



Forging Better Writers

December 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 HOLIDAYS!

[Printable pdf file](#)

President's Message

Dear GCW Members,

It looks like the holidays are in full swing. Hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your friends and family.

Join Gold Country Writers for the Holiday Party on December 13, 2023, in the Rose Room from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. I always look forward to this event. We have fun, enjoy good food and delicious desserts, and share laughter. This event is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share.

We will have a "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel" holiday fashion contest. There will also be a cookie bake-off.

Authors can display their books for sale. Remember, autographed books make great gifts.

As we end the year with Gold Country Writers, I reflect on all the special events we have shared this year. Our short story contest in October was a hit and landed on the front page of the Sunday Auburn Journal. The inside page of the Journal has a story of our successful contest, which was opened for the first time to our membership and the general public. There were memorable book launch parties. Members sold their books at county fairs, book conferences, and Manteca book events, where we enjoyed connecting with other writing groups and making new friends.

I would like to thank our Executive Officers, and Board of Directors of Gold Country Writers for their continuous dedication to detail, and a commitment to making our club more visible and successful. Their hard work and dedication makes GCW a great group for all to join.

Thank you, Barbara, Michael, Bill, Dora, Betsy, Katherine, Sarah, Chery, Margie, Frank, Lisa, Mary Helen, Terry, Rebecca, and all the Critique Leaders who sign up to help us with our writing journeys.

As you join your loved ones and family for a festive holiday gathering, I wish you all happiness.

PEACE on Earth

~ Susan Korn

GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

~~~~ Holiday Party ~~~~

*Wednesday, December 13, 2023 ~ 10:00 to NOON
Auburn City Hall Rose Room*

POTLUCK LUNCH ~ Bring something to share

Last name: A-H appetizer/salad; I-P main/side dish; Q-Z

dessert

GCW AUTHORS BOOK SALE ~ Books make great gifts!

COOKIE EXCHANGE ~ Bring 2 dozen to participate
HOLIDAY FASHION CONTEST ~ Prizes for Most Glamorous, Funniest, and Most Festive/Cultural
AND MORE SURPRISES!



Sell Your Books at the Holiday Party!

by Betsy Schwarzentraub

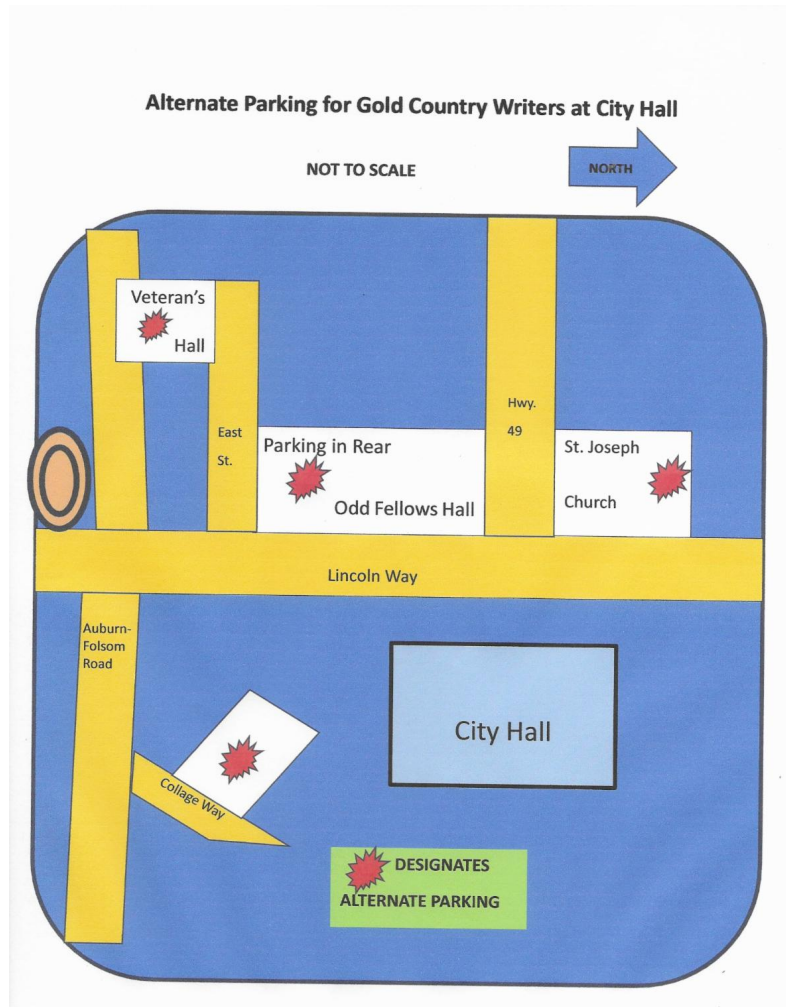
One great aspect of the upcoming Holiday Party on December 13th will be the book sale table. I'm coordinating that, with Rebecca Inch-Partridge helping out as cashier. This means you won't have to stand by your book and sell it yourself. Rebecca will sell it for you and give you the proceeds of the sales at the end of the party. You can focus on connecting with one another at the party.

Here are the rules:

1. Each author can bring 5 copies of each book title. No posters, swags, or stands. You can have more copies in your car, but only 5 on the table at a time.
2. Sign up with me by December 8 so we can have a master list and get all the copies on the table. You can text, email or call me. Text is best.
3. Here's the info I need: Your name, book title, and total price (include sales tax). Rebecca will use this to tally the book sales at the party.
4. Please get the word to me as soon as possible. Rebecca and I will be at the General Business Meeting on December 6, and she can take your five copies of each book title if you bring them that day.

Many thanks! It will be fun!

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Auburn City Hall policy, 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. Below is a map to assist attendees in finding parking near the venue.



Thanks to Bookstore Star James L'Etoile

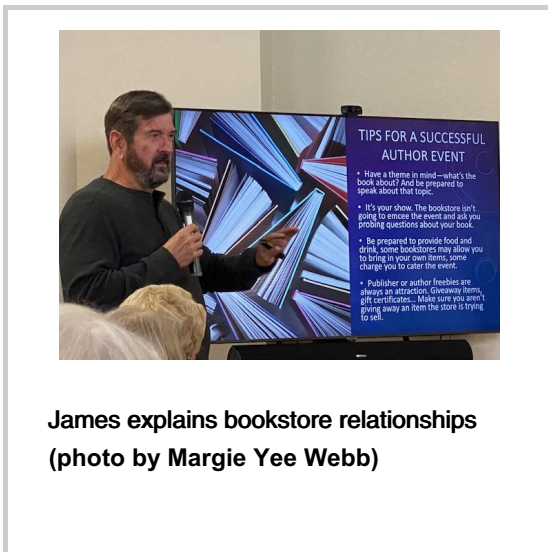
by Lisa Schliff

Author James L'Etoile directed Gold Country Writers onto the path of having a relationship with a bookstore. He reminded us that it's the author's responsibility to develop this connection before even presenting their book to the store. Impress the bookseller, be aware of the store's focus (Women's Lit? Sci-Fi/Fantasy?), and respect the store's time and protocol. Email is the best method to begin communication. Get to know the store first, buy a book, and attend an event. Remember to leave a book for the owner.

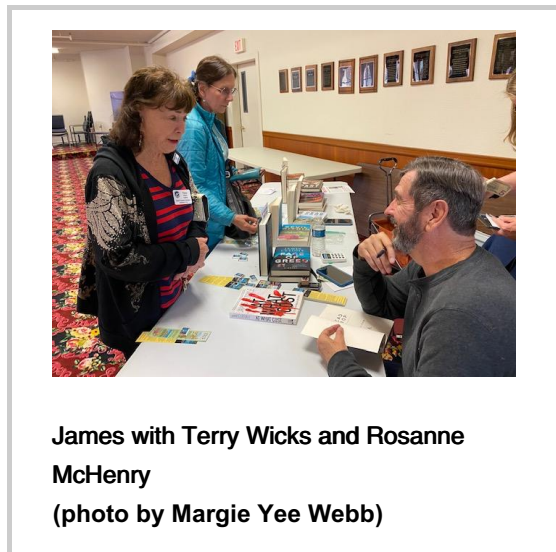
L'Etoile filled us in on consignment versus traditional sales. We got a very detailed step-by-step for putting on an author event. All-in-all this was a valuable presentation, worth watching yet again on the live link in the ACTV Video Link Column of this newsletter. Thank you, James L'Etoile, for a world of information!



James L'Etoile (standing towards top left of photo) speaks at his *Face of Greed* book launch event at Face In A Book Bookstore on Saturday, November 18, in conjunction with his Wednesday, November 15, presentation to GCW on "Building Author-Bookstore Relationships."
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



**James explains bookstore relationships
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)**



**James with Terry Wicks and Rosanne McHenry
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)**



Honoring our November Guest Speaker James L'etoile with a well-attended lunch.
From left clockwise: Susan Osborn, Terry Wicks, Chery Anderson, Barbara Young, Margie Yee Webb, James L'Etoile, Ann-Marie L'Etoile, Susan Korn

Short Story Contest Winning Stories Published

by Margie Yee Webb

Congratulations again to the winners of the Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest! — **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 Auburn Journal published an article announcing the winners of the Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest in an October 2023 newspaper issue. *The Auburn Journal* also published articles of each winning story in three November 2023 newspaper issues. Additionally, the articles were published online on the Gold Country Media website (Gold Mountain California News Media). To view articles online, click on links below.

Celebration of Contest Winners —

Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest winners celebrate with bags of gold | Gold Country Media

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/296110/gold-country-writers-short-story-contest-winners-celebrate-with-bags-of-gold/>

(Oct 09, 2023)

First Place Story: “Triple” by Philip Jacques —

Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest first-place finisher: 'Triple' | Gold Country Media

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/296571/gold-country-writers-short-story-contest-first-place-finisher-triple/>

(Nov 06, 2023)

Second Place Story: “Boo'kie and Bunch” by Sandra K. Sullivan —

Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest second-place finisher: 'Boo'kie and Bunch' | Gold Country Media

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/296527/gold-country-writers-short-story-contest-second-place-finisher-bookie-and-bunch/>

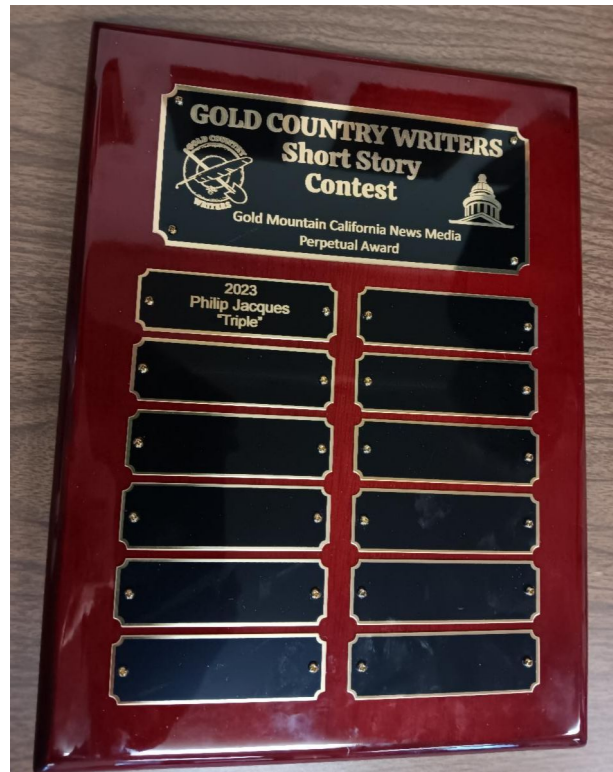
(Nov 02, 2023)

Third Place Story: “Where's Daddy?” by Joli Roberts —

Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest third-place finisher: 'Where's Daddy?' | Gold Country Media

<https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/296438/gold-country-writers-short-story-contest-third-place-finisher-wheres-daddy/>

(Nov 02, 2023)



The permanent plaque for this year's Short Story Contest

(Photo by Betsy Schwarzentraub)

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

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 Godscribemike@gmail.com.



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

by Margie Yee Webb

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. 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

A copy of the book is available for check out from our GCW library. See Kathryn Shields. We meet at in the back room at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn from 10:00-noon. Please join us!

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 for more information.

KUDOS!

To Joan Griffin for her author event at Lincoln Library ([485 Twelve Bridges Drive, Lincoln](#)) on Tuesday, December 12 at 1-2pm. She will be reading excerpts from her non-fiction book, *Force of Nature*, answering questions, and selling and signing books.

To Barbara Young and Michael O'Haver, who were featured in recent ACTV shows for "Staging the Third Act" by Jeaninne Escallier Kato. The shows can be viewed on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Search for Staging the Third Act.

To Kelly Lardner, who published her second novel, *Rose Beads*. It is historical fiction and is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), print and Kindle. She is using a pseudonym for this work: Ké Ridolfi.

To Bill Baynes, who has released a new book, *Mission to Brimstone*, a YA deep space romance. Kirkus Reviews says it "brims with lust, love and sentient plants." More info at [billbaynes.com](https://www.billbaynes.com).

Bill Baynes



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: onthbeamisa@gmail.com. We want to read about you!



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, social events and much more!

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 5

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Memoir Critique,
[Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn.](#) Currently full.

Wednesday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. - noon - **GCW HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY!!!**
noon - 2:00 p.m. - Inspirational Group
noon - 2:00 p.m. - Children's Lit Group
1:00 p.m. - Mystery/Thriller Group via Zoom
2:30 p.m. - Sci Fi and Fantasy Group, [Flames Restaurant, 13434 Lincoln Way, #3215, Auburn \(Raley's Shopping Center\).](#)

Wednesday, December 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.**

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, December 13, 2023

GCW Holiday Potluck Party

(Note: No Speaker Program in December.)

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

James L'Etoile, “Building Author-Bookstore Relationships,” November 15, 2023.

<https://youtu.be/HDf1yAMBv8s>

Meera Ekkanath Klein, “Food and Fables in Fiction Writing,” October 18, 2023.

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.

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, rebeccapartridge@att.net. Drop in at Pizza Factory, 13470 Lincoln Way, Auburn, 1st Wed. of the month, 5:45 p.m.

Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson: goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com. Meets once a month via e-mail. 100-word stories in response to writing prompts. 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 at philipjacques@gmail.com. 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: Contact Robin Deley: robindeley@gmail.com. Meetings are via zoom at 1 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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: Contact Mary Helen Fein, maryhelen@maryhelenfein.com. 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:

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: 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



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.

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

Library Events

Auburn Library Celebrates 50th Birthday

by Margie Yee Webb

Everyone is invited to “Celebrate our Library’s 50th birthday in the Beecher Room, and enjoy hearing the library’s history while having a slice of birthday cake on Friday, December 8.” “FOL is planning a Noon Program on Friday, December 8, with Anne Holmes giving a program about the Library’s fifty years (and even a few more!).”

The Auburn Library is located at 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA. For more details, visit: www.folauburnca.org.

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

Poets and Writers Workshop led by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gularte 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, CA, 530-621-5500

Lincoln Public Library — Tuesday, December 12, 2023 - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Joan Griffin will be reading excerpts from *Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail*, answering questions, and selling and signing books.

Lincoln Public Library, 485 Twelve Bridges Drive, Lincoln, CA, 916-434-2410

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

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