



# Gold Country Writers

*Forging Better Writers*

## September 2025 Dispatch Newsletter

### About Us

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.



## President's Message

Everyone has stories. Some are even true. When we share our real-life stories with family and friends, we might start with "Remember when..." or "You wouldn't believe what happened..." Then we launch into a true tale with an inciting incident, well-drawn characters, dialogue that brings a scene to life, and a story arc that flows to a satisfying end—the whole package.

Why not put one of those stories into writing? Then look at our Nonfiction Short Story Contest Rules and Judging Rubric Overview (in this newsletter and on the GCW website Home page). Polish your story with a cycle of editing and revising. Then read the Rules and Rubric again before running your story through another revision cycle. Double-check the formatting: font (Times New Roman, 12pt), double-spaced lines, one-inch margins, page numbers centered at the bottom, and title centered at the top. Make sure nothing in your story identifies you as the author, and the word count is under 1,500. Get your story straight—every detail matters.

Then, before midnight on September 17, submit your story online through the GCW website. The fee is only \$10 for GCW members (\$15 for non-members in neighboring counties). You could win \$100, \$75, or \$50 cash in gold coins.

Winning stories will be read aloud at the Short Story Contest Celebration on Saturday, October 4. Mark your calendar, see you there!

Keep Writing,  
Nicolle Goldman

# Calendar of Meetings September 2025

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

<b>Tuesday, September 2</b>	
Memoir Critique Atwood Business Park, 11768 Atwood Road, Auburn. <i>Currently full.</i>	
<b>Wednesday, September 3</b>	
General Business Meeting	10:00 a.m. - Noon
Evening Mixed Genre Critique Max's Cafe, Auburn	5:15 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, September 10</b>	
Drop-in Critique	10:00 a.m. - noon
Poetry Group	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Inspirational Group	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Children's Lit	noon - 2:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, September 16</b>	
Memoir Critique Atwood Business Park 11768 Atwood Rd., Auburn. <i>Currently full.</i>	
<b>Wednesday, September 17</b>	
Guest Speaker: Bob Stanley, "Why is This a Poem?"	10:00 a.m. - noon
Story Writing Contest CLOSING: 1500 Words Nonfiction (Open to the Public)	Contest closes at Midnight
<b>Wednesday, September 24</b>	
Drop-in Critique	10:00 a.m. - noon

Poetry Group	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Sci Fi and Fantasy Group Flames Restaurant, 3434 Lincoln Way, #3215, Auburn (Raley's Shopping Center)	2:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Events: Save The Dates!

by Margie Yee Webb

*The Speaker Programs, scheduled on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except in August and December), are free and open to the public. Writers, readers, and guests are invited! Join in for these engaging events!*

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

**3rd Wednesday Speaker Program**

Sacramento Poet Laureate Emeritus **Bob Stanley**

"Why Is This a Poem?"

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

**Saturday, October 4, 2025**

**GCW Nonfiction 1,500-Word Short Story Contest Awards CELEBRATION**

Keynote speaker **Joan Griffin** will present "Unleash Your Inner Storyteller: Turning True Events to Stories." Join us as we honor the finalists and the winning stories of the 1500-word Nonfiction Short Story Contest. Reception following.

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/nonfiction-short-story-contest-celebration/>

**Friday, October 10, 2025**

**Read and Review** — *The True Story of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stevens: The Ghosts of Kennicott* by **Randy Landenberger** (writing as Randy L. Scott) and *Out Loud: A Writing Adventure for Women* by **Catharine Bramkamp**

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/read-review-4/>

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

Former Journalist and Author **Anne Da Vigo**

"Creating Fiction from Real Events"

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

**Wednesday, October 29, 2025**

**GCW 5th Wednesday Social** — Details to be announced.

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/event/social-event-5th-wednesday/2025-10-29/>

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

Writing Coach and Author **Catharine Bramkamp**

"The Creative Impulse in an Age of False Perfection"

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



# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## NONFICTION SHORT STORY CONTEST

AUG. 6 - SEPT. 17, 2025

Original, unpublished, true stories  
Up to 1500 words per MS Word

Entry \$15 public & \$10 members  
Standard manuscript format  
The author will retain rights

One entry per person residing in  
Placer, Yuba, El Dorado, Nevada,  
Sutter, Sacramento counties  
Celebration of winners October 4  
Auburn City Hall 2 P.M.

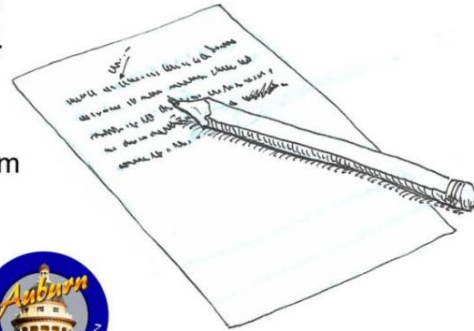
ENTER AT: [www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)  
INFO: [goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com](mailto:goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com)

### Cash Prizes

**\$100 First**

**\$75 Second**

**\$50 Third**



Gold  
Country  
Media





# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## Nonfiction Short Story Contest

### Rules

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Contest open to Gold Country Writers members and to non-member residents of El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, or Yuba counties.
- Short story must be nonfiction, unpublished, with word count **less than 1,500 words** (as shown in Microsoft Word, not including the title)
- No fiction, poetry, essays, opinion pieces, violence, sex, racism, politics, religious doctrine, or AI-generated stories.
- One submission per entrant. Must be 18 or older.

#### WHEN TO SUBMIT

- Contest opens August 6, 2025, and closes on **midnight on September 17, 2025**.

#### FORMAT

- Times New Roman font, 12-point, with double-spaced lines and 1-inch margins.
- Title centered at top of each page, and page number centered at bottom.
- Author's name and identifying information must not appear anywhere in the story.
- Story must be a single Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat file.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- Entries will only be accepted through the Gold Country Writers website at <https://goldcountrywriters.com/short-story-contest-entry-form-2025/>
- Entry fees are not refundable, \$15 for Public and \$10 for Gold Country Writers members, payable online using PayPal at <https://goldcountrywriters.com/entry-fee/>
- If unable to pay online, fee may be paid by check at a Gold Country Writers meeting or mailed to P.O. Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604.
- Story and entry fee must BOTH be submitted before contest closes. No revisions.

#### FINAL WORD

- The Judging Rubric Overview is available on the Gold Country Writers website at <https://goldcountrywriters.com/short-story-contest-judging-rubric-overview>
- You agree that if you should win, your story may be printed in the Gold Country Media family of newspapers, the Gold Country Writers Anthology, and in the Gold Country Writers newsletter (The Dispatch).
- Contest Celebration—where winners' stories will be read aloud— will be held Saturday, October 4, at Auburn City Hall and will be recorded by ACTV Auburn Community Television.
- Gold Country Writers reserves the right to make the final determination on all rules.



# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## Short Story Contest

### Judging Rubric Overview

To be eligible for judging, a story must follow all Contest Rules as available online at <https://goldcountrywriters.com/nonfiction-short-story-contest-rules/>.

Judges will score stories “blind”—without information to identify the author and will assess a score from 1 (Low) to 5 (High) for each of these categories:

1. Opening
2. Closing
3. Story Arc
4. Story Impact
5. Characters
6. Description
7. Language
8. Theme
9. Mechanics
10. Flow
11. Spelling
12. Grammar

Only the stories with the highest scores will be submitted to the Guest Judge for final selection.





# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS

## 2025 NONFICTION SHORT STORY CONTEST



KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**JOAN GRIFFIN**  
"Unleash Your Inner Storyteller:  
Turning True Events to Stories"

Auburn City Hall Council Chambers  
& Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn California 95603  
[www.goldcountrywriters.com](http://www.goldcountrywriters.com)

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 4  
2:00 - 4:00 PM  
AWARDS CELEBRATION**

Join us as we honor the finalists  
and the winning stories of the  
1500-word Nonfiction  
Short Story Contest.  
Reception following.

**PUBLIC INVITED FREE**



## GCW Speaker for September 2025

**An Intriguing Take on Poetry**

by Margie Yee Webb

We are pleased to welcome Bob Stanley for a presentation to Gold Country Writers. On Wednesday, September 17, 2025, he will present "Why Is This a Poem?"

An intriguing question, an intriguing take . . . Sacramento Poet Laureate Emeritus Bob Stanley will explain how poetry, both traditional and modern, has enriched his life in many ways for the last five decades. Although his focus will be on writing itself as an important component of a full life, he will provide some ideas for publishing poetry. We will enjoy a treat when he reads some of his poems, as well as poems by other writers.

**Bob Stanley** studied Poetry and Literature at Caltech and UCLA in the 1970s. After working in his family's automotive business for nearly 30 years, he returned to college to earn a Masters degree in English at Sacramento State University in 2005. He taught English and Creative Writing at Solano College, Sacramento City College, and Sacramento State University before retiring in 2021.

Bob has organized poetry events in California for many years, and while serving as President of the Sacramento Poetry Center from 2007 to 2019, he was selected as Sacramento's fifth Poet Laureate, serving from 2009 to 2012. His books include *Walt Whitman Orders a Cheeseburger* (2009), *Miracle Shine* (2013), and *Language Barrier* (2024). Bob and his wife Joyce live in Sacramento and organize online poetry seminars that help support nonprofit organizations.



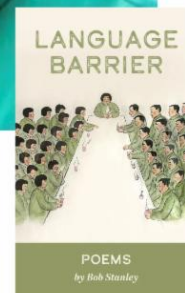
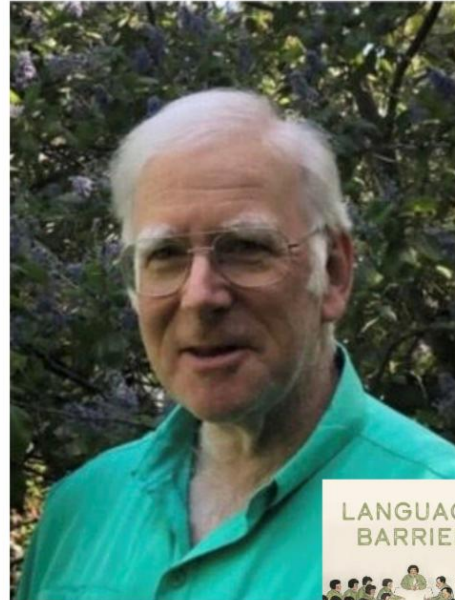
# GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS



## BOB STANLEY

### "Why Is This a Poem?"

Sacramento Poet Laureate Emeritus Bob Stanley will explain how poetry, both traditional and modern, has enriched his life in many ways for the last five decades. He will provide some ideas for publishing, and focus on writing itself as an important component of a full life. Also, he will read some of his poems, as well as poems by other writers. Bob taught English and Creative Writing at Solano College, Sacramento City College, and then taught at Sacramento State University before retiring in 2021. He was President of the Sacramento Poetry Center from 2007 to 2019. He was selected as Sacramento's fifth Poet Laureate, serving from 2009 to 2012. Bob's books include *Walt Whitman Orders a Cheeseburger* (2009), *Miracle Shine* (2013), and *Language Barrier* (2024). Bob and his wife Joyce live in Sacramento and organize online poetry seminars that help support nonprofit organizations.



**Sept. 17, 2025**

**10 A.M. to NOON**

**AUBURN CITY HALL  
ROSE ROOM**

**1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn CA 95603**

**goldcountrywriters.com**

**PUBLIC INVITED FREE**

## Wednesday, August 20, 2025 GCW 3rd Wednesday Special Programs

by Marla Mion

**"All About the Mentor Program" with Susan Korn  
and  
"Honoring GCW Spin-off Critique Groups" with Sarah Pressler**

During our meeting on August 20, former president Susan Korn explained the Gold Country Writers Mentorship Program. Susan adapted the program she used while working at Kaiser Permanente, which was designed to develop employees in management roles.

Susan shared the steps in the Mentor Program for writers who are interested in becoming a mentor or asking for a mentor to help with their writing. When selecting a mentor, ask yourself, "Are we a good match?" Schedule regular meetings to hold each other accountable. Set goals. Susan recommended 3 tangible goals. Determine an outcome by asking, "What are my expectations? Are they achievable?"



Susan Korn, GCW Mentor Program Manager, presents on the benefits and results of the program (photo by Margie Yee Webb)



## How we get there

GCW Mentor Program Read and Understand  
Read expectations Is it a Fit for YOU?

**Select a Mentor**

**Make a Connection**

**Get to know each other**

**Sign Terms of Agreement**

Follow the Program Process/ Set Goals/ Set Timeline/ Evaluate Results

Annie Hendrix and Bil Baynes spoke about their experience working together. Bil has been mentoring Annie as she works towards her goal of publishing her collection of poems. Susan mentored Tzeli Triantafillou to help her write a book about the mind-body-spirit connection and strategies to help people heal from trauma and burnout. Susan helped Tzeli to make the science digestible for lay readers. In addition, Susan worked with Mary Mohs for three months to help her finish her book, *Exploring the Sacred Mystery*. Terry Wicks spoke about her experience working with Betsy Schwarzentraub to finish the first volume of her memoir. Betsy mentored Terry for over a year.





Annie Hendrix, Bill Baynes, Mary Mohs, and Tzeli Triantafillou share their experiences participating in the Mentor Program (photo by Margie Yee Webb)

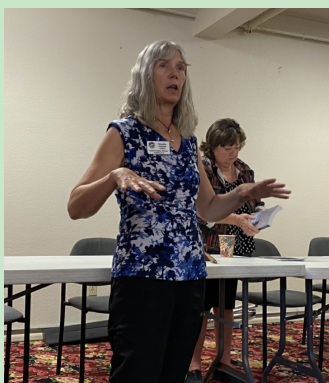
### **"Honoring GCW Spin-off Critique Groups" with Sarah Pressler**

For the second presentation of the meeting, Sarah explained the different Spin-off Critique Groups that are available to members of GCW, some of which have existed for 13 years. Detailed information about these groups can be found on the GCW website.

<https://goldcountrywriters.com/genre-specific-critique-groups/>



Sarah Pressler, outgoing Director of Spin-off Critique Groups, presents on the various groups available. (photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Nicolle Goldman answers a question from the audience about Drop-in Critique (on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays). (photo by Margie Yee Webb)



Barbara Young shares her experience participating in two Spin-off Critique Groups — Inspirational and Children's. (photo by Margie Yee Webb)

## **GCW Writers Retreat at "The Ranch"**

by Margie Yee Webb



On Wednesday, July 30, Terry Wicks hosted a Writers Retreat at "The Ranch" — her historic ranch in Penryn.



**Moments of connection to start the GCW Writers Retreat**

Joy Hemp, Susan Osborn, Eldon Luce, Kate Luce, Margie Yee Webb, Libby Taylor-Worden, Susan Korn, Nicolle Goldman, Deborah Marcus, Jojo Cook, Terry Wicks (photo by Audie)



**Immediate past president  
with authors to be**  
Susan Korn, Kate Luce, Eldon Luce  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



**Captured . . . writers talking stories**  
Susan Osborn, Michael O'Haver, Susan  
Korn, Terry Wicks, Joy Hemp  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)





**"Island" life for these two writers**  
Deborah Marcus, Jojo Cook  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



**Current president  
reflecting on her writing**  
Nicolle Goldman  
(photo by Margie Yee Webb)



## Nuggets

by Randy Landenberger

I do a lot of searching. Not for meaning in my life, and not for a good woman (thankfully I found her!), but for information, inspiration, and clarity in my writing and storytelling.

I listen to podcasts about the writing life, tips on craft, and the business of authorship. I follow blogs and newsletters from movers and shakers in the field. YouTube, too, is a gold mine of insight.



Of course, as with any prospecting, you have to sift through the flood of advice. The trick is to run all those deposits through a proverbial sluice box—separating treasure from tailings. And yes, there's plenty of fool's gold out there.

That's what gave me the idea for this column: **Nuggets**. (We are Gold Country, after all!) As much as I love to explain (and ramble), my goal here is to be brief and to the point. I won't go much into details, but instead point you to gems I've discovered. It's up to you to make the time to dig deeper.

This month's nugget: a clear, eye-opening look at querying agents—both how to sort through the giant pile of them, and how to decide if the one who is interested in your work is the right fit. I chose this subject to start with because it connects perfectly to

GCW's July's presentation, *Pitching to Agents*, by Jennifer K. Morita. If you missed it, the recording is available on ACTV—Auburn Community Television—and on our GCW website: [goldcountrywriters.com/gcw-videos](http://goldcountrywriters.com/gcw-videos).

The resource comes from John Matthew Fox—better known as **Bookfox**—and his excellent YouTube channel: [How to Find the Right Literary Agent](#)  
Fox has more than 380 videos, all fast-paced, fact-based, and often laced with humor and experience based opinions..

I've got a whole panful of nuggets to share—one at a time, each month. Stay tuned, and you just might find yourself (and your writing) richer for the effort.

## Read and Review 2025 Book Lineup

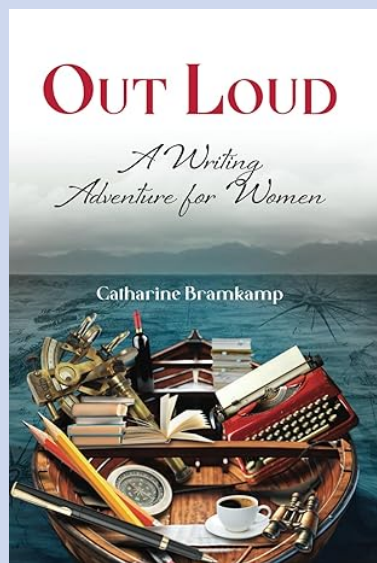
Read and Review is our very own GCW book club

### Upcoming Books for Read and Review

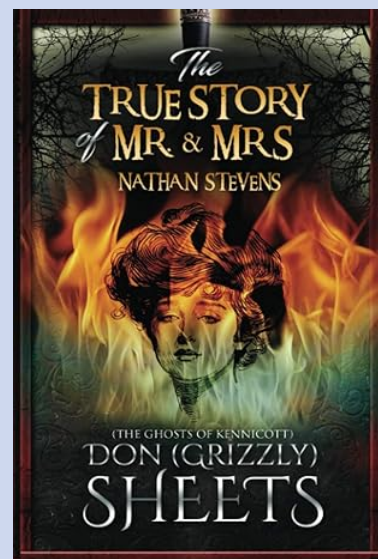
Our next Read and Review will be Friday, October 10 at Depoe Bay in downtown Auburn. We'll be discussing the titles pictured below. We meet from 10:00 until noon in the back room. Please consider joining us.

Our first Read and Review of 2026 will be Friday, January 16, 2026. We will be discussing two memoirs, *The Ranch* by Terry Wicks and *His Story is My Story* by Elke McKee. Both books are available for checkout in our GCW library.  
More to come with a complete line-up for 2026 in the October Dispatch.

Kelly Lardner, Coordinator  
[lrdnr@yahoo.com](mailto:lrdnr@yahoo.com)



*Out Loud: A Writing Adventure for Women,*



*The True Story of  
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Stevens*



## Kudos to Our Members!

### To Sarah Pressler:

She is having a zoom launch for her newest book, *The Little Askari*, on Sept. 6 between 10 and 11 am.

Sarah is also launching her new website, Call Me Malvina, on Sept. 1.



### To Joan Griffin

Joan hosts a monthly "Spotlight on Authors" interview series on Zoom for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Sierra College. Joan welcomes inquiries from local authors.

### To Kelly Lardner

Kelly will be interviewed on Joan's program on October 3.

### To Jeaninne Escallier Kato

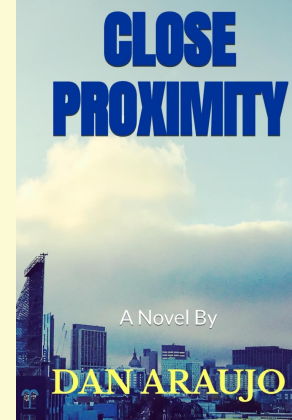
For her public television show for Auburn Community TV called "Staging the Third Act." She has interviewed several GCW members, and episodes are available on YouTube under her show title.

Jeaninne welcomes new interview subjects. If you are a childless Boomer planning to leave your creative legacy to the universe, she would love to interview you! Please contact her for more information: [gnjkato@pacbell.net](mailto:gnjkato@pacbell.net)

### To Dan Araujo

Dan is a newcomer to GCW and has been writing screenplays and short stories as well as articles.

He recently published his first novel *Close Proximity* on Amazon, a romantic action adventure about a private investigator and an actress caught up in police corruption. It's set in the Bay Area where Dan grew up.



**To Susan M. Osborn**

*Coincidences and Other Spooky Connections* is Susan's latest book. This genre-blending work was both fun to write and a challenge to create. Based on a theme of connections it links parapsychology, Eastern mysticism, modern physics, and elephants. It concludes that connections bring us joy, support, and a sense of belonging. This fascinating exploration is available on Amazon and Ingram Sparks in paperback and eBook.



### Welcome To Our New Member:

**Judith (Jude) Brooks:** She found us through her writer's group. She has published one book: *Astronomy 101*, which she co-authored.

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## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

Please submit all Kudos, articles, images, and news to Marla Mion at [marlamion2100@gmail.com](mailto:marlamion2100@gmail.com).

All submissions are due by midnight on the 26th of the month. Late submissions may not be included until the following month. Thank you!

### Share Your Milestones!

Please send news of your writing milestones and accomplishments to Dispatch Editor Marla Mion at [marlamion2100@gmail.com](mailto:marlamion2100@gmail.com). Your news will be posted in the Kudos column. We want to read about you!

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# 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/>

**Jennifer K. Morita**, "Querying A to Q — Pitching to Literary Agents," July 16, 2025  
<https://youtu.be/Eu184wvSda4>

**Jennifer Basye Sander**, "Digging for Factual Treasure," June 18, 2025  
[https://youtu.be/-I93n\\_PmsRU](https://youtu.be/-I93n_PmsRU)

**Donna Levin**, "DIALOGUE: the rules, the revelations, and the room to experiment," April 16, 2025 <https://youtu.be/0a9IWS-nc-M>

**Susan M. 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>

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## Critique Group Information

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:**  
**Rebecca Inch-Partridge**

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.

**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.

**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.

**Novel Group:** No longer meeting

### 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.

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## Out of Town Literary Events

by Margie Yee Webb

**Cameron Park Library — Tuesday, September 2, and Thursday, September 18, 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 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*

**Folsom Public Library — Saturday, September 6, 2025 - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Rosanne S. McHenry**, aka Ranger Rose, will present humorous stories about her life as a park ranger from her two books — *Tales From a Rogue Ranger*, and *Trip Tales: From Family Camping to Life as a Ranger*. She has worked as a National Park Ranger and a California State Park Ranger in many different locations, including the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mount Rainier National Park, Auburn State Recreation Area, and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

<https://www.library.folsom.ca.us/>

*Folsom Public Library, 411 Stafford Street, Folsom, CA 95630, 916-461-6131*

**Face In A Book Bookstore — Sunday, September 21, 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. <https://www.getyourfaceinabook.com/event/writers-coffeehouse>  
*Face In A Book Bookstore, 4359 Town Center Blvd. #113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762*

**Great Valley Bookfest — Saturday, October 11, 2025 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The book festival will feature authors, seminars, poetry readings, arts & crafts vendors, book sales, plus gourmet food & beverage vendors. Authors can apply to participate at: <https://gvbookfest.org/vendors/>. Their mission is "to create a family-friendly festival that celebrates literacy and promotes the written word in the heart of California's Central Valley." <https://gvbookfest.org/>

*The Promenade Shops at Orchard Valley (aka Bass Pro Center), Highway 120 at Union Rd exit. 280 Lifestyle Road, Manteca, CA 95337*

**Capitol Crimes at Rancho Cordova City Hall — Saturday, October 25, 2025 - 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Capitol Crimes Criminally Good 2025 Writers' Conference** — July Speaker Jennifer K. Morita said, "Catriona McPherson will be our keynote speaker. Bestselling authors Simon Wood will be talking about raising suspense and stakes, and Edgar Award-nominated Michelle Chouinard will be discussing humor in mysteries, plus many more. We will also have law enforcement experts, including a missing persons investigator and weapons expert, and literary agent Laurie McLean." For complete details: <https://www.capitolcrimes.org/event-6205013>

*Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670*

**Elk Grove Writers Conference — Saturday, October 25, 2025 - 8 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.**

The 4th biennial conference will feature Keynote Speaker Chris Hennessy; authors Karen Trinkaus, Shawn Langwell, Joan Griffin, Jordan Rosenfeld, Dr. Lally Pia, Gini Grossenbacher; and Literary Agent Jessica Larios-Zarate. Topics include: narrative nonfiction that captivates readers; memoir writing that inspires and moves; pro marketing and self-promotion strategies that work; and cutting-edge AI tools for writers. Betsy Schwarzentraub said, "It's designed so we'll get to hear all of the workshop speakers, and the keynoter...", and she encouraged us to "consider carpooling together." For complete details: <https://egweg.org/conference2025>.

*Holiday Inn, 9175 West Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95758*

# Become a Member of Gold Country Writers!

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## Gold Country Writers Leadership Team

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VP – External Affairs (2024-2026).....Pat Snelling

Secretary (2025-2027).....Annie Hendrix

Treasurer (2024-2026).....Heike Kutchukov

### Directors

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Director of Communications.....Chery Anderson

Director of Speaker Programs.....Margie Yee Webb

Director of Spin-off Critique Groups.....Rebecca Inch-Partridge



### Other Leaders & Coordinators

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Librarian.....	Kathryn Shields
Social Media Coordinator.....	Michael O'Haver
Audio-Visual Tech.....	Randy Landenberger/Phil Jacques
Drop-In Critique Coordinator.....	Frank Nissen
Historian.....	Barbara Young
Security Manager.....	Terry Wicks
Greeters.....	Kathryn Shields/Terry Wicks

\*The Board is following our By-Laws to fill the vacancy and expects to install Joan Griffin as Director of Membership in Sept 2025

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

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