

April, 2022

GCW Dispatch



Forging Better Writers

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100 Word Story Contest



The 100 Word Story Contest for 2022 will officially start on April 20th. There is a special e-mail address just for our contests. See below.

The rules are as follows:

Only one entry per GCW member allowed. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to each entrant. The Hats Off celebration will be held on June 8, 2022 in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall. Hyphenated words will count as one word. There will be \$ rewards for 1-3 places. There will be a prize for the best hat.

Start Date—April 20, 2022

End Date—May 18, 2022

E-mail—contest@goldcountrywriters.com

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes will be awarded and the stories will be printed in the June *Dispatch*, as well as the 10th Anniversary. Jody Brady is the chairperson. Details on the awards celebration are forthcoming.

Mary Helen Fein, our guest speaker on March 16, 2022, spoke on writing family history. Her 2nd book—*Stitching a Life*, is a memoir about her grandmother who migrated from Lithuania to New York at the age of 16 to start a family and work in the New York garment industry. Mary was raised lovingly by her grandmother and this book is a tribute to her.

The research for the book covered people, places, and things. She started with what she could remember and made up the rest. She visited New York and Lithuania and recommended Census, Ancestry.com, and church records for resources when writing memoirs. She also relied heavily on other writers, GCW critique groups, editors, and a hybrid publisher for assistance.

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GCW Poetry Contest

There were 18 entries.

The winning poems & authors are:

1st-Daddy's Girl
by Darlene Kapur

2nd-Morning in Winter
by Karen DeFoe

3rd-Monkeys
by Kathleen Ward

The awards celebration was on March 30, 2022 in the Rose Room of Auburn City Hall. A good time was had by all.

Winning poems on Page 4

Mary Helen Fein—*Stitching a Life* (cont.)

She spent time on Ellis Island and visited the Statue of Liberty which had only been in place in New York Harbor ten years when her grandmother arrived in the United States.

Talking about her writing process, Mary Helen said her background as an English major motivated her to write chronologically from the beginning to the end and to make sure it was perfect. She did come back and add detail from her in-person visits. She said everyone's writing process is a little different and recommended doing what works best for each writer.

Mary Helen was asked to give a virtual presentation for New York City's Tenement Museum on February 8. This presentation was part of a series of "Virtual Book Talks" that the museum offers to feature authors. The museum held this talk on YouTube live.

She said the spiritual benefits for her from writing memoirs include inspiration from her ancestors, their courage in overcoming adversity, the wisdom they imparted, and the planning skills they employed.

Mary Helen currently consults on website design and is the GCW Webmaster. She can be reached at her website —<https://www.maryhelenfein.com/>



Read & Review

Our next book reviewed will be on April 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at Depoe Bay. We'll be discussing Betsy's new book *Tossed in Time* and Georgette Unis' poetry book *Watercolors in the Desk Drawer*.

GCW has several copies of each book on hand available for check out. Email Kathryn Shields if you are interested in checking out copies. Kelly Lardner is the Read and Review Coordinator.



GCW Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, our regular monthly meetings are held in the Rose Room at the Auburn City Hall.

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss organizational business. All are welcome to attend.

Second & Fourth Wednesdays: Drop-In Critique.

Third Wednesday: Special educational programs of general interest to all, open to the public. Topics change each month. See the last page for the Speaker of the Month.

Fifth Wednesday: On the rare occasion there is one, we have a special program at our usual meeting place or meet at a local restaurant for brunch. Join us for fun and socializing with members and guests.

YOUNG SCRIBES: GCW is inviting high school writers to attend the Drop-in Critique meeting on April 6 at Round Table, in the Elm Center at 5:30 p.m. and on April 13 at the Rose Room at 10:00 a.m. If you know any Young Scribes, please pass along the invitation.

Member Kudos

Barbara Young for her book, *The Heart That Rocks Health Care*, that's now live on Amazon, and for her incredible work on the 2021 Annual Report.

Chery Anderson for her creative presentation about GCW on Feb. 21 to the North State Writers.

Dorothe Kress for her book, *Love Behind the Iron Curtain*, which is now published and in the mail to her.

Frank Nissen for getting the go-ahead from his publisher to design his own cover.

Kelly Lardner for mailing her first book to the publisher.

Kathryn Shields for having her middle-school book, *On the Point of the Star*, in the formatting stage and her galley in hand.

Betsy Schwarzentraub for her book workshop on Feb. 12 and March 10 book-related webinar for Michigan clergy, and for her thorough job as secretary.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge and Chery Anderson for their work on our Tenth Anniversary anthology, *Ink Spots*.

Bill Baynes and Chery Anderson for their amazing work on our website's Resource Pages.

Rebecca Inch-Partridge, Phyliss Kalbach, and Mary Helen Fein. On March 22, the Placer Women Democrats club celebrated Women's History Month by inviting 9 extraordinary accomplished women authors to speak at their meeting. Rebecca, Phyliss & Mary Helen were chosen and spoke about their writing processes, and why they write.

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator: Rebecca Inch-Partridge

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

Children's Lit: Contact Sarah Pressler. Meets 3rd Thurs., at 1 p.m. at Sarah's home. Can take new members.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Leaf and Bean (across from the Court House) Open to new members.

Memoir: NEW GROUP Contact is Philip Jacques (for the next three months at least). Meets the 1st Tues of each month. The group meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. meets at Round Table Pizza on Elm in Auburn. Open to new members.

Memoir Share: Old Group Revived, Contact Terry Wicks. Meets Tuesdays at the Round Table on Combie Rd. near Lake of the Pines, Meets in person & emphasizes sharing & caring, not in-depth critiquing, open to new members.

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein, meets 2nd Saturday each month at private home from 1—4 p.m. Closed to new members.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Drop in at Round Table Pizza, 1st Wed. of the month, 5:45 p.m.

Flash Fiction: Resume, Contact Chery Anderson, meets by e-mail.

Poetry: Contact Georgette Unis. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed. @ 12:30 p.m. Sharing poems in the Rose Room. Open to new members.

Mystery Contact Robin DeLey. Meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. at parks & via Zoom. Open to new members.



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

V P - Internal Affairs: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction, Short Stories, Poetry

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events:

Vacant

Treasurer & Membership: Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

Secretary: Betsy Schwarzentraub

Genres ~ Christian Nonfiction, Devotions, & Book Reviews

Guest Speakers: Margie Yee Webb

Genres ~ Gift Books & Flash Fiction

Public Relations: Chery Anderson

Genre ~ Short Stories

Web Master: Mary Helen Fein

Genre ~ Novel, Poetry

Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:

Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Read & Review Coordinator:

Kelly Lardner

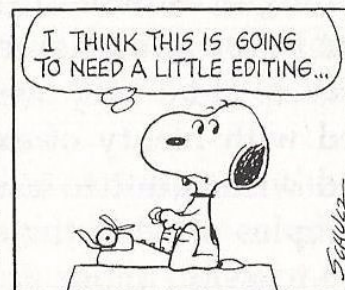
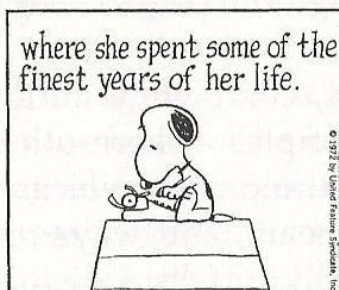
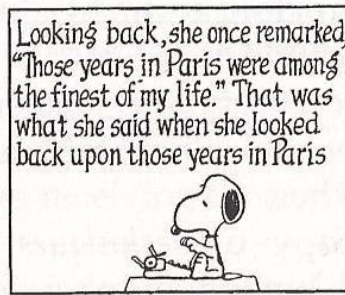
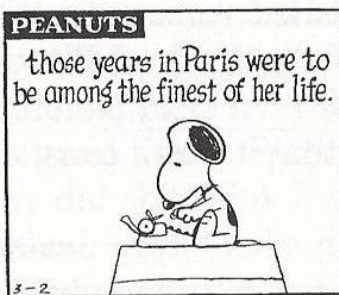
Genre ~ Memoir, Fiction

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver

Genres ~ Christian Children's, Memoir, Non Fiction, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction, Poetry, & Newsletters

Submit newsletter material by the 15th of each month to GodsScribeMike@gmail.com

A Writer's Life



1st Place

Daddy's Girl

By: Darlene Kapur

Your sweet smile, dimpled chin
Eyes a warm gold brown,
Oh yes, my sweet, you're Daddy's
Girl, his princess with a crown

Hold his picture close my love
Sit quietly with me,
We'll sing his favorite hymns today
We'll make him proud, you'll see

The guns are pointed to the sky
An honor few receive, now picture him
With arms held wide, oh, you're too
Young to grieve
Everyone's so caring, people
Are too kind, hands are reaching out
To us but I've gone somehow blind

Daddy rests beneath the stone
In perfect rank and file,
Now take the flag and thank the man,
Try your best to smile.



2nd Place

Mourning in Winter

A Hybrid Sonnet for
Francesco and Will

By: Karen DeFoe

The frigid hand of winter has begun
To paint the sky in steely shades of gray
And dim the light and warmth of Autumn's sun
To lengthen hours of darkness in the day.
While Boreas exhales his icy breath,
And bends the boughs that shake against the cold,
The frost from naughty Jack brings sudden death
To comely flowers I could once behold.
A melancholy madness may portend



The rolling fog - the sleet - the freezing snow,
But I, with April heart, do not intend
To dwell on winter's darkness or its woe.

For frost will thaw and bluebirds soon will sing
As light returns and new life blooms in spring.

3rd Place

Monkeys

By: Kathleen Ward

Greg believes
that every tree
holds monkeys
in its branches.
Each tree we pass
on our daily walk
must be inspected
carefully, lovingly,
for primate habitation.
Chattering leaves
and rustling boughs
fire his small-boy heart,
and he keeps looking—
a leaping, jabbering
simian child
searching for his soul-mates.

At two, Greg doesn't under-
stand about cages and bars
and curious stares;
he runs free and imagines
his chimps do too.

I know there are no mon-
keys wild
in Northern California,
but Greg believes,
so I look with him,
humoring him, and praying
we'll find one.



2022 Sierra Poetry Festival

In-Person and Online

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Miners Foundry Cultural Center,

Nevada City, CA

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



St. Patties Day

Contributed by Jody Brady

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. The Irish have celebrated this day as a religious feast day for over 1500 years. St. Patrick was responsible for converting the population of Ireland from Paganism (many gods) to Catholicism. He died on March 17th in 461 AD and that day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

The traditional meal for St. Pattie's Day was Irish bacon and cabbage. Irish bacon was replaced by the less expensive corned beef that the Irish in America were introduced to by their Jewish neighbors. America truly is a "melting pot" - or corned beef and cabbage pot.

The day was first celebrated publically in America - in Boston - in 1737. The first St. Patrick's parade was held in America in New York on March 17, 1762 by Irish soldiers who were serving in the English military.

What was once a religious holiday has grown into a secular day of fun and celebration of the Irish spirit. So on March 17th - grab a pint of green beer and join your Irish friends.

Flash Fiction News Flash!

by Margie Yee Webb

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 20!

-For start of Gold Country Writers annual "100 Word Story Contest"—contest due date is May 18, with celebration of winners on June 8.

-And for the "Fun! Frantic! Flash Fiction!" writing workshop presented by Catharine Bramkamp. Bring your laptop, iPad or old-fashioned pen and paper! (See page 6 for flyer.)

Regarding workshop, Catharine said: "Flash fiction is the sonnet of the short story. Every word, each sentence matters tremendously and needs to convey movement, plot and character. What's not to love? In this workshop we will have the opportunity to discuss and define the elements of flash fiction as well as write up drafts for contest-worthy stories."

Topics will include:

-Culling the weak - What is strong imagery?

-How to choose the defining story action or moment.

-Characters - how many is too many?

-The element of surprise.

-The outsized importance of the story title.

Didn't win the Contest? Want to Improve Your Poetry? Fan Story Poetry Contest- How It Works

You'll get feedback for everything you write including your poetry contests entries. Enter these free poetry contests with cash prizes. All contests are free to enter with upgraded membership. You'll get feedback for every contest submission and for anything you write. You will be ranked. Write and see how the feedback you receive impacts your rank. Since the year 2000 we have been helping writers improve their poetry writing skills.

To enter a poetry contest simply click on the name of the contest. Enter all the details including the title of your poem, the description and the body of your poem. We recommend reading the contest rules first. Some contests have a specific topic or require that your poem follow a specified syllable count. You will get feedback for your poem after it is entered. This is something that may be pointed out in that feedback. You can also edit your poem at anytime prior to the contest deadline so we generally recommend that you enter the poetry contest prior to the deadline. Give your poem time to get feedback and you can make improvements prior to the judging of the contest.

We do update this listing daily. And every day we have a writing prompt which often includes a new poetry contest. Looking for something else? You can see our full listing of contests on our [writing contests](#) page.

Upcoming Important Events

Sat. April 2, 2022—Poetry in the Park, Empire Mine, Grass Valley, 1:30-3 p.m.

Fri., April 8, 2022—Read & Review
(See Pg. 2)

Wed., April 20, 2022—10 a.m., Guest Speaker:
Catharine Bramkamp, Short Story/Flash Fiction

Wed., April 20, 2022—100-Word Story Contest starts.

Sat., April 30, 2022 —Sierra Poetry Festival

Wed., May 18, 2022—Final 100-Word Stories Due



GOLD COUNTRY WRITERS WRITING WORKSHOP

"FUN! FRANTIC! FLASH FICTION!"

CATHARINE BRAMKAMP

Flash fiction is the sonnet of the short story. Every word and each sentence matters tremendously and needs to convey movement, plot and character.

Topics include: What is strong imagery? How many characters are too many?

The outsized importance of the story title. Catharine Bramkamp is a novelist, poet, and lecturer at Sierra College. <https://catharine-bramkamp.com/>



APRIL 20, 2022 10 AM TO NOON

FREE Public Invited FREE

BRING YOUR LAPTOP, IPAD OR OLD-FASHIONED PEN & PAPER

Auburn City Hall Rose Room
1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA

goldcountrywriters1849@gmail.com

