



Forging Better Writers

**April 2025**

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 [gcwmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gcwmembership@gmail.com) to join or find out more. **Website:** [goldcountrywriters.com](http://goldcountrywriters.com). **Facebook:** Gold Country Writers. **Mailing address:** P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604.



[Printable pdf file](#)

## President's Message

Hello, Gold Country Writers! "April showers bring May flowers!" I'm waiting for the showers to end and the colorful spring flowers to bloom. Terry Wicks, GCW Security Director, provided me

with a variety of beautiful daffodils bulbs in years past. I have narcissus, daffodils, marigolds, purple irises, and lilies of the valley. Rosemary and lavender bushes grace my yard. I love to garden and love flowers the most.

Gold Country Writers will be busy this month planning two writing contests: the 100-Word Story Contest and the Poetry Contest. The celebration will be held on April 30, 2025, 10:00 am in the Rose Room. This is the first time we've ever held two writing contests on the same date and time. I'm very excited because it is always great fun to hear the winners read their stories and poems. You can learn a lot from a writer this way.

GCW is recruiting for a new President, Internal Vice President and Secretary. If you are interested, please let me know. I will provide copies of each position's responsibilities. We will offer orientation to the new Officers. Other Board Members are happy to assist a new Executive Officer. We have all grown by participating in GCW. I vow not to let anyone fail!

You may also recommend other members for these Officer positions. Please submit any names of recommendation, including your own, to: [Susankorn130@yahoo](mailto:Susankorn130@yahoo).

I will host a special GCW event on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., "An Afternoon with the GCW Authors." This will include a book festival, book signings, entertainment, socializing, refreshments, fun, and networking. Members will receive formal invitations. I hope you can make it.

~ **Susan Korn**

## Donna Levin

### "DIALOGUE: the rules, the revelations, and the room to experiment"

Have you ever skimmed a long passage of description so as to reach the next line of dialogue? Dialogue is the most immediate element of fiction; it's when the author completely disappears and the reader only hears the characters talking. And dialogue can accomplish so much, revealing not just the characters' personalities, but their backgrounds, and, perhaps most importantly, what they want. Dialogue can even further the story, if done right. When not done right, dialogue can be stilted, unrealistic, or expository. Donna Levin will talk about how to avoid these traps, and share techniques for creating effective and entertaining conversation. Donna is the author of two books on the craft of writing: *Get That Novel Started* and *Get That Novel Written*; and of five acclaimed novels, including *The Talking Stick*. For more information: <https://www.donnalevin.com/>  
**PUBLIC INVITED - FREE**



Donna Levin

**APRIL 16, 2025**

**10 A.M. to Noon**

Auburn City Hall Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA  
[www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)

## Let's Talk Dialogue!

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome **Donna Levin** for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, she will present "Dialogue: the rules, the revelations, and the room to experiment."

Levin is the author of five acclaimed novels: *Extraordinary Means*, *California Street*, *There's More Than One Way Home*, *He Could Be Another Bill Gates*, and *The Talking Stick*, which was published by Skyhorse in April 2024. She is also the author of two books on the craft of writing: *Get That Novel Started* and *Get That Novel Written*. Donna is a longtime facilitator of fiction-writing workshops, and a frequent speaker at conferences. Her work is included in the

## Green Gilded Gals Garner Gaggles of Giggles

by Jojo Cook

Our speaker meeting this month was far from word salad, as Susan M. Osborn and Sarah M. Pressler treated us to their program, "Lettuce Laugh: Adding Humor to Your Writing". Humor is a highly beneficial thing, both in our stories and in our lives. Levity can come at any point in any genre, and is an element already present in a lot of works. One of the key ideas for implementing humor intentionally and successfully is to be considerate of one's words. Swapping regular words for sillier substitutes, employing a playful rhyme, and weaving in coincidences are simple and effective ways to be more intentional with giving our writing a funny flair. Pacing, understatement, surprise, wordplay, dialogue and basing humor on character are also methods intrinsic to the written form that can make or break a funny moment.

The workshop exercise in using funny words had us finagling and razzle-dazzling, and left us flabbergasted at looney malarkey. We tried our hands at crafting limericks. This led us to spin tales of old ladies in lavatories, flustered rabbis, and all sorts of oodly doodly doff to a chorus of "da-da, da-da, da-da-da." We employed tools of surprise, wordplay, exaggeration, anecdote, onomatopoeia and alliteration.

Susan Osborn remarked that she has "never been disappointed in the talent in this room", which is something we can all agree with wholeheartedly. She and Sarah shared an incredible amount of skill, passion, and enthusiasm. This is what makes this organization the truly wonderful community it is. Kudos to them, kudos to us!



**Susan Osborn gets funny.**  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



**Sarah Michie Pressler makes us laugh.**  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)





**Susan Osborn and Sarah Michie Pressler sign their published books for attendees after the Guest Speaker presentation.**

(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



**Fun lunch at Old Town Grill after an engaging, entertaining, and funny workshop presentation — “Lettuce Laugh - Adding Humor to Your Writing” — by Susan M. Osborn and Sarah Michie Pressler to Gold Country Writers!**

**From left: Scott Pressler, Barbara Young, Susan Korn, Terry Wicks, Chery Anderson, Susan Osborn, Margie Yee Webb, Kim Brown, Rochelle Wilcox, Phyllis Kalbach, Sarah Pressler, Jody Brady**

(photo by Nissreen, Old Town Grill)

## Read and Review

### 2025 Book Lineup

Our next Read and Review will be Friday, April 11 from 10-noon. We will be reviewing Bill Baynes' latest book, *Mission to Brimstone*, a Romeo and Juliet story set on a distant planet, where teens' sex drives are suppressed, and where the dominant species is an intelligent plant. Bill's book can be purchased on Amazon and is also available for check out in our Gold Country library.

Also on the line up is Michael O'Haver's *Memoirs of a Track Nut*, a non-fiction account of Michael's athletic career and his accomplishments as a runner culminating in his record-breaking event in July 2024. His book is also available for check out at our GCW library.

**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, April 11     *Mission to Brimstone*, by Bill Baynes

Friday, July 11     *Create Your Own Closure Map: Avoid an End-of-Life Scavenger Hunt*,  
by Heidi Struve Currey

*Maddie's in the Middle*, by Mary Boyle

Friday, Oct. 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  
lrdnr@yahoo.com



## Poetry and 100-Word Story Contests

by Chery Anderson

Check out the flyer for the 100-word Story Contest and the Poetry Contest with guidelines. Please note you only have until midnight Wednesday, April 2, to enter. Entries will be blind judged by judges who are not affiliated with our organization. Winners will be honored on the fifth Wednesday, April 30, at a potluck celebration! Keynote speaker will be Barbara Young, who is both a 100-word story writer and a poet. All the entries will be read and the three winners will be honored. This is a fifth Wednesday event. Plan to attend and be inspired.





# **GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS**

## **POETRY CONTEST**

**FEBRUARY 19 to**

**APRIL 2, 2025**

### **Entry guidelines:**

GCW members only may enter - enter only one poem per person  
Poems must not have been previously published  
Gold Country Writers reserves the right to publish the winning poems

Any topic is acceptable -- any form is acceptable  
Maximum number of lines is 42 -- use 12pt Times New Roman font  
Proofread for accuracy and send the best copy  
No changes may be made once the poem is entered

Email the entry from noon February 19 to midnight April 2  
Enter by email with the words "2025 Poetry Contest" on subject line  
Include the title, authors name and contact info in the body  
Submit poem as an attachment without the author's name to;  
GCWpoetrycontest2025@gmail.com

**AWARDS CELEBRATION**

**APRIL 30 - 10 AM TO 1 PM**

**AUBURN CITY HALL ROSE ROOM**

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

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





# **GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS**

## **100-WORD STORY**

### **CONTEST**

#### **FEBRUARY 19 to**

#### **APRIL 2, 2025**

#### **Entry guidelines:**

GCW members only may enter  
One story per person may be entered  
Stories must be previously unpublished  
Gold Country Writers reserves the right to publish the winning stories

Number of words is exactly 100 - use MS Word to count  
Title does not count - hyphenated words count as one word  
Proofread for accuracy and send only the best copy  
No changes may be made once the story is entered

Entries may be emailed from noon February 19 to midnight April 2  
Submit story as an attachment with "2025 100-word story" on subject line  
In body of email include title, authors name and contact info to:  
[contest@goldcountrywriters.com](mailto:contest@goldcountrywriters.com)  
Coordinator will send an acceptance of entry

**AWARDS CELEBRATION**  
**APRIL 30 - 10 AM TO 1 PM**  
**AUBURN CITY HALL ROSE ROOM**

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

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

### **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 10, 2025**, with publication in Summer 2025. Updated Website Link — For details, visit the "Voices 2025" page:  
[https://www.coldriverpress.com/HTML/VOICES/voices 2025.htm](https://www.coldriverpress.com/HTML/VOICES/voices%2025.htm).

"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."

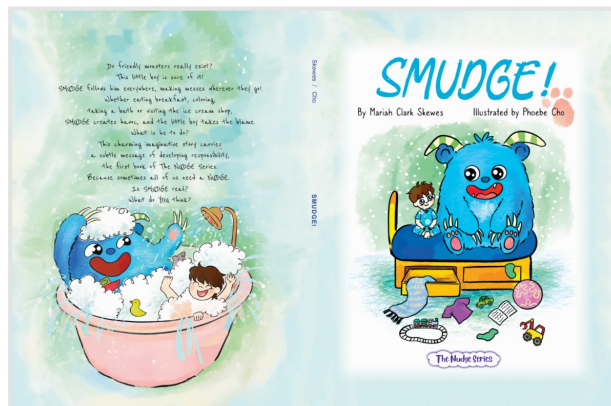
They are accepting submissions of poetry, prose, essay, short fiction, flash fiction, photographs, artwork, and collage. Questions? Contact: [submissions@coldriverpress.com](mailto:submissions@coldriverpress.com).

## KUDOS!

To Leslie Warren for staffing the GCW table at the Sierra Poetry Festival in Grass Valley on April 12.

To Mary Boyle, whose newest children's book, *SMUDGE!*, is now available for sale through her website (QR Code below) or Amazon. You have choices of hard or soft cover, and the accompanying Activity Book as well. If searching Amazon, search for *SMUDGE! (The Nudge)*.

To Chery Anderson, Heike Kutchukov, and Margie Yee Webb for their coordinated efforts in adding the GCW logo to the Auburn City Hall electronic event board. What an improvement!



Before



After

## Share Your Milestones!

Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Dispatch Editor Lisa Schliff at [onthbeamalisa@gmail.com](mailto: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: [GCWmembership@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sarahpressler2@gmail.com). Also, you can visit the GCW Facebook page, like the posts, and generate more traffic and interest in Gold Country Writers.

## Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 2

Tuesday, April 22

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

**Tuesday, April 8**

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

**Wednesday, April 9**

**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.** - Novel Group

**Friday, April 11**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Read & Review, Depoe Bay Coffee Roasters, 893 High Street, Auburn

**Wednesday, April 16**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Guest Speaker: Donna Levin.

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

**Wednesday, April 23**

**10:00 a.m. - noon** - Drop-in critique  
**noon - 2:00 p.m.** - Novel Group  
**noon - 2:00 p.m.** - Poetry Group  
**2:30 p.m.** - Sci Fi and Fantasy Group, Flames Restaurant, 13434 Lincoln Way, #3215, Auburn (Raley's Shopping Center)

**Wednesday, April 30**

**10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** - AWARDS CELEBRATION FOR POETRY AND 100-WORD STORY

**\*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, April 2, 2025**

**“Poetry Contest”** and **“100-Word Story Contest”** for GCW Members  
Contests end — entries accepted until midnight.  
<https://goldcountrywriters.com>

**Friday, April 11, 2025**

**Read and Review** — *Mission to Brimstone* by **Bill Baynes** and *Memoirs of a Track Nut* by **Michael O’Haver**  
<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/read-review-2/>

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

Author and Fiction-writing Workshop Facilitator **Donna Levin**  
“DIALOGUE: the rules, the revelations, and the room to experiment”  
<https://goldcountrywriters.com/upcoming-events/>

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025**



**Awards Celebration for “Poetry Contest” and “100-Word Story Contest”**

Details to be announced.

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

Author and World-renowned Drummer **Zoro**

“THE POWER OF DREAMING BIG”

<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!

To view past Guest Speaker videos, visit the GCW website:

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

**Susan Osborn and Sarah Michie Pressler**, "Lettuce Laugh: Adding Humor to your Writing," March 19, 2025

<https://youtu.be/uE05FbmBUFG>

**Randy Landenberger**, "Turning Your Story into an Audiobook: Here's the Reality," January 15, 2025

<https://youtu.be/YwU7yVGCz7Y>

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

**GCW OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRS**

**PRESIDENT:** Susan Korn

**VICE PRESIDENT - INTERNAL AFFAIRS:**  
Barbara Young

**VICE PRESIDENT - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** Pat Snelling

**TREASURER:** Heike Kutchukov

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.

**Inspirational Group:** 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. 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:** "Temporarily suspended" re: Rebecca Inch-Partridge, rebeccapartridge@att.net.

**Novel Group:** Contact Lisa Schliff, onthebeamalisa@gmail.com or Pat Snelling, gold95633@gmail.com. Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from noon to 2:00 p.m.

**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 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.

**DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP:** Nicolle Goldman

**SECRETARY:** Position available

**DIRECTOR OF SPEAKER PROGRAMS:** Margie Yee Webb

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:** Chery Anderson

**DIRECTOR OF MENTOR PROGRAM:** Susan Korn

**WEB MASTER:** Nicolle Goldman

**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

### Literary Events and More

#### Cameron Park Library —

**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 95682, 530-621-5500*

**Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, April 1, 2025** - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Spring Reading and Open Mic** - with Featured Readers Susie Kaufman and Joe Walsh. Hosted by EDC Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gulate and Author Beverly Parayno. Light refreshments will be provided. Poets and writers are invited to participate in the Open Mic.

*Cameron Park Library, 2500 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park, CA 95682, 530-621-5500*

**The Center for the Arts - Saturday, April 12, 2025** - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Sierra Poetry Festival** - “an international festival marking National Poetry Month from the rolling foothills of California’s Gold Country to the rugged High Sierra, bringing our rich literary community together to celebrate the spoken word and reach out to new audiences in fresh ways. Readings, workshops, a literary fair and youth performances are preceded by a month of pre-festival pop-up poetry events.” For more info and tickets,

visit: <https://www.sierrapoetryfestival.org/>.

*The Center for the Arts, 314 W. Main Street, Grass Valley CA 95945*

**Chateau Davell — Sunday, April 13, 2025** - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Poetry of the Sierra Foothills - Reading and Open Mic** featuring poets and authors Shawn Pittard and Gene Berson, and hosted by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gulate. Poets and writers are invited to participate in the open mic.

*Chateau Davell Winery, 3020 Vista Tierra Drive, Camino, CA 95709*

(Right off Highway 50, four miles from Placerville)

**Cameron Park Library — Thursday, April 17, 2025** - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Poets and Writers Workshop** led by El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus Lara Gulate and author Beverly Parayno — held on the first Tuesday (usually) 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 95682, 530-621-5500*

**Face In A Book Bookstore — Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**Independent Bookstore Day** — “a one-day national party that takes place at indie bookstores across the country on the last Saturday in April. Every store is unique and independent, and every party is different.” For activities at Face In A Book, visit: <https://www.getyourfaceinabook.com/>.

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

**Face In A Book Bookstore — Sunday, April 27, 2025** - 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. Note: April meeting changed to fourth Sunday (due to Easter on third

Sunday). <https://www.getyourfaceinabook.com/event/writers-coffeehouse>

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

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

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