



Forging Better Writers

## January 2024 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

Well, by golly, "HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!"

Wow, I do not know if I ever thought I would live this long into 2024. Here I am, 'by hook or by crook', as they would say in the olden days of my youth.

Let me wish each one of you a very healthy, prosperous, and 'make it what you can' happy year ahead. Given the state of affairs around the world, and the speed of social media, we don't know from one moment to the next what's going to happen in the world. Therefore, let's keep it simple. Let's look for the joys in our own little personal worlds, joys like reading and writing, the one common passion we all hold dear to our hearts.

We all have our memories storied tightly in our minds, only to creep out, and once in a while we will share them with others in our writing. This is a time of year to look at old photos and reminisce about days gone by.

For one moment I would like to reflect on 2023. For me, it was life-changing. I had time to rethink my life and discover what was really a priority in my own life. It came down to my health being the most important thing.

For those of you who may not have attended the GCW Holiday Party, I will share here just a little of my message at that event. First, I spoke about the 'Gold' in Gold Country Writers, which is our Leadership. They are a dedicated team that only wants the best for GCW and its membership. I also referenced 'Writers', the one thing we all have in common. We share a passion for writing and a dream to be published. Yes, I know the feeling. It's great to be a published author and share your words, thoughts, and feelings with the world.

As I end 2023 and begin 2024, I recall the great saying my mother wrote down in her cards to me: 'MAY ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE'. In turn, my dear GCW members, I write to you, 'May all your dreams come true in 2024.'

Forever,

~ Susan Korn

## Are You a Prose Poet or a Flash Fiction Writer?

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome **Lara Gulate** for a workshop presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, January 17, she will present "Is It a Prose Poem or Flash Fiction?"

"We will explore whether there is a definitive answer to what differentiates prose poetry from flash fiction." Lara added that it is "important to know when submitting your work to journals and magazines." Through discussion, writing, and sharing, "you will discover if you are a prose poet, a flash fiction writer, or both."

Lara Gulate, Poet Laureate Emeritus of El Dorado County (July 2021 to June 2023), is the author of two books of poetry. Her most recent book, *Fourth World Woman*, was published by Finishing Line Press; and *Kissing the Bee*, about her California Portuguese pioneer ancestors was published by The Bitter Oleander Press in 2018. Lara earned an

MFA degree from San Jose State University where she served as a poetry editor for *Reed Magazine*, and received the Anne Lillis Award for Creative Writing, along with Phelan Awards. Nominated for several Pushcart Prizes, her work has been published in national and international journals and anthologies. She is affiliated with the *Cigarros Colloquium: Azoreans Diaspora Writers* at the Portuguese Beyond Borders Institute (PBBI), California State University-Fresno. Also, she is a teaching artist of creative writing at Mule Creek State Prison.

Lara is involved in various community events. She hosts a popular monthly reading series, *Poetry of the Sierra Foothills*, at Chateau Davell Winery in Camino. She co-leads a *Poets and Writers Workshop* at the Cameron Park Library. Additionally, she is known for conducting Ekphrastic poetry and writing workshops at local art galleries.

The annual GCW Poetry Contest for members is set to open on January 17. Join in this poetry workshop for inspiration!

# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



## IS IT A PROSE POEM OR FLASH FICTION?



Lara Gularte

January 17, 2024  
10 a.m. to Noon

Is there a definitive answer to what differentiates prose poetry and flash fiction? That question will be explored through discussion, writing, and sharing led by the Poet Laureate Emeritus of El Dorado County. Ms. Gularte has been nominated for several Pushcart Prizes.

Bring pen & paper.

**THIS IS A WORKSHOP**



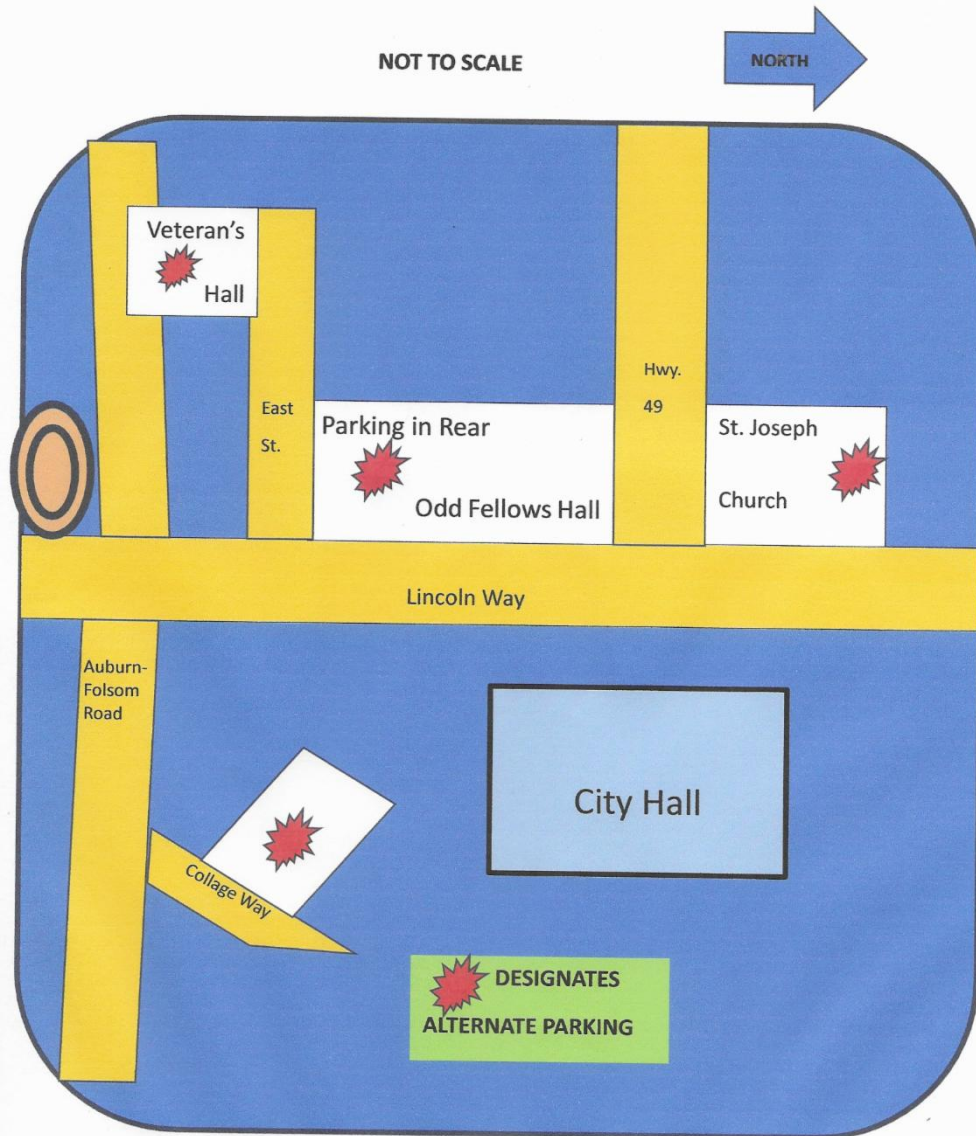
AUBURN CITY HALL  
ROSE ROOM  
1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn CA 95603

**PUBLIC INVITED FREE**

<https://goldcountrywriters.com>

PLEASE NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond our control, members and guests of Gold Country Writers will no longer be allowed to park in the Auburn City Hall parking lot. Please park in nearby available parking lots or street parking.

## Alternate Parking for Gold Country Writers at City Hall



## Holiday Party Retrospective

by Michael O'Haver

Barbara Young did a wonderful job of organizing the Holiday Party. President Susan Korn gave a great holiday message acknowledging all the GCW past presidents, officers, and committee chairpersons. There was an opportunity for members to sell their books. Sarah Pressler also did an excellent job with the Fireside Chats. It was a great way to get to know some of our new members in attendance.

Sarah Pressler did a bang-up job with the Holiday Sweater contest. The winners were:

Most Glamorous – Susan Korn  
Funniest - Kathryn Shields  
Best Cultural -Nicolle Goldman

The food was tasty and festive, and there was plenty of help cleaning up. Thanks and



**A well-attended Holiday Party was enjoyed by all.**

(Photo by Joan Griffin)



**Santa Claus decor**  
(photo by Joan Griffin)



**Snow Santa**  
(photo by Joan Griffin)



**Books for sale by GCW Authors at Holiday Party.**

(photo by Joan Griffin)



### Dessert table at the Holiday Party

(photo by Joan Griffin)

## Membership Dues are Due!

Annual Dues are \$60 for 2024. Make a check payable to Gold Country Writers and mail to:

P.O. Box 5991  
Auburn, CA 95604

Prefer e-payment? Questions? Contact Nicolle Goldman at  
[gcwmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gcwmembership@gmail.com).

## Poetry Contest 2024

by Chery Anderson

Gold Country Writer's annual Poetry Contest will open on January 17, 2024, and end at midnight on February 14. Those entering the contest must be a member of Gold Country Writers in good standing. Entries must be no more than 42 lines but any style is okay. Entries must be emailed to [GCWpoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:GCWpoetrycontest@gmail.com). Please see the poster for instructions and rules. The celebration of winners will be on April 3, 2024.





# **GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS**

# **Poetry Contest**

**Jan. 17 to Feb. 14**

## **Entry guidelines:**

GCW members only may enter  
One poem per person may be entered  
Poems must be previously unpublished  
Gold Country Writers reserve the right to publish the winning poems

Any Topic is acceptable -- Any Form is also acceptable  
Maximum number of lines is 42 -- use 12pt font Times New Roman  
Title, name, or contact information do not count as lines.  
No changes may be made once the poem is entered

Entries may be emailed from 12am January 17 to 12pm February 14  
Enter your real first & last name & title on subject line

Submit by email in an attachment without the author's name to:  
[GCWpoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:GCWpoetrycontest@gmail.com)

**AWARDS CELEBRATION**  
**APRIL 3, 2024 NOON TO 2:00**  
**AUBURN CITY HALL ROSE ROOM**

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

[goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com](mailto:goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com)

# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## JANUARY 31, 2024

### "Tales and Talk With GCW Writers"

ORIGINAL MEL'S DINER  
1730 GRASS VALLEY HIGHWAY  
AUBURN, CA 95603  
(breakfast Dutch treat)

## HAPPINESS IS



...talking about books with  
your friends

### 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.

### New Membership Chair

Nicolle Goldman has taken over the very important responsibility of Membership Chair from Bill Baynes, who provided many years of chairing this committee. She will accept applications and payment from new members, collect dues, and track all of that. Thanks a million, Nicolle!

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!

## Read & Review in 2024

by Kelly Lardner, Coordinator

Read and Review kicks off the New Year Friday, January 12th. We will be discussing Dorothe Kress's book, "The Risk: Love Behind the Iron Curtain." Dorothe, herself a former citizen of East Germany, weaves an accurate depiction of East German life with the frightening actions of the Stasi into a suspenseful story of love behind the Iron Curtain. We will also be reviewing Barbara Young's childrens book, *Grandma's Lost Cuddles: Adventures with Dementia*.

Our lively discussions take place in the back room at Depoe Bay coffee shop, 893 Lincoln Way, Auburn, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Hope to see you there.

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

*Grandma's Lost Cuddles: Adventures with Dementia*, Barbara Young

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

## 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 Bill Baynes, for his many years of valuable service as Membership Chair of Gold Country Writers. He has handed that chair over to Nicolle Goldman.

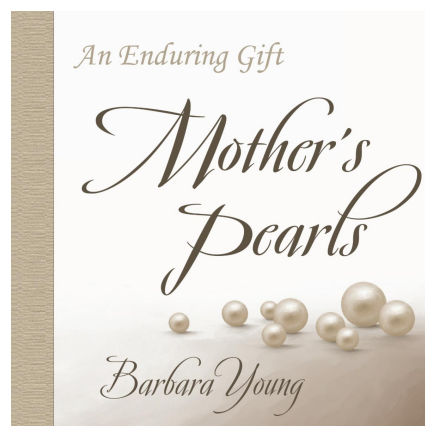
To Nicolle Goldman for stepping up to take over the Membership duties for GCW.

To Rebecca Inch-Partridge for hosting the December Writers Retreat at her home.

To Frank Nissen for speaking about historical novels at Sun City Lincoln Hills.

To Betsy Schwarzentraub for a new version of her book, *Tossed in Time: Expanded Edition*, which she will launch on February 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Methodist Church in Auburn.

To Barbara Young for publishing her new book, *Mother's Pearls: An Enduring Gift*, in December 2023. This is a unique gift book of treasured bits of wisdom, wit and wonder passed from her mother, as individual pearls, along with heartwarming little stories. Barbara invites readers to add their own pearls to the pages provided; to, in essence, string their own set of pearls to live by and pass on. [BYoungBooks.com](http://BYoungBooks.com)



## Share Your Milestones!

Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Lisa Schliff, Dispatch Editor, for recognition in the newsletter: [onthbeamisa@gmail.com](mailto:onthbeamisa@gmail.com). Your news will be posted in the Kudos column. 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](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 Writers.

## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, January 2**  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park,

**Wednesday, January 17**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Speaker

11768 Atwood Road, Auburn.  
Currently full.

**Wednesday, January 3**

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

**Wednesday, January 10**

**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).

**Friday, January 12**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Read and Review book discussion at Depoe Bay Coffee Roasters, 893 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

**Saturday, January 13**

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

**Tuesday, January 16**

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

Meeting: Lara Gularte, Prose Poem or Flash Fiction?

**Wednesday, January 24**

**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.

**Tuesday, January 30**

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

**Wednesday, January 31**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Tales & Talk With Gold Country Writers. Mel's Diner, 1730 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn.

**\*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

**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/>

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

**GCW 5th Wednesday Social**

(Details to be announced.)

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

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

Author and GCW Newsletter Editor **Lisa Schliff**

“Write a Newsletter to Promote Your Books”

<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! 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>

### 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. 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 Philip Jacques, 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** Rebecca Inch-Partridge, rebeccapartridge@att.net. Meetings are via zoom at 1 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Next meeting is in February 2024.

**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.

### GCW OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Susan Korn

V P - INTERNAL AFFAIRS: Barbara Young

V P - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: Michael O'Haver

TREASURER: Bill Baynes

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP: Nicolle Goldman

SECRETARY:

DIRECTOR OF SPEAKER PROGRAMS: Margie Yee Webb

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Chery Anderson

WEB MASTER: Mary Helen Fein

DIRECTOR OF SPIN-OFF CRITIQUE GROUPS: Sarah Pressler

DIRECTOR OF DROP-IN CRITIQUE GROUPS: Frank Nissen

READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR: Kelly Lardner

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Schliff

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER: Sarah Pressler



**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.



## OUT OF TOWN

### January Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

**Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, January 2, and Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 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

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

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

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