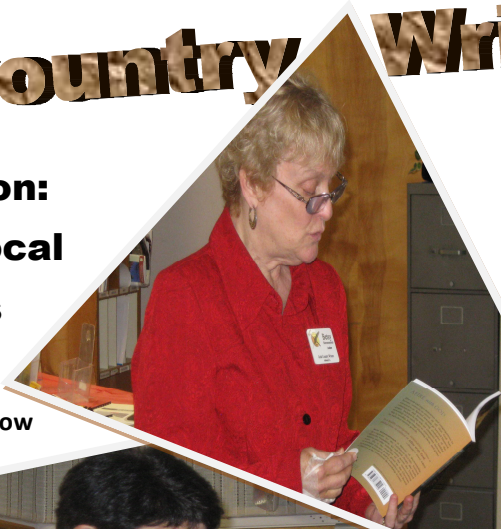


Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission: Support Local Authors

Jan
2017
Issue

Betsy Schwarzentraub to
the right, Linda Franklin below



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Kathryn Shields above
Joyce Rule to the left

December 14th was GCW Annual Christmas Celebration. There was tons of great food and tons of socializing, but the highlights of the event were the presentations by members. Betsy read an excerpt from her book on charitable giving. Linda Franklin treated us to a Christmas related chapter from her Memoir. Joyce Rule titillated our funny bones with a rather racy true story about a friend Bill's memorable Christmas with Vera May. But, perhaps the most entertaining presentation was Kathryn Shield's story about dying and going to Heaven, with accompaniment from her harp.

Member Kudos

Michael O'Haver received an invitation from VITA, an international graphic design company to join them as a graphic artist. Vida works with hand-picked artists from around the world, transforming their artwork into fashion and apparel products.

Conflict and Suspense

From Literature – Structure, Sound & Sense by
Perrine & Arp

Summarized by D. Michael O'Haver

There are various ways to keep the reader's interest in our writing. Two of the most important ways are conflict and suspense.

Conflict:

The conflict in most writing is between the central character or characters, referred to as protagonists, and the forces arrayed against them, whether persons, things, conventions of

Continued on Page 3



Periodic Resource People

+ **Debbie Griffin** – computer issues + historical fiction writing

+ **Betsy Schwarzentraub** – copy editing + Christian markets.

+ **Terry Wicks** – Share a special book my uncle wrote about Carl Sandburg

+ **Joyce Rule** – How to prepare emotionally, psychologically, technically for public speaking

+ **Pauline Nevins** – Audio book, self-publishing with CreateSpace

+ **Michael O'Haver** – Graphic illustration, creative book organization

+ **Chery Anderson** – Design for advertising, etc.

+ **Jerry Elmer** – Free software

+ **June Gillam** – Grammar questions

+ **Susan Korn** – Leadership and organizational development, team building, administrative consultant

+ **Kate Luce** – Grammar / mechanical editing

+ **Skip Michael** – How to use Word, computer, formatting book for publication

Do you have short term problems with any aspect of your writing? Following is a list of club members who are willing to work with you one-on-one to resolve your issue/issues. You may be doing this kind of thing already with others in the club. If you're willing to be put on the list, please contact Betsy Schwarzentraub at kebebetsy@gmail.com. Thank you!

100 Word Contest

We are sponsoring a 100 word contest to culminate on March 29, 2017. So, sharpen up your storytelling skills, or rather your editing skills. Margie Yee Webb will be coordinating it.

GCW Meeting Schedule

Join the **Gold Country Writers** each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High St., Auburn 95604. Our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss club business. All members are welcome to come and contribute. This is followed by a closed meeting of the club's Board of Directors.

Writer's Quote

Elizabeth Wurtzel

"Insanity is knowing that what you're doing is completely idiotic, but still, somehow, you just can't stop it."

Second & Fourth Wednesday: Drop-In Critique. This is the time when members present samples (a maximum of five pages, double-spaced) of their writing to the group and everyone gets to offer his or her critique.

Third Wednesday: Special program of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. In December it is our club Holiday Party. See Page 4 for the Speaker of the Month.

Fifth Wednesday: On the rare occasion that there is one, we have a special program or meet at Mel's Diner (at corner of Hwy. 49 & Luther Rd.) for breakfast/lunch and socializing with other club members.

PROS



FROM THE PRES

Happy newyears folks.

I am looking forward to an interesting 2017, we have many things planned for the year including the 100 word contest which is always a fun challenge. More information will be coming out about the contest soon.

January is also the time to pay our club dues, \$48.00 for the year. That's about \$1.00 a meeting or less. Most of the dues are used for ongoing expenses, like payment for the meeting room, PO Box, insurance. etc. We also have non-budgeted items, like filing for non-profit status expense. The bottom line is, we need all dues paid so that we can budget, move forward and make our club strong. You can pay your dues at a meeting or send them in to our mail box. (Makes checks payable to Gold Country Writers) mail to Gold Country Writers, PO Box 5991, Auburn, CA 95604

Skip Michael

Conflict and Suspense

of society, or traits of their own personality, called antagonists. The cheap varieties of commercial fiction often use physical conflict between clearly defined heroes and villains. In interpretive fiction the conflicts are often less obvious. Good may be opposed to good and half-truth to half-truth. In today's world, significant moral issues are often subjective and not clearly defined. Judgments are often difficult and choices are complex rather than simple.

Suspense:

This is the quality in a story that makes the reader ask – *What's next?* or *How will this turn out?* It is often inserted at the end of a chapter to get the reader to read on to find out. Suspense is enhanced when combined with anxiety about the fate of a sympathetic character. It has the reader asking – *Will the boy get the girl?* or *Will the lovers be reunited?* Two common devices for creating suspense are to introduce an element of mystery (an unusual set of circumstances where the readers craves an explanation), or to place the protagonist in a dilemma (a position in which they must choose between two courses of action, both undesirable).

Closely connected with the element of suspense is the surprise ending.

If we know before-hand exactly how a story will end, there can be no suspense. The escape story supplies a surprise ending more often than an interpretive story. There are two ways to judge the legitimacy and value of a surprise ending –

1. By the fairness with which it is achieved, and
2. By the purpose it serves.

If the surprise ending is brought about by an unlikely set of coincidences, by the planting of false clues, or by the withholding of information, than it can be dismissed as a cheap trick. If on the other hand the surprise ending seems perfectly logical as we look back on the story, we may grant it as fairly achieved.

Auburn Journal Book Review Guidelines

It is critical that we follow the correct procedure when submitting books for review by the Auburn Journal.

- 1) Only hard copy books can be submitted.
- 2) **Do not** expect the books to be returned
- 3) **Do not** submit books by taking them directly to the Auburn Journal's office.
- 4) Give the books to Book Mama June Gillam. Contact Information – 916/599-9047 or gorillagirllink@gmail.com

Special Events

GCW Special Guest Program

Jan. 18, 2017, 10-Noon at the church, **Teresa Le-Yung-Ryan** -
Where are YOU on Your Writer's Platform-Building Journey?

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, noon, at Auburn Library Canceled for January
due to the holidays. Next one will be in February.
Contact: Chery Anderson **Not a GCW Event**

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Tuesdays Noon-1 PM at Placer Co. DeWitt Center Justice Center,
Richardson Dr. & B Ave. Auburn,
Contact Michael O'Haver **Not a GCW Event**

Art Bistro-Open Mic, Storytelling

Tuesday night, Jan. 24, 2017, Comedy, Karaoke, No cover, Good
libations **Not a GCW Event**

Auburn Winter Storytelling Festival

Jan. 28, 2017, General Gomez Art & Event Center, 808 Lincoln Way,
Auburn, 10 AM – 9:00 PM, ★ Kids Hour, ★ Workshop, ★ Open
Telling, ★ Liar's Contest Contact – Chery Anderson
Not a GCW Event

Specialty Critique Groups

Coordinator ~ Pauline Nevins 530/637-9163

Historical Fiction: NEW! Contact Kathleen Ward 209/704-0719. They meet
once a month on the 4th Thursday, at 1:30 PM at The Daily Egg, 844 Lincoln
Way, Auburn

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr 530/878-8421. They meet at Norma's home
on the 4th Thurs., 2-4 p.m.

Book: Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852. They meet at Depoe Bay,
on 2nd & 4th Wed, 12-3 p.m.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Hester Jones 805/905-9034

Memoirs: Contact Linda Franklin 530/878-2138. They meet at Depoe Bay on
3rd Wednesdays 12-3 p.m.

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday, 2:30 –
5:00 p.m.



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairpersons

President : Skip Michael
916/601-1044 Genre ~ Sci. Fi.
Vice President - Internal
Affairs: Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852

Genre ~ Christian Nonfiction
Vice President - External
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Storytelling

Treasurer: Joy Hemp
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Help & Inspirational

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530/268-2490 Genre ~
Christian Children's Books &
Poetry

Assistant Secretary:
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Genre ~ Short Stories

Mentor Coordinator:
Susan Korn 530/888-9971
Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate
Culture

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Rule 916/521-5177
Genre ~ Short Stories

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Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers &
Poetry

Membership & Guest Speakers
Margie Yee Webb 916/213-
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