



Forging Better Writers

## November 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.



[Printable pdf file](#)

## President's Message

Dear GCW Members,

November puts us officially into the holidays. On Wednesday, November 29, we will be offering a writing retreat at Rebecca Inch-Partridge's home. You can also opt for a critique group at the Rose Room that same day. Check the Sunday E-blasts from Chery Anderson for more information.

Just a few weeks ago, GCW celebrated our first joint membership and public short story contest. I am so proud of this entire program. The committee planning leadership of Chery Anderson and Rebecca Inch-Partridge produced a successful event for all of us. There was strong GCW member attendance as well as many guests. Our keynote speaker, contest winners, and the cash prizes of gold coins impressed members and guests alike. Congratulations to all who created, developed, and implemented a wonderful event for all to enjoy.

A special congratulations to our own GCW Member, Philip Jacques, who won first place. He read his story with the true spirit of a professional actor playing the American game of baseball.

November is a time to reflect on how grateful and thankful we are for all that we have. One of my most precious gifts is the time and laughter I share with my Gold Country Writers members and friends. I hope to get to know all of our new members as well. Please come up and introduce yourselves. I would enjoy getting to know you.

Enjoy the quiet of changing seasons before all the hustle and bustle starts. Keep writing.

~ Susan Korn

## Tips for Building Author-Bookstore Relationships

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome James L'Etoile back for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, November 15, he will present "Building Author-Bookstore Relationships."

Every author wants to see their book displayed in a bookstore, or dreams about holding a real live author event. With so many book titles competing for space and attention at bookstores, the path to those goals is not easy. L'Etoile says, "There are simple strategies to establish and build relationships with your local bookstore and increase your chances of landing a spot on the shelf." He will share lessons learned — what works and what to avoid — for authors hoping to build a productive, mutually beneficial bookstore partnership. Also, he will also share tips for successful book launch events.

L'Etoile uses his twenty-nine years behind bars as an influence in his award-winning novels, short stories, and screenplays. He is a former associate warden in a maximum-security prison, a hostage negotiator, and Director of California's state parole system. *Black Label* earned the Silver Falchion for Best Book by an Attending Author at Killer Nashville, and he was nominated for the Bill Crider Award for short fiction. *Dead Drop* garnered a Lefty and an Anthony Award nomination.

He has held book events across the country, but considers Face In A Book Bookstore and Gifts in El Dorado Hills Town Center his second home. Just months ago, in August, he had a book launch at Face In A Book for *Devil Within*. On Saturday, November 18, he will have a book launch for his latest, *Face of Greed*. This special “tell-and-show” event series is not to be missed! After “telling” details on how authors can have mutually beneficial relationships with bookstores, James will be “showing” some of those techniques with his book launch event at Face In A Book

.For more about James L'Etoile: <https://jamesletoile.com/>.



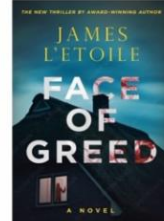
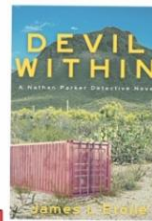
## GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

# JAMES L'ETOILE

## Building Author-Bookstore Relationships

Every author wants to see their book displayed in a bookstore, or dreams about holding a real live author event. With so many books competing for space and attention in bookstores, the path to those goals is not easy. Author James L'Etoile will share lessons learned – what works and what to avoid – for authors hoping to build bookstore relationships. He will also share tips for successful book launch events.

For more info: <https://jamesletoile.com>



**NOV. 15, 2023**  
**10AM TO NOON**

Auburn City Hall - Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603

**PUBLIC INVITED**  
**FREE**

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

PLEASE NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond our control, starting on

December 6, members and guests of Gold Country Writers will no longer be allowed to park in the Auburn City Hall parking lot. A list of alternative parking lots nearby will be available next Wednesday.

## Our Gratitude to Meera Ekkannath Klein

by Lisa Schliff

Gold Country Writers got an earful and a mouthful of information, anecdotes and recipes from author Meera Ekkannath Klein in October. She recommends adding food recipes and fables to your fiction to enrich it. She shared her fascinating upbringing and how it influenced her to become a writer. Her Hindu background included a long, sacred tradition of prayers with storytelling afterward. Meera drew on these fables to write her books. We can draw on our own recipes, fables and legends of our heritage for our writing.

Her first book, *My Mother's Kitchen*, helped her through the grief of losing her mother and won many awards including the National Indie Award, the Multicultural Award, the Next Generation Indie Award, Feathered Quill, and Best Romance. Her latest book is titled *Seeing Ceremony*.

Meera added an interactive element to her presentation by passing out bags of herbs to all attendees. We had to guess which herb or spice we had, and then write about it. Many readers wowed the crowd with their evocative essays. A fragrant time was had by all!



**GCW President Susan Korn and October Speaker Meera Ekkanath Klein**  
(photo by Lisa Schliff)



**Meera Ekkanath Klein chats with Frank Nissen at the author book sales table.**  
(photo by Lisa Schliff)

**Sheila Lopez examines her herb during the interactive portion of the presentation.**

(photo by Lisa Schliff)



**Auburn City Hall adorned the Rose Room with pumpkins and got everyone in the mood for Halloween as Klein autographed books for readers.**

(photo by Lisa Schliff)



Fun lunch at Old Town Grill with our October Guest Speaker.

From left clockwise: Meera Ekkanath Klein, Margie Yee Webb, Chery Anderson, Lisa Schliff, Teri Wicks

## Short Story Winners Honored

by Chery Anderson and Margie Yee Webb

Congratulations to the winners! — Philip Jacques (First Place for “Triple”), Sandra K. Sullivan (Second Place for “Boo’kie and Bunch”), and Joli Roberts (Third Place for “Where’s Daddy”). The three winning stories will be published in the *Auburn Journal*.

The seven other finalists are: Judith Horky (*A Wave of Karma*), Dennis Mahoney (*Happy Thoughts*), Thomas Burchfield (*McCain Takes a Bullet*), Joan Griffin (*Reflections on Water*), Kathleen Ward (*Saving Angela*), Elaine M. Faber (*The Slobaviakinskky Gold Course*), and Marsha Porter (*The Super Star*).

Our keynote speaker was Laurel Anne Hill presenting "A Short Story is Not a Very Short Novel." Her most recent fantasy/magical realism Young Adult novel, *Plague of Flies: Revolt of the Spirits, 1846*, has received seventeen awards.

Susan M. Osborn presented an interactive activity, "Winning One-Sentence Stories." Contest Chair Rebecca Inch-Partridge presented the winners with their cash awards in the form of gold coins.

The Gold Country Writers Short Story Celebration is supported in part by the Arts Council of Placer County, Auburn Arts Commission, Gold Mountain California News Media (formerly Gold Country Media), Poets & Writers, City of Auburn, Starbucks Coffee (in Auburn), and Face In A Book Bookstore & Gifts (in El Dorado Hills Town Center). We appreciate their support!

After the finalists were announced and following the awards ceremony with readings by the winners, a reception was held in the Rose Room. Members and guests enjoyed refreshments while networking. Drawings for door prizes added to the festivities.

Face In A Book donated advanced reader copy (ARC) books for prizes, and GCW donated some prizes. Many thanks to Face In A Book and special thanks to Assistant Manager Janis Herbert!

Big thanks go to Susan Korn (GCW President), Chery Anderson (Communications Chair), Frank Nissen (Drop-in Critique Coordinator), Sarah Pressler (Director of Spin-off Critique Groups), Margie Yee Webb (Director of Speaker Programs), Susan M. Osborn (Activity Speaker), and Rebecca Inch-Partridge (Contest Chair) for all their hard work. Thanks also to ACTV Studio Manager Philip Jacques for filming the Celebration. (He has been filming some of the GCW Speaker Programs). And thanks to the other event volunteers and the committee.

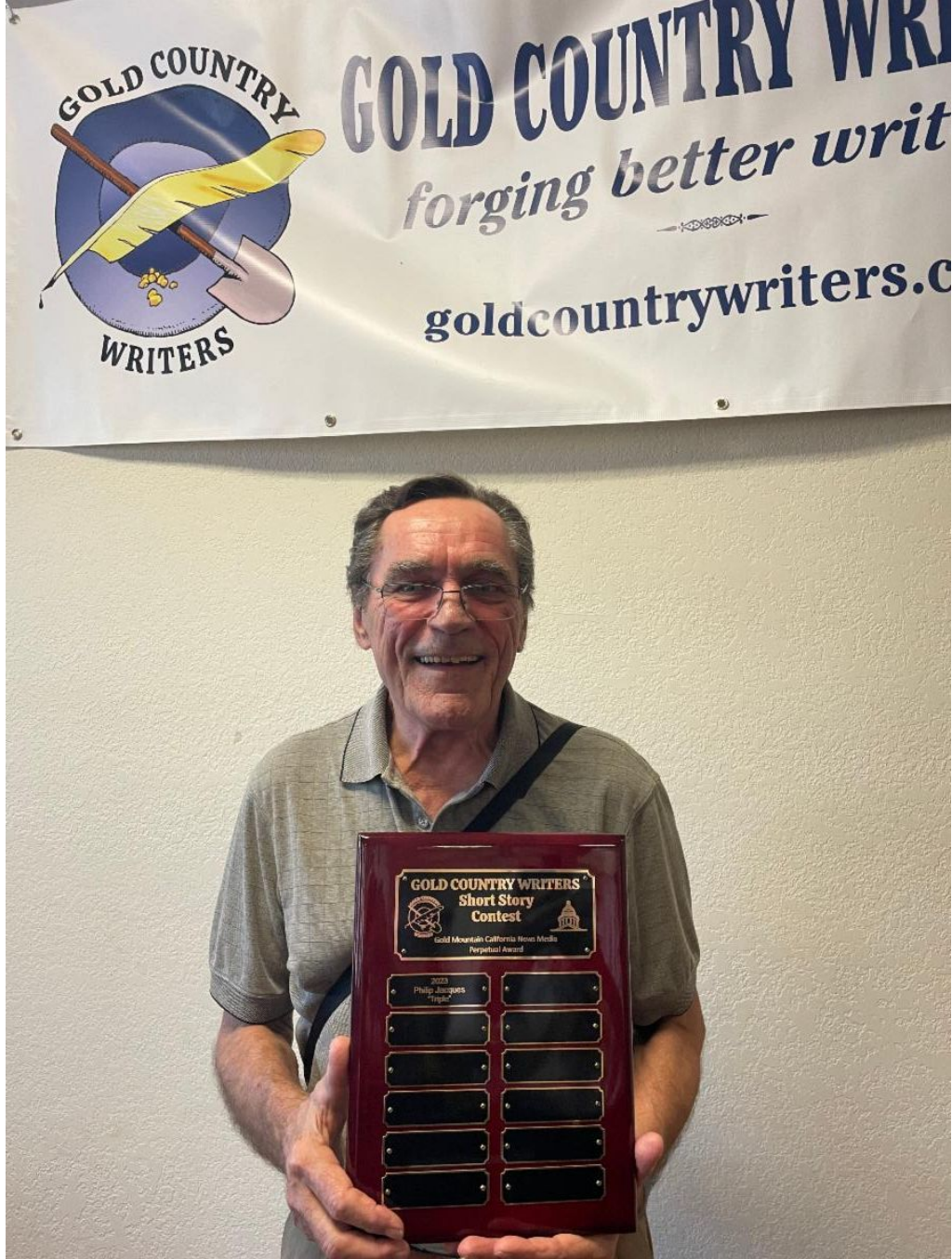
Thanks also to everyone who entered the contest, and congratulations again to the winners!

To view video of the Celebration and other GCW videos,  
visit: <https://goldcountrywriters.com/gcw-videos/>.



**From left: Third Place winner Joli Roberts, Second Place winner Sandra K. Sullivan, First Place winner Philip Jacques, Contest Chair Rebecca Inch-Partridge**  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)





**First Place winner Philip Jacques**  
(photo by Lisa Schliff)



Susan Korn and Kathryn Shields display the books they won for the door prize drawing.  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Door Prize table at the Short Story Contest Celebration. Anyone who placed a ticket in the bowl got a door prize. Thanks to Face in a Book Bookstore for donating the books.  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)

**Author's Selling Opportunities Available (Pay as You Go)**

**Auburn Christmas Art & Craft Fair - November 25 & 26**

Gold Country Fair grounds Indoors & Weather Permitting Outdoor Spaces Sat. 11/25 – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sun. 11/26 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fee - \$180 for indoor booth, \$160 for outdoor booth.

**Maidu X-Mas Artisan Fair** - will be held at the Maidu Community Center in Roseville – November 18, 2023. Fees: indoor - \$125; outdoors - \$100 Hours – 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Old Town Auburn Christmas Art & Craft Faire**

November 26 - 27, 2022, Hours: Sat. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, CA 95603.

**Nevada City Victorian Christmas Fair** - Sundays – Dec, 3, 7, & 17 hours – 1 - 6 p.m., Wednesdays – Dec. 6 & 13, hours – 5 – 9 p.m. Fee - \$200 – Micro Vendor for 4' X 6' booth on Commercial Street.

Contact: Michael O'Haver: 209-595-9728 or Godsscribemike@gmail.com.



**2024 Next Generation Indie Book Awards — 2022 and 2023 Books Eligible**

by Margie Yee Webb

During her “Food and Fables in Fiction Writing” presentation, October Speaker **Meera Ekkanath Klein** talked about awards she received for her novels with recipes — *My Mother's Kitchen* and *Seeing Ceremony*. Two of those awards were from the **2021 Next Generation Indie Book Awards** for *Seeing Ceremony* — “Grand Prize Winner (3rd Place)” in Fiction, and “Winner” in the Second Novel category. Meera added that they are now accepting entries for next year, the Awards are huge, and she gave a speech receiving her awards.

According to the website, the Next Generation Indie Book Awards is “the largest international awards program for indie authors and independent publishers.” Entries are currently being accepted for books written in English and released in 2022, 2023 or 2024. Books must be received by February 14, 2024 to be entered into the 2024 Awards Year. The Awards with 80+ categories offer cash prizes, exposure, and Gala invitations to finalists and winners. For complete details, visit: <https://www.indiebookawards.com/>.

To authors entering their books, good luck!

## GCW Secretary For January

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 contact Susan Korn GCW President: [susankorn130@yahoo.com](mailto:susankorn130@yahoo.com). Get to know the Board members and Committee Chairs and learn how Gold Country Writers operates behind the scenes.

## Read & Review Dates

by Kelly Lardner, Coordinator

Our line-up for 2024 (short stories, children's books, and poetry will be included in these dates and announced later). MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 12 *The Risk: Forbidden Love Behind the Iron Curtain* (fiction/memoir), Dorothe Kress

April 12 *Our Angel for Twenty-One Years* (memoir), Terry Wicks

July 12 *Force of Nature* (non-fiction), Joan Griffin

October 11 *Rose Beads* (historical fiction), Kelly Lardner

## Poetry Workshop Open

by Georgette Unis

The Poetry Workshop is now open to new members. We share poems, some written by each member and/or some by other poets. If you want to write or simply listen, we welcome you. Our meetings are on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Rose Room from noon to 2 pm, just after the Critique Groups. Contact Georgette Unis at [georgetteunis@gmail.com](mailto:georgetteunis@gmail.com) for more information.

## KUDOS!

To the anonymous judges who read all the Short Story Contest submissions.

To Nanci Lee Woody for winning second place in the Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest with her poem, *A Sweeter Gift*, which she read on October 15. The annual poetry contest is sponsored by the Poets Club of Lincoln, a non-profit. The winning poets read their poems on October 15 at the Salt Mine in Lincoln, CA. Entries were received from 46 cities in three different countries and the poets came from 43 U.S. cities in nine different states. Both adult and youth poets participated. Nanci's poem can be read at the end of this Dispatch.

To Lisa Schliff for an upcoming interview about her novel, *Fire in the Springs*, with Nevada County Media, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13 at 355

Crown Point Circle, Suite D, Grass Valley. This is an audience and online event.

To Rosanne McHenry for winning as a four-time Finalist in the 2023 International Book Awards for her book, *Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger*.

To Betsy Schwarzentraub for filling in as interim Secretary for GCW.

To Barbara Young for representing GCW at the Elk Grove Writers Conference.

Kudos to Barbara Young and Betsy Schwarzentraub for representing Gold Country Writers at the Great Valley Bookfest in Manteca on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Serving on the GCW panel, they presented "Relationship Marketing for Your Specialty Book — Your Ideal Reader and Who Can Help You Get Your Message to Them?"

To Chery Anderson for buying and handing out pink Breast Cancer Awareness bracelets to everyone at the general business meeting in October.



**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, social events and much more!

## Snap Your Critique Group

Critique Group Leaders and participants: Please send photos of your critique groups in action to Sarah Pressler at: [sarahpressler2@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpressler2@gmail.com). Also, you can visit the GCW Facebook page, like the posts, and generate more traffic and interest in Gold Country

## 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 read about you!

## WRITING RETREAT AT REBECCA PARTRIDGE'S HOME

Rebecca will be hosting a writers retreat at her home on Wednesday, Nov. 29th. The write-a-thon will be from 9:30 to 12 followed by pizza, salad and soda from 12:00 -1:30. Please email Rebecca at [rebeccapartridge@att.net](mailto:rebeccapartridge@att.net) for more details and to RSVP.

## SAVE THE DATE - DECEMBER 13 HOLIDAY PARTY!

Gold Country Writers will party hearty in December with a potluck feast and other activities to be announced in the December Dispatch. Please join the festivities! It will be held in the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon. See you there.

## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, November 1

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - General Business Meeting, open to all.  
**5:45 p.m.** - Evening mixed genre, Pizza Factory, 13470 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

### Tuesday, November 7

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** - Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn. Currently full.

### Wednesday, November 8

**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

### Wednesday, November 22

**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.

### Saturday, November 25

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

Group, Flames Restaurant, 13434  
Lincoln Way, #3215, Auburn  
(Raley's Shopping Center).

**Saturday, November 11**

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

**Wednesday, November 15**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - Speaker  
Meeting: James L'Etoile.

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

**Tuesday, November 21**

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** - Memoir  
Critique, Atwood Business Park,  
11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn.  
Currently full.

Nevada Street.

**Tuesday, November 28**

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

**Wednesday, November 29**

**9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** - Writing  
Retreat at Rebecca Inch-Partridge's  
home.

**\*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.**

## Save the Dates

by Margie Yee Webb

Even though fall just recently started, the end of the year is fast approaching. Before we get busy with holiday plans, mark your calendars and save the dates for the upcoming Gold Country Writers Speaker Programs and Holiday Party.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

Author **James L'Etoile**

"Building Author-Bookstore Relationships" Presentation

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/november-speaker-james-lettoile/>

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

**GCW Holiday Party**

(Note: No Speaker Program in December.)

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/holiday-party/>

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus **Lara Gularte**

"Is It a Prose Poem or Flash Fiction?" Workshop

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

The Speaker Programs, on the third Wednesday of the month, are free and open to the public. Writers, readers, and guests are invited! The Holiday Party, a social event not to be missed, is always fun and festive! (Details to be announced.) Join in for these engaging events!

## GCW SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

**Meera Ekkanath Klein**, "Food and Fables in Fiction Writing," October 18, 2023.

[https://youtu.be/r\\_ERGLxJ-DY](https://youtu.be/r_ERGLxJ-DY)

**Sands Hall**, "Overlapping Strategies in the Writing of Fiction and Memoir," September 20, 2023. <https://youtu.be/H8rcZ7ve2G4>

**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

**Coordinator: 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 noon at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. New members welcome.

### GCW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Susan Korn

V P - INTERNAL AFFAIRS: Barbara Young

V P - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MARKETING & EVENTS: Michael O'Haver



**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 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.

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP: Bill Baynes  
SECRETARY: Dora Cividino

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



# OUT OF TOWN

## November Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

**Cameron Park Library — Thursday, November 9, 2023** - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**An Evening of Poetry and Prose — Reading & Open Mic** hosted by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gulate and author Beverly Parayno, and featuring Beatrice Pizer and Sue McMahon. Refreshments provided.

*Cameron Park Library, 2500 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park, 530-621-5500*

**Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, November 7, and Thursday, November 16, 2023** - 5:30 p.m. to 7 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, 530-621-5500*

**Folsom Public Library — Saturday, November 18, 2023** - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Secret Life of Charles Dickens** —

Explore the publication of *A Christmas Carol* and its enduring legacy on Christmas customs, as well as Dickens’ private and public controversies. **Carrie Sessarego**, author and book blogger, will share the inside story of how the most popular author of his time went from the instant success of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843 to a shocking separation in 1858 from his wife of 20 years and with whom he had 10 children.

*Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford Street, Folsom, 916-461-6131*

**Face In A Book — Saturday, November 18, 2023** - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Booksigning with James L'Etoile\*** - celebrate the publication of his new novel, **Face of Greed**, and play a round of Sacramento crime trivia (prizes and bragging rights are at stake).

*Face In A Book Bookstore and Gifts, 4359 Town Center Blvd. #113, El Dorado Hills, 916-941-9401*

**\*Note: Speaker James L'Etoile** will present “Building Author-Bookstore Relationships” to Gold Country Writers on Wednesday, November 15, followed by the Saturday event. This special “tell-and-show” event series is not to be missed!

**Face In A Book — Saturday, November 25, 2023** - 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Join Gold Country Writers member **Joan Griffin** to celebrate **Small Business Saturday** at this indie bookstore! Joan will be signing her memoir, **Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail**, for new fans. Check website for other authors scheduled throughout the day.

*Face In A Book Bookstore and Gifts, 4359 Town Center Blvd. #113, El Dorado Hills, 916-941-9401, <https://www.getyourfaceinabook.com/>*

by Nanci Lee Woody

What gift have I to mark this day?  
One of countless days we have shared -  
days turned to years,  
years falling  
tumbling rapidly into decades.

What gift have I to mark this day,  
one of many such days -  
heartbreaking some,  
most filled with joy.  
We shared them all.

This day by your bedside,  
your hand in mine,  
I read to you those favorite poems  
we've shared in happier times.

Housman's emotional lines  
*early though the laurel grows*  
*it withers quicker than the rose*  
and dear Emily's  
*hope is the thing with feathers.*

Perhaps this day  
I'll end our time together with Milton  
who tried to *justify the ways of God to man*  
though justify I cannot  
this suffering wrought upon you.

What gift have I?  
Only the gift of time,  
though nothing new  
seems sweeter now  
when days are few.

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

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