



March 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.



Everybody's a little Irish!

Printable pdf file

President's Message

I so look forward to March because it is the promise and beginning of the Spring season. Everything is greener and we celebrate the green with St. Patrick's day. This is the day everyone is Irish. In the country side and on the Divide in El Dorado County, baby lambs are born along with all the other spring babies. Birds begin to build their nests. At my house it's "free-rent", and the word is out every season. Last year there were about eight bird nests around my property.

The purple irises are already in full bloom, which surprises me, but I know a change in weather is coming. It's beginning to warm up, and we start to know that even warmer weather is just a few weeks away. Get ready to begin your garden for the beautiful weather that will follow spring.

I just got back from San Francisco to celebrate my son's 60th birthday. It was so wonderful to celebrate with both sons and my grandchildren, who are all adults now. We had a wonderful dinner at the House of Prime Rib in San Francisco. After enjoying delicious chocolate cake, we said our goodbyes. The rest of us went to the Fairmont Hotel to spend the night. My granddaughters were catching flights back home to Texas and Colorado the next morning. So for me to celebrate with my whole family on a very special occasion is one I'll never forget. It was so perfect and special, I will surely write about it again.

The San Francisco weather was absolutely beautiful. One would think it was summertime. There wasn't a breeze in the air, and it was as clear as can be for any visitor or homey. San Francisco is my city (for three generations). It is so wonderful to visit, and it stirs my mind to write so many stories about city living. However, I must admit, I have fallen in love with country living. I'm so glad in my lifetime to have the opportunity of enjoying both styles of living.

~ Susan Korn

Learn About the Creation of a Podcast Series

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome Scott Thomas Anderson for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, he will present "How I Wrote and Produced the Documentary Crime Podcast *Trace of the Devastation*."

Scott Thomas Anderson had been a professional crime reporter for 16 years before deciding to open the doorway to a shocking murder saga that was tied to his own family's past. He spent two years tracking down people across California who were linked to the case — from investigators to eyewitnesses — and also worked with a number of the kids he had grown up with to get a full picture of how this tale of horror affected his generation in the Gold Country. In digging into the darkest corners of the past for the project, Scott will discuss the biggest hurdles he faced as a writer to make it all come together for his new five-part documentary crime podcast *Trace of the Devastation*.

Scott Thomas Anderson is a California journalist whose work regularly appears in *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Sacramento News & Review*. A 2018 Fellow for The USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism, he's written for a diverse range of publications, from *The Irish Independent* to *Distiller's Magazine*.

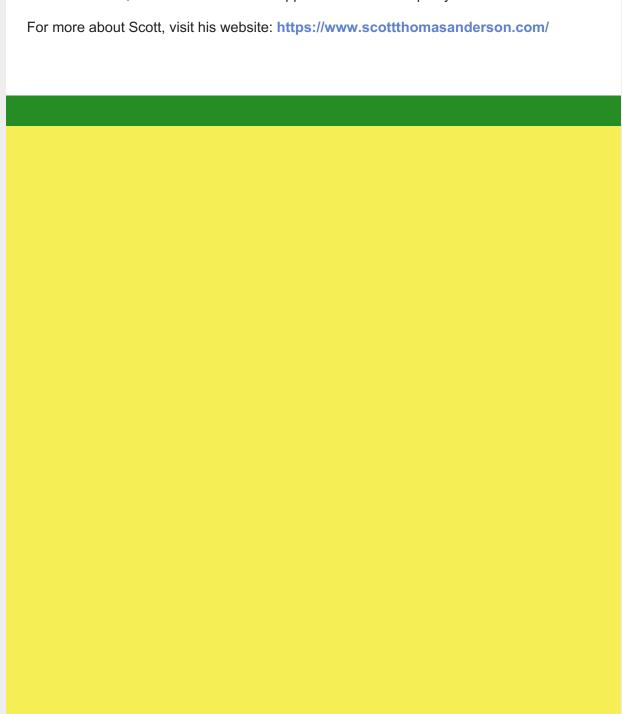
For more than 17 years, Scott primarily covered American crime, the drug world, environmental threats and the impacts of poverty. He's been awarded the California News Publishers Association's highest honors for feature writing, governmental coverage, agricultural reporting and breaking news. Scott has been interviewed about homicide

investigations nationally on the *Travel Channel*, and internationally on Ireland's Radio 1: Drivetime.

Between May 2010 and October 2011, Scott spent 18 months as an embedded reporter with California law enforcement agencies, partnering with officers on night patrols, accompanying detectives on warrant searches and probation sweeps, observing SWAT operations, and spending hundreds of hours with attorneys and victims' advocates in small-town courtrooms. During this time, he also traveled to different rural communities across the United States. The result was his nonfiction book, *Shadow People: How Methdriven Crime is Eating at the Heart of Rural America*, an exploration of the nation's modern methamphetamine crisis. In April 2015, his second nonfiction book was released, *The Cutting Four-Piece: Crime and Tragedy in an Era of Prison Overcrowding*.

In recent years, he has balanced his hard news focus with cultural reporting and travel journalism, filing pieces on his time spent in Mexico, Greece, Croatia, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Scotland and Southern France.

In 2019, Scott produced his first documentary podcast series, *Drinkers with Writing Problems*, which travels to cities around the world to study the link between drinking culture and creative legacies. That travel and cultural podcast series, as well as *Trace of the Devastation*, is available on iTunes/Apple Podcasts and Spotify.



GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



Scott Thomas Anderson

"HOW I WROTE AND PRODUCED
THE DOCUMENTARY CRIME PODCAST
TRACE OF THE DEVASTATION"

Scott Thomas Anderson had been a professional crime reporter for 16 years before deciding to open the doorway to a shocking murder saga that was tied to his own family's past. He spent two years tracking down people who were linked to the case to get a full picture of how this tale of horror affected his generation in the Gold Country. The results are detailed in a documentary crime podcast "Trace of the Devastation." He is a California journalist and author of two books: The Cutting Fourpiece: Crime and Tragedy in an Era of Prison Overcrowding, and Shadow People: How Meth-driven Crime is Eating at the Heart of Rural America.



https://scottthomasanderson.com/



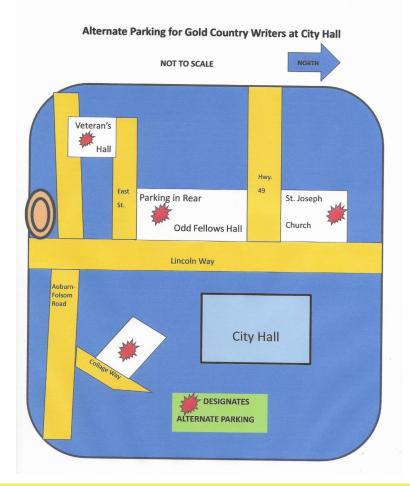
"Trace of the Devastation"
Five-part documentary crime podcast available on iTunes/Apple & Spotify

MARCH 20, 2024 10 a.m. to Noon

Auburn City Hall Rose Room 1225 Lincoln Way Auburn CA 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.



Lisa Schliff Steps Up

by Sarah Pressler

How does GCW manage to consistently produce such a high-caliber social media presence? It's members like Lisa Schliff who step up to our author's plate to share their expertise; in this case creating newsletters to self-promote writers. February's presentation, "Write a Newsletter to Promote Your Book," was delightful and full of informative, clearly outlined steps to help writers start a newsletter from scratch. Lisa's instruction was as engaging, clear and sequential, and as helpful as you would expect from a writer with her professional background.

Lisa has been writing her entire life and now, after twenty years teaching ESL and computer skills in the Bay Area, she substitute teaches at an adult school in Grass Valley. Her book, *Fire in the Springs*, was published in 2022, and she is now working on a memoir, *My Year in Spain*.

Gold Country Writers eagerly received information about using a website program, including its costs, mailing lists, protection and privacy, tutorials and tech support, using photo galleries, and transferring content. They reviewed examples of authors' newsletters, their page layouts, their motivations, missions and effectiveness. Lisa led the group in a lively exchange about the reasons to build a newsletter platform and ways to develop a subscriber or email list. As a participant, I find this to be the very best part of being a member of a group like Gold Country Writers: We have a wealth of information at our fingertips, and we love to share it.

Our online presence, the web page, the newsletter and the Facebook page, are much

shinier since Lisa stepped up to the plate, I mean the page. I look forward to seeing what's coming in the future for Gold Country Writers, and I know I'll be able to stay in touch with all of it by checking the newsletter. I thank Lisa Schliff for getting it done and then gifting it to us.

GCW 2/21/2024 ACTV Video Link: https://youtu.be/Fd4-OCZj3Cc



Guest Speaker Lisa Schliff demos the workings of a newsletter template. (photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Speaker Lisa Schliff takes questions throughout the presentation.

(photo by Margie Yee Webb)







Sarah Pressler and Lisa Schliff at book-signing table



Lisa signs books for Philips Patton and Kimberly Clouse



Fun lunch at Old Town Grill after an informative and Illuminating presentation — "Write a Newsletter To Promote Your Books" — by Lisa Schliff to Gold Country Writers!

Group photo—

From left: Ardath Winterowd, Chery Anderson, Susan Korn, Barbara Young, Margie Yee Webb, Kimberly Clouse, Lisa Schliff, Suzie McMinn, Sarah Pressler (Photo by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)

Find the Missing Live Links

by Lisa Schliff

If you couldn't attend a monthly Speaker Program lecture or workshop, all is not lost. They are on video in the ACTV (Auburn Community Television) archives thanks to our volunteer videographer, Philip Jacques. You can review some of them in the privacy of your home by clicking on the live links listed near the end of this newsletter. Search for 'GCW Speaker Programs on ACGTV'. Each link is identified by its speaker, topic, and date. You can even watch them twice! Or thrice!

Membership Dues are (OVER) Due

Forgot to renew? Make a \$60 check payable to Gold Country Writers and mail to: P.O. Box 5991 Auburn, CA 95604
OR use our **website** to pay via PayPal. Questions? Contact Nicolle Goldman at **gcwmembership@gmail.com**.

Poetry Contest 2024

by Chery Anderson

Scientists say that a bit of recognition will release the health benefits of oxytocin, the "love" hormone. Gold Country Writers will have a chance to boost the health benefits of 15 members on April 3. That is the day of the 2024 Poetry Contest Celebration, where the entries and winners will be recognized and rewarded. The celebration will take place after the regular monthly business meeting. It will start at 12:30 and run until 3:00 p.m. All of the poems entered will be read, and the three winners will be awarded certificates. A potluck lunch of salads and desserts will be served. Chery Anderson 530-613-1153





GIVE US A HAND

GCW needs members to serve two-year terms as Secretary and Treasurer starting July 1, 2024



If you're interested, please email Vice President Barbara Young dylalyd@yahoo.com

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

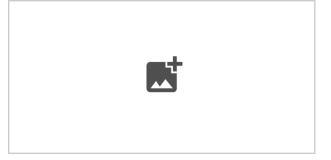
July 12 Force of Nature (non-fiction), Joan Griffin

October 11 Rose Beads (historical fiction), Kelly Lardner writing as Ké Ridolfi

KUDOS!

To Betsy Schwarzentraub, who will have an online book launch for her new *Tossed in Time Expanded Edition: Steering by the Christian Seasons.* It will take place on March 2 from 2 to 4 PM Pacific Time. You can contact the Zoom host at **rebeccapartridge@att.net** to receive the meeting code. This *Expanded Edition* gives plenty of interactive workshop ideas (with a list of materials needed and instructions) to experience each season in the home, church, or private school setting. Original line drawings throughout the book remind us that Jesus is as accessible to us now as back in biblical days.

To Rosanne McHenry, who is having a Book Launch Party for her new publication, *Tales From a Rogue Ranger*, on Sunday, April 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Canyon View Community Center, Foothills Room, 471 Maidu Drive, Auburn. More kudos for Rosanne: In 2023 she received a Gold Medal Finalist award in the Next Generation Indie Awards, and was also a four time Finalist in the International Book Awards for her book, *Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger*.



Share Your Milestones!

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

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, March 5
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Memoir
Critique, Atwood Business Park,
11768 Atwood Road, Auburn.
Currently full.

Wednesday, March 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, March 9 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Novel Group, Mary Helen Fein's home. Currently full. Wednesday, March 20
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Speaker
Meeting: Thomas Scott Anderson,
Documentary Crime Podcast

Wednesday, March 28 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Drop-in Critique

noon - 2:00 p.m. - Poetry Groupnoon - 2:00 p.m. - InspirationalGroup

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

2:30 p.m. - Sci Fi and Fantasy

Wednesday, March 13
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, March 19 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn. Currently full. 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, 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 — 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

https://goldcountrywriters.com/poetry-contest-celebration/

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Author Beverly Parayno

"Drawing From Lived Experience To Write Fiction" Workshop

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

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Historian and Author Bill George

"How a Maverick Coach Upended Society and Led a Group of Young Swimmers to Olympic Glory"

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

Lisa Schliff, "Write a Newsletter to Promote Your Book," February 21, 2024

https://youtu.be/Fd4-OCZj3Cc

Lara Gularte, "Is it a Prose Poem or Flash Fiction?" January 17, 2024 https://youtu.be/A5aOfEm-zD8

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/503JNYOJi7Q

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

GCW OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE
CHAIRS

Contact group leaders on your latest club roster to learn the current schedule for your group.

PRESIDENT: Susan Korn

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 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 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m..

Memoir Share: Contact Terry Wicks, terryshenhouse@gmail.com. Meets 4th

Wednesday each month at 12 noon at the Rose 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.

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



OUT OF TOWN

March Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, March 5, and Thursday, March 21, 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

Folsom Public Library — Saturday, March 16, 2024 - 1 p.m. Nature Author Panel Discussion —

"Celebrate the Spring Equinox with our trio of Nature Authors — Mary West, Janice Kelley, and Joan Griffin. These local authors each have a different nature writing specialty: trail guides, nature observation, and backpacking memoir. The authors will talk about their most recent books followed by Q&A. The authors' books are available for purchase and signing following the program."

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

Face In A Book Bookstore — Sunday, March 17, 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 Workshops

by Margie Yee Webb

The Community of 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 (June 17-23) will admit up to 70 applicants. The Writers Workshop (July 8-15) 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/



www.goldcountrywriters.com

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