



# Forging Better Writers

# December 2024

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.



## **President's Message**

Brr...it's December. Good thing it's one of the busiest times of the year so we don't think about the dropping temperatures and cold wind that brushes your cheeks. December is an interesting month because you are so busy preparing and making holiday plans that before you know it, it's all over. The hustle and bustle, the last minute rush, and then just quietness, the gift wrapping to clean, and left-over cookies.

As for Gold Country Writers, we will party on December 11 at 10:00 a.m. All members are invited to our Holiday Party. You are welcome to bring a guest. Come early (9:30 am) if you want to help set up. This is a potluck, so please bring your choice of finger foods and/or desserts. Bring enough to serve eight.

We will have entertainment with holiday music, storytelling and poetry readings. I will announce the GCW Authors who were awarded and recognized for their work by the community at large. Then we will have a GCW Author Book Sale from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Rose Room. This is an excellent time to go Holiday gift shopping while supporting your local authors.

Authors will share a table and design their area either in the theme of their book or the holiday season. All sales are handled separately by each author. For more more information, please go to the GCW website page.

I will enjoy seeing all of you at our Holiday Party on December 11. Happy Holidays and PEACE ON EARTH! Have a safe holiday season.



#### ~ Susan Korn

# LIT BLITZ: ONE HOUR POP-UP BOOK SALE

Weds. Dec. 11, 2024

12 to 1:00

"books make great presents"



Auburn City Hall Rose Room 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com goldcountrywriters.com

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#### Many Thanks to Dänna Wilberg

by Lisa Schliff

Gold Country Writers welcomed Dänna Wilberg to the Rose Room for a presentation to in November. She shared her experience and knowledge about writing a script. This can be helpful for enhancing a writer's novel and creativity in many ways.

Script writing, according to Wilberg, enhances versatility and storytelling prowess. In turn, these skills can enhance your other skills. Many valuable tools come with script writing and producing a film. She encourages us to try it and keep trying, as you'll learn so much no

matter the outcome.

One example is in pacing. A film script must move fast to produce a good visual result. Your novel can acquire tighter pacing, making stories more gripping and page-turning.

She showed us the trailer from a script she wrote about three women with telekinetic powers, "The Push". Each character in the film has a conflict. You get to see your words spoken and acted out by somebody else. Inner conflict expressed on their faces and their body language can be transferred into novel writing.

Script writing is designed to create immediate impact which can breathe life into your novel writing. It hones your ability to think visually. Wilberg rolled out another film trailer about a woman who hates Christmas. There is a flashback scene at the beginning, but Wilberg cautioned us about too many flashbacks. They have to flow so you don't lose the audience. A third trailer, "The Story", shows the angst on the character's face. Internal conflict is conveyed through facial expressions rather than dialogue. This can help the novel writer to convey what the character is feeling in a different way. There are more tools to work with in script writing and film-making.

Through script writing, the novel writer can attain a more nuanced understanding of his or her characters. Script writing encourages a deep exploration of the characters' inner thoughts and emotions.

Thanks and appreciation to Dänna Wilberg for sharing her expertise in script writing and film producing. Maybe one of GCW's members will produce a film in the future!

For more information, visit her website: https://www.dannawilberg.com.



November Speaker Dänna Wilberg (photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Dänna Wilberg autographs her book for Kathryn Shields and Nicolle Goldman. (photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Fun lunch at Old Town Grill after a fantastic and informative "How Script Writing Can Enhance Your Novel Writing Experience" presentation by Dänna Wilberg to Gold Country Writers!

**From left: Susan Osborn, Stephanie, Margie Yee Webb, Dänna Wilberg, Susan Korn** (photo by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)



Yearly dues of \$60 are due January 1, 2025 Please pay by cash to Nicolle Goldman or send a check to P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604 Pay with Pay Pal at Link coming soon.

#### Read and Review LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

Our first Read and Review for 2025 will meet Friday, January 17 at Depoe Bay in Auburn. Please join us from 10 a.m.to noon. T*ales from a Rogue Ranger,* by Roseanne S. McHenry, and *Mother's Pearls,* by Barbara Young, are available for checkout in our GCW library and on amazon.com.

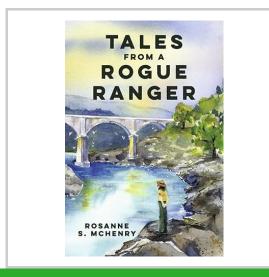
McHenry gives readers a fascinating peek into the world of a park ranger with humor and wit, about the pains and joys of her job.

Barbara shares heartwarming personal stories from her mother's life, metaphorically likened to the characteristics of pearls. She invites the giver and receiver of this gift book to share pearls (memories) of their own on the provided pages.

**Make note of the Line-up for Read and Review 2025**. Read ahead and plan to join us from ten until noon at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn on these dates:

Friday, January 17 Tales from a Rogue Ranger, by Roseanne S. McHenry Mother's Pearls, by Barbara Young
Friday, April 11 Mission to Brimstone, by Bill Baynes
Friday, July 18 Create Your Own Closure Map: Avoid an End-of-Life Scavenger Hunt, by Heidi Struve Currey
Friday, October 10 The True Story of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stevens:The Ghosts of Kennicott, by Randy Landenberger writing as Randy L. Scott

Kelly Lardner, Coordinator Irdnr@yahoo.com



An Enduring Gift Mother's Dearts Barbara Young

## VOICES 2025 Open for Submissions

by Margie Yee Webb

*VOICES 2025*, a publication by Cold River Press in Grass Valley, is open for submissions. The deadline is April 20, 2025, with publication in the Summer.

"This year's theme, MYSTICISM, PROPHECIES & MARIGOLDS is sure to inspire a unique take on how we view our world, our times, and our place in history; nationally, worldly, and cosmic, not forgetting, of course, our place in the afterlife found in the myths, and religions, throughout time."

They are accepting submissions of poetry, prose, essay, short fiction, flash fiction, photographs, artwork, and collage. For details, visit: https://www.coldriverpress.com/

#### 37th Annual IBPA Book Award

by Margie Yee Webb

The 37th Annual IBPA Book Award is open for books published in 2024. All entries must be postmarked no later than December 16, 2024.

"The IBPA Book Award (formerly the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award) are regarded as one of the highest national honors for independent publishers since 1985. The awards are administered by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) with help from over 170 book publishing professionals including librarians, bookstore owners, reviewers, designers, publicity managers, and editors." For complete details, visit: www.ibpabookaward.org.

#### Auburn Journal columnist wins national award

#### (Staff Report)

Pauline Nevins, who contributes monthly to the Auburn Journal, received a third-place award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists for her Dec. 2, 2023, article titled "Strangers and Sojourners."

Nevins was awarded in the General Print category...

Nevins is a published author of the memoir "Fudge – The Downs and Ups of a Biracial, Half-Irish British War Baby," and two collections of personal essays: "Bonkers for Conkers," and "The Last House Before Spain."

Her wit, dialogue and descriptive detail bring a light, bright voice to her writing.

### **KUDOS!**

To Pauline Nevins for her award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists for her article, *Strangers and Sojourners*, published on December 2, 2023. See the article in the November 13 Auburn Journal below (redacted).

To Rosanne McHenry for the following awards: Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger: 2024 American Legacy Book Awards:

https://www.americanlegacyawards.com/2024awardannouncement.html; Travel: Guides and Essays: First Place winner; Humor/Comedy/Satire: Finalist, 2023 Next Generation Indie Book Awards; Gold Medal Finalist: - Women's Literature, Non-Fiction,

https://www.indiebookawards.com/winners.php?year=2023; 2023 International Book Awards; Gold Finalist in 4 Categories:

https://internationalbookawards.com/aboutus/2023awardannouncement.html; Travel: Guides and Essays, Non-Fiction: Inspirational, Narrative Non-Fiction,

Humor/Comedy/Satire; 2021 Non- Fiction Book Award from the Non Fiction Author's Association,

https://nonfictionauthorsassociation.com/?s=trip+tales, Silver Award,

https://nonfictionauthorsassociation.com/book-award-winner-tales-from-a-rogue-ranger-by-rosanne-s-mchenry/

# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS and Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills

In cooperation with the Humane Society's Used Book Store at 381 Nevada Street in Auburn, writers from GCW will have a chance to donate their books for sale. They will be displayed in a special large bookcase that will also feature GCW's publications. Authors will not receive any money but there is the chance to have their book available for to be seen during the month of October. Writers may include their bookmarks and flyers announcing where the book may be purchased.

# Contact: Sarah Pressler 530-401-1216 sarahpressler2@gmail.com



#### **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!

#### 2025 Next Generation Indie Book Awards 2023 and 2024 Books Eligible

by Margie Yee Webb

The 2025 Next Generation Indie Book Awards is underway, and entries must be received by February 13, 2025.

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 2023, 2024 or 2025. Books must be received by February 13, 2025, to be entered into the 2025 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/

Good luck to those entering their books!

#### Can You Master a Website for GCW?

Our excellent webmaster, Mary Helen Fein, will retire from this volunteer position in 2025. If you have the skills to take over, please contact our GCW President Susan Korn at susankorn130@yahoo.com. Mary Helen will be happy to show you the ropes.



Thinking of becoming a member of Gold Country Writers? It's easy to join. Email your name, address, and telephone number to: GCWmembership@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.

# **Calendar of Events**

Wednesday, December 4 10:00 a.m. - noon - General Business Meeting. 5:45 p.m. - Evening mixed genre, Pizza Factory, 13470 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

**Tuesday, December 10 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. -** Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Road, Auburn. Currently full.

Wednesday, December 11 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Holiday Party and GCW Book Sale

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).

Saturday, December 14 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Novel Group, Mary Helen Fein's home. Currently full. **Tuesday, December 23 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. -** Memoir Critique, Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn. Currently full.

Wednesday, December 18 10:00 a.m. - noon Drop-in critique

2:30 p.m. - Sci Fi and Fantasy Group, NO MEETING

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.

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

#### Save the Dates

by Margie Yee Webb

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 Business Meeting

#### Wednesday, December 11, 2024

**GCW Holiday Party Potluck plus Celebration of Authors**\*, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — tentative plans for participating members to showcase their books and give an "elevator pitch" — details to be announced https://goldcountrywriters.com/

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3rd Wednesday - Drop-in Critique\* (No Speaker Meeting in December)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 NO MEETING - Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 NO MEETING - New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2nd Wednesday - Business Meeting\*

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 Guest Speaker Meeting Author and Audio Engineer Randy Landenberger "Turning Your Story into an Audiobook: Here's the Reality"

\*Note: Change to usual Wednesday meeting due to Holiday in month.

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/

Dänna Wilberg, "How Script Writing Can Enhance Your Novel Writing Experience," November 20, 2024 https://youtu.be/ZMAcqsqv3Is

**EJ DeBrun**, "The Principles of Narrative Believability", September 18, 2024 https://youtu.be/tP0-OqGyqqc

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/503JNY0Ji7Q

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 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 twice a month in 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.

#### 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

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 **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. Open to



# **OUT OF TOWN**

#### Literary Events and More

by Margie Yee Webb

new members.

**Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, December 3, and Thursday, December 19, 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

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

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