



Forging Better Writers

February 2024 Dispatch

Gold Country Writers is a 501(c)(3) 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 Birthday, Abe!

[Printable pdf file](#)

President's Message

When I think of February, the color red comes into mind. Valentine red and white lace, like the old fashion valentines in the past. Chocolates, flowers, red roses that say "I love you", and of course all the those valentine cards of school days past.

My earliest memory of Valentines Day is in the sixth grade. We all made our Valentine brown bags with decorations. We would place our decorative bags on the side of the desk and the class-elected mailman distributed all the colorful Valentines with words of love and friendship. In the end, all us kids would eagerly count and read our cards. My very special one came from my secret crush, Steven. When I opened and read his card it stated, "I love you". My day was made! Ever since then I have always enjoyed Valentine's Day with all its fun surprises.

This February is a Leap Year with twenty-nine days in the month. If you are born on a leap year day you will celebrate your actual birthday every four years. When there is no leap year you will celebrate February 28 or March 1. Winter will be over in another eight weeks, and the emerging daffodils and irises give us a promise of warmer days ahead.

This is our Poetry Contest month, and all members are invited to submit their poems. This is always a time to look forward to: who will be the three winning poets? We have many talented writers in our organization, so it is always enjoyable to hear from our authors, writers, and storytellers.

I'm happy to announce we have four members in the GCW Mentorship Program. This is a flexible program and works directly "one on one" with a Mentor. The three ladies I have mentored in the past several months each have different issues and concerns, but all have the same common interests. They want to know: Is my writing good enough? Does the content flow? How is the formatting? All of which can be discussed and answered by working together to reach an agreement.

Another GCW Member is interested in joining the mentorship program in February. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each Mentee and to help them with their special needs. David Anderson, Co-Chair of the Poetry Contest, asks Mentees to double check their editing, grammar and spelling before handing their manuscript over to the Mentor for review.

Most of all, I value the friendships that develop when I meet another person who shares my passion. So as we enjoy February and Presidents' Day, let's all remember to keep writing all the good stories that we enjoy sharing. Nice work, writers.

~ Susan Korn

Tips for Creating Your Newsletter

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome Lisa Schliff for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, February 21, she will present "Write a Newsletter to Promote Your Books."

Author and Newsletter Editor for Gold Country Writers, Lisa says “You can create your own newsletter!” And adds, “It’s an effective way to promote book sales and pre-sales, share relevant links, announce speaking events, request reviews, and more.” Lisa will walk through the template for Constant Contact, a digital and email marketing platform, that she uses to generate the monthly *GCW Dispatch* newsletters. She will give a broad overview of the Constant Contact website and available tools, point out how to make your newsletter readable and interesting, and also go over how to build an email list for your newsletter.

Lisa Schliff is a life-long writer of stories and poems and a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL). Born and raised in Los Angeles, she received a B.A. in Spanish from UC Santa Barbara and an M.A. in English/ESL from San Francisco State University. She spent her senior undergraduate year abroad in Barcelona, Spain, attending the University of Barcelona.

Lisa’s family history has piqued her curiosity and inspired her over the years, and ultimately drove her to write a novel about her ancestors. Her husband, Steve, and two adult children, Adam and Rebecca, continue to motivate her to reach into the past to inform the future.

Fire in the Springs, her debut novel published in October 2022, is a historical romance novel based loosely on the lives of her great-grandparents, who immigrated from Germany to Arkansas in the mid-1800s just before and after the American Civil War. She is presently working on a memoir of her year in Spain. A sequel to the novel is in the works as well.

Read more about Lisa's books at: www.lisaschliff.com



GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

Lisa Schliff

"Write a Newsletter
to Promote
Your Books"



A newsletter is an effective way to promote book sales, share relevant links, announce speaking events, request reviews, and more. Author Lisa Schliff will demonstrate the template for Constant Contact that she uses to generate the monthly newsletters for GCW. She will give an overview of the available tools, show how to make a newsletter readable and interesting. Lisa Schliff's debut novel, *Fire in the Springs*, is a historical romance novel. <https://lisaschliff.com/>

PUBLIC INVITED FREE



**February 21, 2024
10 a.m. to noon**

**Auburn City Hall Rose Room
1225 Lincoln Way
Auburn CA 95603**

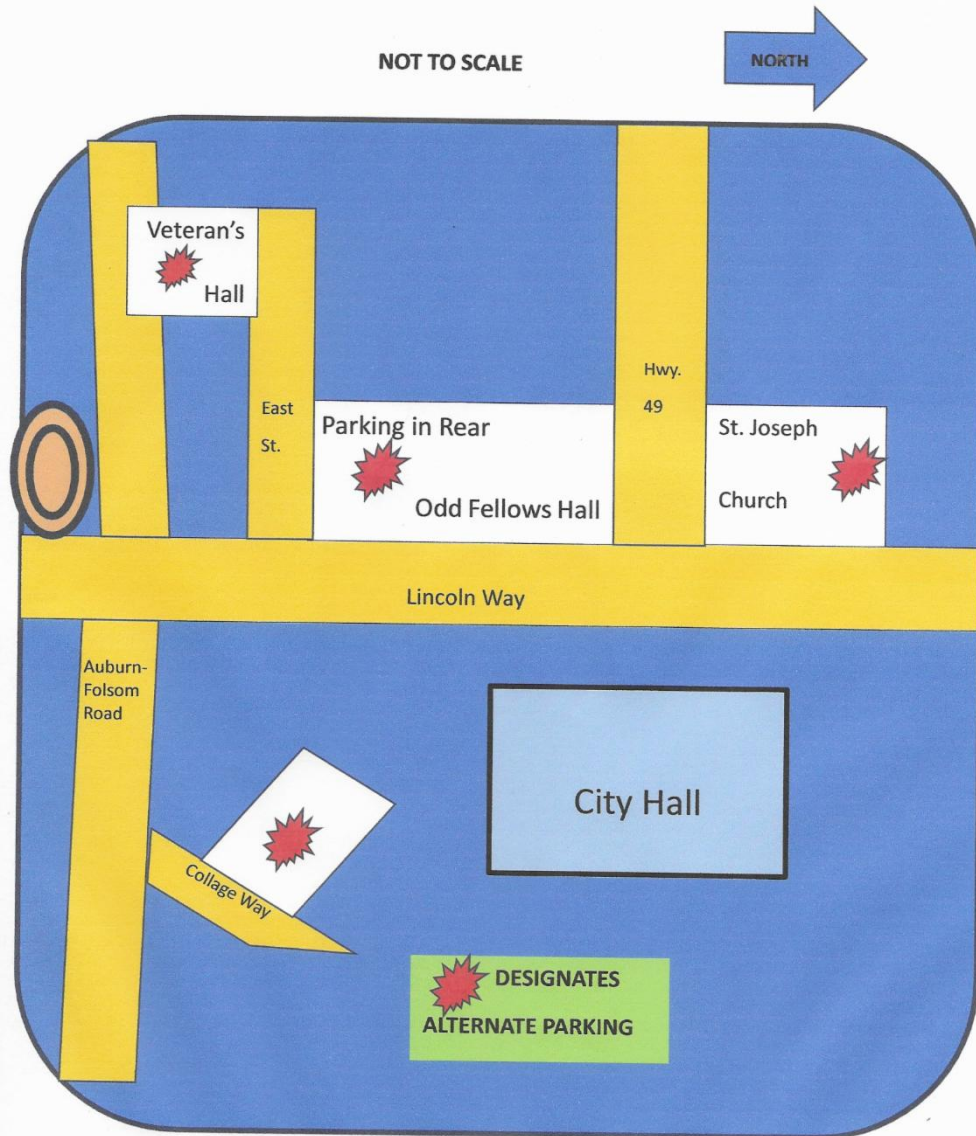
www.goldcountrywriters.com

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

NOT TO SCALE

NORTH



GCW Thanks Poet Lara Gularte

by Lisa Schliff

GCW enjoyed an outstanding presentation by poet and writer Lara Gularte, our first presenter of the new year! She walked us through her twelve-page handout as we puzzled together over what is flash fiction and what is a prose poem. We acquired new vocabulary to describe the various types of flash fiction such as 'twitterature' and 'mini-mini-fiction'. Gularte defined prose, poetry, and prose poetry by listing their characteristics. The handout included a number of lovely examples of Flash Fiction and Prose Poetry, including Gularte's own work, "The Old Woman's Last Days".

She also shared with us her adventures in getting flash fiction and prose poetry published in magazines. She sent one work in as flash fiction and it was published as prose poetry instead. She advised us to rely on the Internet to help you determine which magazine will be a fit for your work.

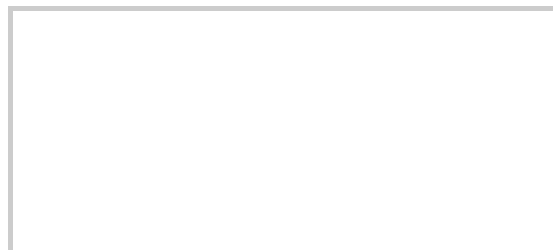
The program became interactive when Gularte asked us to write our own poetry and share it with the group. Many wonderful poems were composed and read aloud, filling the room with laughter, wonder and admiration. Gularte encouraged us each to find our own unique voice, connect to what brings us joy, jumble up our minds, be original, and use our imaginations.



Communications Director Chery Anderson introduces guest speaker Lara Gularte at the January 17th meeting.
(photo by Lisa Schliff)



Speaker Lara Gularte takes questions from the crowd.
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)





Poet Lara Gularte
(photo by Lisa Schliff)



Eldon Luce shares his poem
(photo by Lisa Schliff)



Fun lunch at Old Town Grill after an engaging and exhilarating poetry/flash fiction workshop by Lara Gularte.
From left: Barbara Young, Chery Anderson, Brian, Lara Gularte, Lisa Schliff, Margie Yee Webb, Shelley Wagner, Ardath Winterowd, Susan Korn, Terry Wicks
(Photo by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)

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.

Poetry Contest 2024

by Chery Anderson

Gold Country Writer's annual Poetry Contest opened on January 17, 2024, and will 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. 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

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

www.goldcountrywriters.com

goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com

GCW Secretary Position Still Open

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.

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

Our next Read and Review will meet Friday, April 12th, at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn where we will be discussing Terry Wicks' memoir, "Our Angel for 21 Years", a tribute to Terry's husband. Also will be Chery Anderson, reading various selections from our very own GCW Anthology. Plan to join us from 10:00-noon for a lively discussion.

Thanks to Dorothe Kress and Barbara Young for sharing and to all who joined us at January's Read and Review.

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

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 writing as Ké Ridolfi

KUDOS!

To Joan Griffin for hosting a new monthly series of Local Author Interviews at OLLI at Sierra College titled 'the Spotlight on Local Authors Lunch Pail Series', starting the spring semester.

To Dorothe Kress, Frank Nissen, Rebecca Inch-Partridge, Nanci Woody, Catharine Bramkamp, and Mary Helen Fein for getting interviewed later in the year by Joan Griffin at Sierra College (see above).

To Philip Jacques for reading his GCW first-place short story, 'Triple', at Stories on Stage Sacramento on Friday, February 9 at 7 p.m. For details go to: <https://www.storiesonstagesacramento.org/>

To Betsy Schwarzentraub for her book launch of *Tossed in Time Expanded Edition* on Saturday, February 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Pioneer United Methodist Church, 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn. All are invited to attend.

To Margie Yee Webb, who participated in the Open Mic portion of "Storytelling Sundays" at The Green Room Social Club in Placerville in January. She read her 59-word story "The Walk" — published in *Ink Spots*, the Gold Country Writers 10th Anniversary Anthology.



Share Your Milestones!

Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Lisa Schliff, Dispatch Editor, for recognition in the newsletter: onthbeamalisa@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 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!

New Break-Out Group in March

by Rebecca-Inch Partridge

A new break-out group called 'The Business of Writing' will be available to GCW members in March. This group is specifically designed for authors ready to take the next step in their careers. It will focus on submitting to agents, editors, and publishers as well as platform building and marketing. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27th at 12:15. Joan Griffin will serve as the contact person. Email her for details and location:

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. 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, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

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, February 10

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

Wednesday, February 14

10:00 a.m. - noon - Drop-in Critique
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, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Speaker Meeting: Lisa Schliff, Write a Newsletter

Wednesday, February 28

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Drop-in Critique
noon - 2:00 p.m. - Poetry Group
noon - 2:00 p.m. - Inspirational Group
noon - 2:00 p.m. - Memoir Share Group.
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

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Author and GCW Newsletter Editor **Lisa Schliff**
“Write a Newsletter to Promote Your Books”
<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Journalist, Author, and Podcaster **Scott Thomas Anderson**
“How I Wrote and Produced the Documentary Crime Podcast Trace of the Devastation”
<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Poetry Contest Awards Celebration
Note: Special Time — Noon to 2 p.m.
<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/poetry-contest-awards-ceremony/>

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

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 Schwarzenraub 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 at the Rose

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

DROP-IN CRITIQUE GROUPS

COORDINATOR: Frank Nissen

READ & REVIEW COORDINATOR: Kelly Lardner

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Schliff

DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER: Sarah Pressler

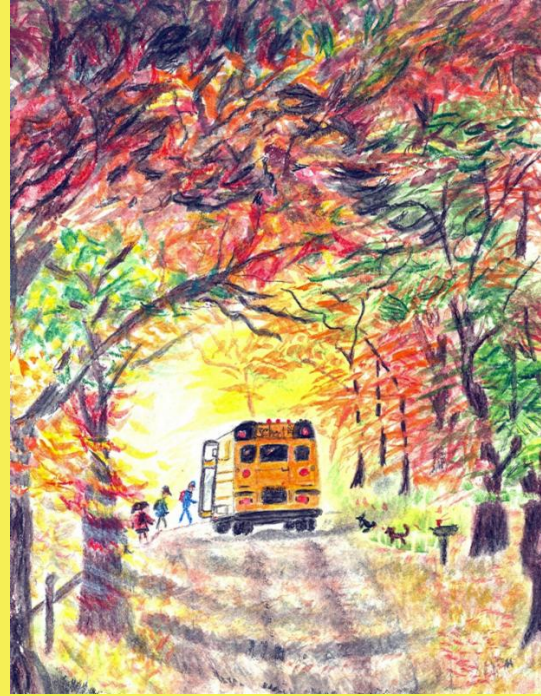
Room, Auburn City Hall.. Emphasizes sharing & caring, not in-depth critiquing.

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 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 David Anderson: dcajla80@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

Sierra Writers Conference

by Joan Griffin

The Sierra Writers Conference is coming up in February. There are lectures and workshops spread out over ten days on Zoom and in person. There's a full day on the weekend up at the Grass Valley campus of Sierra College. The conference runs from February 5th to February 15th, with the full day on Saturday the 10th.

There are many good speakers scheduled. The price is right for such a rich selection of speakers and topics. We are so fortunate to enjoy such a good writers conference right here in our backyard. For more information, go to:

<https://sierrawritersconference.wordpress.com/>

February Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, February 6, and Thursday, February 15, 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.”

Stories on Stage Sacramento — Friday, February 9, 2024 - 7 p.m.

“Snakes and Snails and Puppy Dog Tails: Memoirs of Boyhood” — Featuring stories by **Josh Fernandez** (excerpt from debut novel *The Hands that Crafted the Bomb*), **Frank Gioia** ("Craps" from memoir collection of short stories *The Mercury Man: Remembering Brooklyn*), and **Philip Jacques** ("Triple," which won the 2023 Gold Country Writers Short Story Contest). The stories will be read aloud by professional actors **Jacob Gutiérrez-Montoya** and **Elio Gutiérrez**. For more info and tickets, visit: <https://www.storiesonstagesacramento.org/>

Stories on Stage Sacramento, The Auditorium at Clara, 1425 24th Street, Sacramento CA 95816

Face In A Book Bookstore — Sunday, February 18, 2024 - 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

“Drop by for a meeting of the Writers' Coffeehouse — a group open to writers of all levels and interests! Meet like-minded people and share writing tips, industry info, and a bit of what you're working on. There are no fees, no registration, and no publishing requirements. All writers are welcome!” The Writers' Coffeehouse meets on the third Sunday of every month. <https://www.getyourfaceinabook.com/event/writers-coffeehouse>

Face In A Book Bookstore, 4359 Town Center Blvd. #113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Community of Writers 2024 Conference

by Margie Yee Webb

The Community Writers in Olympic Valley announced that applications are open for their 54th annual summer writing workshops. The deadline for submission is March 10. The workshops include panel discussions and craft talks along with special interest classes. The Poetry Workshop will admit up to seventy applicants. The Writers Workshop will admit up to 110 applicants. Accepted applicants will be notified in April. For more details, go to:

<https://communityofwriters.org/announcing-our-2024-summer-workshops/>

SUMMER 2024 WRITING WORKSHOPS

Poetry: June 17 - 23

Fiction, Nonfiction &

Memoir: July 8 - 15

Application Deadline: March 10

Apply now at
communityofwriters.org
Financial aid available



www.goldcountrywriters.com

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

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