We'll be discussing "*Escaping the Dashia*, a newly published sci-fi fantasy novel by Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Her book is available on Amazon or in our GCW library. Come join us at Depoe Bay in Auburn from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Our line-up for 2024 will be announced soon. Stay tuned.



Rebecca Inch-Partridge (left) and Lisa Schliff busy at the August 30 GCW Writers Retreat  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



From Left: Terry Wick, Writers Retreat Host, Guest Speaker Monica Gillman Gavia, and Lori  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)

## KUDOS!

To Pauline Nevins for recently publishing her third book of essays entitled *The Last*

*House Before Spain*. This is her third self-published book, and includes essays published in the local papers, *The Auburn Journal* and *The Union*, during the period 2018-2023. Her book is available on Amazon.com and at Winston Smith Books in Auburn. Pauline also just finished the manuscript of her first novel.

To Randy Whitwell for getting a letter to the editor published in the Auburn Journal. The heading is "Homeless Need Care and Support." Way to make a difference, Randy!

To Sheila Lopez for winning second place in a short story fiction contest held by 48hrbooks.com. The title of her story is "A Burb Boy's Summer Vacation". It is the product of a thorough critique by the GCW drop-in critique group. The tips received in the group made all the difference.

To Terry Wicks for hosting the August 30th Writers Retreat in her lovely gardens, and for arranging for a guest speaker for the event, and for all the cold drinks.

# THE LAST HOUSE BEFORE SPAIN

Discovering the home of a French Basque  
Grandfather & other true stories



PAULINE NEVINS

## INVITATION TO ALL GCW MEMBERS

by Dora Cividino

Please join board members and committee chairs at our monthly general 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





**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](mailto: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**

Please send photos to Sarah Pressler at: [sarahpressler2@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpressler2@gmail.com).

Please visit the GCW Facebook page. That will generate more traffic and interest in Gold Country Writers.

### **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: [onthbeamalisa@gmail.com](mailto:onthbeamalisa@gmail.com). We want to hear from you!

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](mailto:jodyjojody@aol.com).

## Calendar of Events

### **Wednesday, September 6**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - General Meeting, open to all.

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

**Thursday, September 7 through Sunday, September 10** - Gold Country Fair GCW Authors Booth.

### **Saturday, September 9**

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

### **Wednesday, September 13**

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

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Novel/Book Fast Track

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

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

**noon - 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).

### **Tuesday, September 19**

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

### **Wednesday, September 20**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - Speaker Meeting: Sands Hall, "Overlapping Strategies in Writing Fiction and Memoir."

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

### **Saturday, September 23**

**7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** - Elk Grove Writers Guild Writers Conference sponsored by GCW, Community Center, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove.

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

### **Tuesday, September 26**

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

### **Wednesday, September 27**

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

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Novel/Book Fast Track

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

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

**noon - 2:00 p.m.** - Memoir Share Group.

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

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

**\*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/P1jjiaqQ0mPo>

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:** 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 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

### 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

Wednesday of the month at 5:45 at Round Table Pizza.

**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 Schwarzentraub 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/Book Fast Track:** Contact Libby Taylor-Warden at libbyw@wavetable.com. Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays from 10:00 to noon. We critique already honed writing.

**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.

**GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Margie Yee Webb

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chery Anderson

**WEB MASTER:** Mary Helen Fein

**SPIN-OFF CRITIQUES GROUPS**

**COORDINATOR:** Sarah Pressler

**READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR:** Kelly Lardner

**DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Lisa Schliff

**DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER:** Sarah Pressler



## September Literary Events at Public Libraries

by Margie Yee Webb

Exciting news! Literary events have been returning to public libraries after a hiatus (due to Covid). After recent visits to several libraries, I learned of these September events for poets and writers in Cameron Park, Placerville, and Folsom.

**Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, September 5, and Thursday, September 21, 2023** - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Poets and Writers Workshop** led by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gulate and author Beverly Parayno — held on the first Tuesday and third Thursday of every month. “We offer an encouraging space for writers and poets to gather in community. Bring one or two poems or six pages of prose, double-spaced. Read, discuss, critique.”

*Cameron Park Library, 2500 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park*

**Placerville Library — Friday, September 8, 2023** - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Poetry Reading — California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick** will give a reading, host a Q&A, and sign books. He will be joined by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Stephen Meadows, along with two El Dorado County Poets Laureate Emeritus — Lara Gulate and Taylor Graham. The Poets Laureate will also give readings and sign books. Acoustic guitarist Peat Ryder of Ryder Thieves will provide musical accompaniment.

*Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville*

**Folsom Public Library — Saturday, September 30, 2023** - 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Local Author Cindy Fazzi** — presentation, Q&A, and book signing. She will talk about her journey in writing *Multo* (meaning ghost in Tagalog), a thriller about a Filipino American bounty hunter chasing an undocumented Filipina who can disappear like a ghost. Cindy Fazzi is a Filipino American writer and former Associated Press reporter. She has worked as a journalist in the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States.

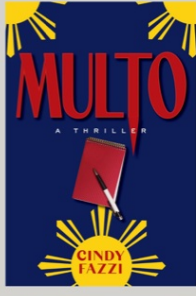

*Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford Street, Folsom*

The special poetry event at the Placerville Library is a unique opportunity to meet and hear the work of the California Poet Laureate along with the current and former El Dorado County Poets Laureate.

The workshop at the Cameron Park Library offers a mix of poetry and prose. I was among the 15 people at an August session and enjoy the variety with the mix.

With the Folsom Public Library restarting their local author programs, this is their return to offering a venue for writers and authors to connect, with readers and with each other. In years past, I attended various author programs, and Gold Country Writers participated in their last local author fair in 2019.

Excellent to see these literary events thriving in our community!





**Cindy Fazzi** *MULTO*

Domingo the Bounty Hunter's latest job is to catch the one that got away...three times.

Fazzi will talk about her journey in writing *MULTO* (meaning ghost in Tagalog), a thriller about a Filipino American bounty hunter chasing an undocumented Filipino who can disappear like a ghost. The novel will be available for purchase courtesy of Ruby's Books, Q&A and book signing.

Fazzi is a Filipino American writer and former Associated Press reporter. She has worked as a journalist in the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States. She lives in the Sacramento area. *MULTO* is her first thriller.



**LOCAL AUTHOR**


Folsom Public Library  
411 Stafford St.  
Folsom, CA 95630  
[www.folsom.ca.us/library](http://www.folsom.ca.us/library)

DATE: SAT., SEPT. 30  
TIME: 1:00 P.M.



**POETRY**  
*Reading*

**CALIFORNIA POET LAUREATE  
LEE HERRICK**

PLACERVILLE LIBRARY  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08  
3:00PM – 5:00 PM  
345 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA



**More info:** [artsandcultureeldorado.org](http://artsandcultureeldorado.org)  
[eldoradolibrary.org](http://eldoradolibrary.org)

**POETS AND WRITERS WORKSHOP  
@ THE CAMERON PARK LIBRARY**

We offer an encouraging space for writers and poets to gather in community.

Poets & Writers Workshop led by Lara Gularte, Poet Laureate Emeritus of El Dorado County and author, Beverly Parayno. First Tuesday and Third Thursday of every month.

Join this free poets & writers workshop. Bring one or two poems, or prose, up to six pages double-spaced. Read, discuss, critique.

[www.goldcountrywriters.org](http://www.goldcountrywriters.org)

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

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