



Forging Better Writers

August 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.



[Printable pdf file](#)

President's Message

I'm very excited to announce my GCW Executive Officers. Barbara Young, GCW

Internal Vice President, is an Executive Officer until July 2025. Barbara is one of the kindest, gentlest people I have ever met. She is an RN and puts her sense of caring for others with her at all times. She enjoys travel, usually on a road less traveled. She hopes her writing inspires open-heartedness, stirs wanderlust, encourages wonderment, and builds bridges. Her diverse work as a nurse and holistic consultant and educator inspired her first non-fiction book, *The Heart that Rocks Health Care*, an empowerment book for nurses. She also creates poetry, and flash fiction.

Phyllis Kalbach is our new GCW Secretary. Phyllis published a Science Fiction, mystery, thriller entitled *Blue Eden*. It was a finalist for the 2013 Eric Hoffer awards for excellence. Phyllis holds a Master's Degree in Special Education, including multiple teaching credentials. She is an Air Force veteran. She has worked for the State of California as a classroom teacher and has taught college. Phyllis resides in Lincoln, California. Welcome, Phyllis, I look forward to working with you and sharing our sense of humor.

Pat Snelling is our new External Vice President. Pat lives in my neck of the woods. I live in Cool and Pat lives in Garden Valley, about 20 minutes away from me. I always enjoy it when a GCW Member lives off of Highway 49 and we are neighbors. Pat drives a Jeep and enjoys writing fiction and mystery. I was her mentor for several months when she was writing her first book, *Benicia*. Pat is an excellent action writer and I found her work to be captivating. Pat's assignments as External Vice President will be to review, and identify where there are book fairs where we can sell our published books.

Heike Kutchukov is our new GCW Treasurer. Heike received a USA Scholarship Student Visa for Ballet. She performed at The Metro Opera School of Ballet. From there she worked in the Hollywood Theater in musicals and television with the Red Skelton, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Andy Williams shows as a dancer. Later in life, she became a real estate broker for 28 years. Her enjoyment is horse back riding "English Style." She is a Silver Medalist from the USA Dressage Federation. In her spare time she writes memoir and short stories that are striking and humorous.

I'm very excited to work with this very talented group. Our existing Board Of Directors are a great bunch of folks who truly care about GCW and the continued success of this wonderful non-profit organization.

Of course, I'll miss seeing Bill Baynes, our past Treasurer, and Michael O'Haver, past Vice President. Both men have been instrumental in keeping an active eye on their duties and responsibilities. They were also kind enough to be training partners to our new officers.

I've been asked to represent GCW on the local TV station "WAVE" in Auburn on August 6. Susan Ruston will host the show and Phil Jacques will be video filming it

On August, GCW will have an off-site Leadership Conference to discuss the 2024-2025 calendar and all the events for the coming year.

~ Susan Korn

GCW August Programs

August 21, 2024 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Join us for two Special Programs at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall:

The Mentorship Presentation — with moderator Kathryn Shields and mentees Tzeli Triantafillou, Pat Snelling, and Mary Mohs.

The Self-Publishing Presentation — with moderator Susan Korn and panelists Phyllis Kalbach, Barbara Young, Kathryn Shields, and Michael O'Haver.

Thanks to Karen Phillips

by Lisa Schliff

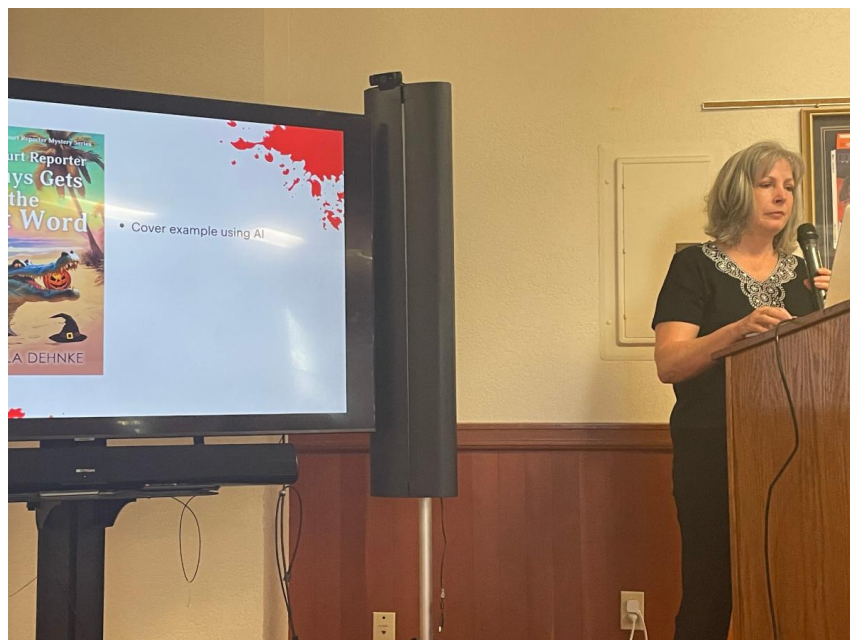
Author and book cover designer Karen Phillips dazzled us with many examples of her amazing book cover designs for authors aspiring to maximize interest and sales. She started off with a discussion of genre and subgenre, which must be zeroed in on to ably match the cover with the content of a book. Once that has been established, images, colors, and font are easier to choose for your specific book.

Phillips brought up the importance of branding book series. Readers and fans of your series will identify the cover with their beloved next book in line when the colors, font and perhaps a logo or recognizable image are employed in the cover design.

A lively discussion ensued when Phillips introduced the use of AI in cover design. People in the audience shared their encounters with AI, some positive and others negative. Phillips pointed out the advantages of AI and referred us to several AI websites to try it out.

Her book cover slide show presented us with a myriad of colorful, attractive book covers that she has designed over the years. It was an opportunity to ask questions and admire her creativity and professionalism. Thank you, Karen Phillips, for a wonderful presentation.

For more information, visit: <https://phillipscovers.com/>



Guest Speaker Karen Phillips divulges her book cover design secrets.

(photo by Lisa Schliff)



Examples of Phillips' book cover designs for the Cozy Mystery genre
(photo by Lisa Schloff)



Lunch is on GCW for our Guest Speaker, Karen Phillips.
From left: Susan Osborn, Karen Phillips, Barbara Young, Susan Korn, Phyllis Kalbach,
Margie Yee Webb, Sarah Pressler
(Photo by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)

Shields and Kress Win Indie Awards

Gold Country Writers members Dorothe Kress, *The Risk: Forbidden Love Behind the Iron Curtain*, and Kathryn Shields, *On the Point of a Star*, are medal-winning finalists in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards 2024. The NGIBA is the largest international awards program established to recognize and honor the most exceptional independently

published books.

For over 40 years, Dorothe Kress lived in East Germany, behind the Iron Curtain. She was raised there, finished college, and then taught school, strictly obeying Communist rules... until she fell in love with an American. *The Risk, Forbidden Love Behind the Iron Curtain*, written in a fictional style, deals with immense threats, restrictions, and intimidations from a government that had to be overcome before Dorothe was allowed to marry her American lover and finally emigrate to the USA. Thirty-five years later, they are still married. During this time, she published three books in German. Recently, she wrote her first novel in English. *The Risk* is a winning finalist in the category of Modern Historical Fiction.

Kathryn Shields, R.N., MSN wrote textbooks and video scripts for Mosby Publishing Company. As their Technical Advisor on numerous nursing videos, she won an Academy of Medical Films award for creative excellence in educational media. A lifelong musician who plays several instruments, Kathryn's fiddling days playing Country Music contrasted with the classical techniques she needed for orchestra. This problem provided only a starting conflict for her book.

On the Point of a Star is an exciting novel of two fourteen-year-old girls who overcome peer bullying, jealousy, and family problems as they follow their dream of performing on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. *On the Point of a Star* is a winning finalist in the category of First Novel under 50,000 words.

The Risk and *On the Point of a Star* may be purchased at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



Dorothy Kress and Kathryn Shields
(photo from Auburn Journal)

2024 Gold Country Writers Officers Installation Celebration
Pictorial Review



GCW Team about to take oath from President Susan Korn.
From left: Director of Speaker Programs Margie Yee Webb, Director of Spin-off Critique Groups Sarah Pressler, Phyllis Kalbach, Pat Snelling, Heike Kutchukov, Director of Membership Nicolle Goldman, Kathryn Shields, Terry Wicks (not present: Director of Communications Chery Anderson and other volunteers)
(photo by Roseanne McHenry)



Gold Country Writers Officers!
From left: Secretary Phyllis Kalbach, President Susan Korn, Vice President-External Affairs Pat Snelling, Treasurer Heike Kutchukov (not present: Vice President-Internal Affairs Barbara Young)
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



President Susan thanks outgoing Treasurer Bill Baynes.
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



President Susan Korn thanks outgoing Vice-President of External Affairs Michael O'Haver.
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Terry Wicks puts out cookies on the dessert table.
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Members celebrated with a potluck feast.

(photo by Margie Yee Webb)

Read & Review Book Discussions

by Kelly Lardner, Coordinator

It was a marvelous Read and Review gathering on a hot Friday morning on July 12. In spite of the heat, our two authors, Joan Griffin and Jeaninne Escallier-Kato shared their latest books. We spent an hour on the John Muir Trail with Joan's book, *Force of Nature*, forging rivers and enduring blistered feet. In our next hour, Jeaninne shared her delightful children's book, *Manuel's Murals*, a story of a nine-year-old who takes a solo journey to Mexico City to learn more about Diego Rivera's art. Fabulous job, ladies!

Please join us for our next Read and Review, when we will be reviewing *Rose Beads* by Ké Ridolfi (aka Kelly Lardner) and *Theo and Stella's Amazing Dinosaur Adventure* by Randy Whitwell. We will meet on Friday, October 11 from 10:00 to noon at Depoe Bay, 893 Lincoln Way in downtown Auburn.

Coming up:

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



Our GCW Read & Review Book Club meets only one more time this year. Come in October and see what it's all about!

KUDOS!

To Terry Wicks for hosting (once again) the annual Writing Retreat at her lush and picturesque home and ranch. She is one gracious host, and everybody had a wonderful time writing, picnicking and swimming.

To Joan Griffin, whose book, *Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail*, was recognized at the Northern California Publishers and Authors 30th Annual Awards Banquet. It received Gold for Memoir and Silver for Cover Design.

Second kudos to Joan Griffin: She will be speaking at the Sacramento Suburban Writers Club's meeting on July 8 at 7pm. The topic is Six Methods of Characterization, or Six Ways to Create Memorable Characters.

Thirdly, Joan's on-going Spotlight on Local Authors monthly Zoom interview series for OLLI at Sierra College picks back up in August with GCW Nanci Lee Woody.

Writing Retreat at Terry Wicks' Splendid Spread



Terry Wicks (right) shares history of her Ranch with Susan Osborn.
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Terry Wicks, Bill Baynes, Frank Nissen
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



From left: Susan Osborn, Mary Mohs, Susan Korn, Steve Enos (standing); Mary Jones, Terry Wicks, Eldon Luce, Randy Whitwell (sitting); Sheila Lopez, Ernest Brawley, Kate Luce

(photo by Margie Yee Webb)

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 the 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.

Wednesday, August 7 GCW Meeting is in Cool, California

There will be no business meeting in Auburn on the first Wednesday of the month. Instead, GCW Officers, Directors, Newsletter Editor, Website Master, and Committee Chairs will meet in the town of Cool for a special Leadership Conference.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, August 7

10:00 a.m. - noon - Leadership Conference in Cool, California
5:45 p.m. - Evening mixed genre, Pizza Factory, 13470 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

Saturday, August 10

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

Tuesday, August 13

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

Wednesday, August 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, August 27

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

Wednesday, August 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, goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com

***All meetings take place at the Rose Room, Auburn City Hall, 1226 Lincoln Way, Auburn, unless otherwise indicated.**

Wednesday, August 21
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Special
Presentations: Mentoring and Self-
Publishing

***See Critique Group List in this
newsletter for group leader,
contact person and more details.**

Save the Dates

by Margie Yee Webb

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Special Programs — Mentorship and Self-Publishing

The Mentorship Presentation — with moderator Kathryn Shields and mentees Tzeli Triantafillou, Pat Snelling, and Mary Mohs.

The Self-Publishing Presentation — with moderator Susan Korn and panelists Phyllis Kalbach, Barbara Young, Kathryn Shields, and Michael O'Haver.

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

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Former animator and fiction writer EJ DeBrun

"The Principles of Narrative Believability: How to Make Your Fiction Realer Than Real"

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

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Editor and Book Coach Joey Garcia

"Ask Me Anything (AMA) with Joey Garcia!"

<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!

SPEAKER PROGRAMS ON ACTV

Click on the blue link to view the Guest Speaker's presentation on youtube.com. Auburn Community Television (ACTV) Studio Manager **Phil Jacques**, a member of Gold Country Writers, has been filming the Speaker Programs since March 2022 when his schedule permits. Much appreciation to Phil!

For more information about the speakers listed below, visit:

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/gcw-videos/>

Karen Phillips, "It's All in the Presentation - Cover Design and Book Formatting," July 17, 2024

<https://youtu.be/74SVTm8eCrE>

Geri Spieler, "Advanced Internet Research Skills", June 19, 2024

<https://youtu.be/87WZEHalYRc>

Bill George, "How a Maverick Coach Upended Society and Led a Group of Young Swimmers to Olympic Glory," May 15, 2024.

<https://youtu.be/BQapVrNzxJ0>

Beverly Parayno, "Drawing From Lived Experience To Write Fiction," April 17, 2024

<https://youtu.be/6tRXVMk6GCI>

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/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 Wednesday. 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. Open to new members.

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. Open to new members.

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 Susan Korn, susankorn130@yahoo.com. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from noon to 2:00 p.m.. Bring your own lunch. Open to new members.

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.. Currently full.

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. Open to new members.

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. - 4:00 p.m. Currently full.

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

GCW OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: Susan Korn

VICE PRESIDENT - INTERNAL AFFAIRS:
Barbara Young

VICE PRESIDENT - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: Pat Snelling

TREASURER: Heike Kutchukov

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP: Nicolle Goldman

SECRETARY: Phyllis Kalbach

DIRECTOR OF SPEAKER PROGRAMS: Margie Yee Webb

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Chery Anderson

DIRECTOR OF MENTOR PROGRAM: Susan Korn

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Nicolle Goldman

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

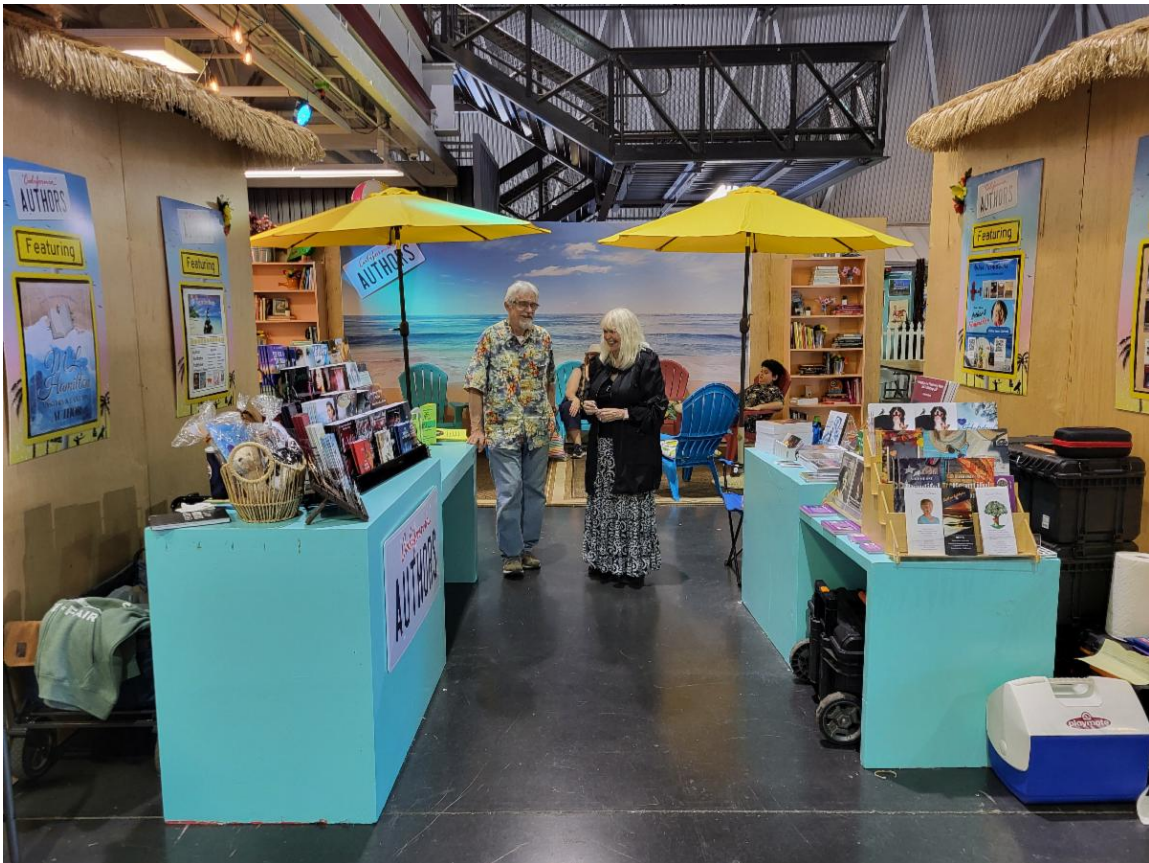
DISPATCH NEWSLETTER PROOFREADER:
Sarah Pressler

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. Open to new members.



OUT OF TOWN



GCW member Michael O'Haver offers his books at the Sacramento State Fair Author Booth. The fair is running through the month of July.
(photo by Pat Snelling)

August Literary Events and More

by Margie Yee Webb

Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, August 6, and Thursday, August 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.”

Folsom Public Library — Saturday, August 17, 2024 - 1 p.m.

Princess Bride Book to Movie Presentation — Carrie Sessarego will talk about the making of the movie with all its attendant drama. “The beloved fantasy tale of Buttercup, Westly, inconceivable villains, and quirky co-stars has enjoyed decades of popularity on page (1973) and screen (1987), but did you know the classic film had its own adventure wherein it almost died multiple times before America fell in love with it at the video store?”

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

Face In A Book Bookstore — Sunday, August 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

www.goldcountrywriters.com

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

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