

November, 2020

GCW Dispatch

Our mission is to support local writers



GCW Staying Alive & Thriving

Several of GCW members, including Susan, Alan, Terry & Betsy, conducted a drive-by visit to some of our members who had not been able to get out due to the pandemic restrictions. The gift baskets that were delivered were very much appreciated. The first visit was conducted on September 30th.

After breakfast at Mels Diner with Jody Brady and Alan Brigham, they drove to the homes of Chery Anderson, Kate Luce, Cathy MacHold, Alan Brigham, and LJ Jester. The following Monday, was the second delivery run, to Terry Wicks and Cathy Cassidy Sylvia. They traveled to Rocklin, Lincoln, and Penryn, with four stops in Auburn. The third trip will be the week before Halloween to Roseville, Grass Valley, and Colfax.



Rebecca Inch-Partridge

November is "National Novel-Writing Month"(NaNoWriMo)

Rebecca teaches a class through Auburn Parks & Recreation Dept. on that subject. She also gave a wonderful talk on the subject on October 21st for club and general public members as well.

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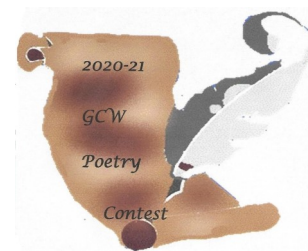
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The 2nd Gold Country Writers Poetry Contest is here. The rules and entry guidelines are as follows:

◇ CGW members only may enter

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GCW Staying Alive & Thriving via Zoom & E-Mail

PROSE

FROM THE PRES



Dear GCW Members,

Sure hope you are enjoying this beautiful Fall weather. I can hardly believe we are just weeks from Thanksgiving, and the official roll-out of the Holidays for 2020. This has been such a different year than all others, I wonder how the pandemic will impact or change our family celebrations and traditions.

We here at GCW have been busy with an action plan to re-organize our structure to have a smooth transition from limited physical meetings (using social distancing and mask-wearing) to more meetings on Zoom. If you have not used this method of the internet to access our GCW meetings which feature GCW Guest Speakers, and GCW Workshops, as well as GCW Business and Executive meetings, now is the time. In the near future, we will be developing a GCW training program or buddy system to help others learn how to access Zoom. There is much to learn about this relatively new way of virtually connecting with each other. During the re-organization we will be generating a position(s) of Zoom Manager(s) who will be the lead in charge of all Zoom meetings scheduled for GCW. Now that Zoom is here I do not think it will be going away any time soon, if ever. Learn to Zoom. Business as Unusual.

Staying Alive & Thrive 2020

Susan

Are You Missing out Because of Zoom?



Many of our club members are not participating because they don't know how to use or they don't trust using Zoom for meetings. We don't want you to miss your writing goals because of the Pandemic. So, Chery Anderson has volunteered to work with anyone who is uncomfortable using Zoom.

CV-19 GCW Meeting Schedule

The Gold Country Writers are meeting via Zoom every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Just download the free Zoom App from the internet. To simplify things, we have arranged for a permanent ID: 88548554720 and the permanent password is 974226, for all the Club Zoom meetings.

FIRST WED.

Combined Business & Board Meeting

SECOND & FOURTH WED.

Drop-in Critique Meeting.

THIRD WED. - Guest Speaker

FIFTH WED. - (When Available)—Party Time

GCW November Activities

Nov. 4, 2020 Business Meeting - also Week-night Critique Group, 5:45 p.m., Round Table Pizza

Nov. 11, 2020 NO MEETINGS: Veterans' Day

Nov 18, 2020 Special Guest Speaker Randy Whitwell—Poetry, Announce the GCW Poetry Contest Start Date

Nov 25, 2020 NO GENERAL MEETING, Drop in Critique 10-12 via Zoom

Nov 28, 2020 Open Mic—via Zoom, contact Chery Anderson

Poetry Contest (continued)

- ◆ Topics— 1) Memories, bitter or sweet 2) Finding Love 3) I wish we'd have a pandemic every year
- ◆ Enter one poem on one topic, specify the topic
- ◆ Any poetry style will be accepted
- ◆ Maximum of 45 lines/poem
- ◆ Entries accepted November 18th
- ◆ Entry deadline: December 18th @ midnight ,
- ◆ Send entries to: Skip Michael at skipmichael@gmail.com Embed poem in e-mail, no attachments
 - ◇ Enter CGW Poetry Contest in subject line of e-mail,
 - ◇ Do not put your name on your entry.
- ◆ **Contest Chairman-Randy Whitwell 916/233-5136 rjwhitwell@sbcglobal.net**

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Note: Contact group leaders to learn the current CV-19 schedule for your group.

Children's Lit: Contact Norma Lehr. Temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact John Vester. Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:45 p.m. temporarily suspended for Nov. & Dec.

Memoir: Contact Susan Thompson. They meet at members' houses the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Novel: Contact Mary Helen Fein, meets via Zoom on 2nd & 4th Fridays from 2—4 p.m. Closed to new members.

Evening Mixed Genre: Contact Rebecca Inch-Partridge. Meets 1st Wednesday each month, Drop-in suspended due to Covid-19, Preread meets in small social dist. groups 5:45 p.m. at Rebecca's. No new members. No meeting in Dec.

Flash Fiction: Contact Chery Anderson. Conducted via e-mail with 100 word story prompts.

Poetry: 4th Wed. Contact Randy Whitwell. Sharing poems online with members. Meeting 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, 4th Wed.

Spiritual/Inspirational: 2nd Wed., 12:30 pm Contact Betsy Schwarzentraub, meet at Rebecca Inch-Partridge's home this month, + Zoom.

Mystery (New Group) Contact Robin Deley, meets 3rd Wed. at 1:00 p.m. Call for info. on place & method.

For group leader contact information, consult your membership roster.



GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Susan Korn

Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P - Internal Affairs: Karen Clay

Genre ~ Nonfiction & Memoir

V P - External Affairs, Marketing & Events:

Frank Nissen

Genre ~ Historical Fiction

Treasurer: Bill Baynes

Genre ~ Science Fiction, Children's Books

Secretary: Barbara Young

Genre ~ Photography, Nonfiction

Assistant Secretary and Author Opportunities:

Betsy Schwarzentraub

Genres ~ Christian Nonfiction, devotions,
book reviews

Guest Speakers: Margie Yee Webb

Genres ~ Gift Books & Flash Fiction

Membership: Jody Brady

Genres ~ Short Stories & Self-Help

Public Relations & Read & Review:

Chery Anderson

Genre ~ Short Stories

Web Master, Graphics & Cyber Security:

Skip Michael

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Spin-off Critique Groups Coordinator:

Rebecca Inch-Partridge

Genre ~ Science Fiction

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver

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

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

For Contact Info. see GCW Roster

"One day the universe will be pleased by the fruit of man's works."



California State Library Launches California COVID Diaries

"All Californians are welcome to submit typed or hand-written journals, letters, e-mail narratives and blog posts; photographs, videos and audio recordings; written or recorded interviews with family or friends; artwork and drawings; and other storytelling methods."

For more information, see:

<https://covididiaries.library.ca.gov/>

and

<https://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/pressreleases/2020-06-11-CACovidDiaries.pdf>

Famous Writer's Quote

"I don't write poems to melt your heart.
I write them, so our hearts can melt together."

— Subhan Zein

Gold Country Writers T-Shirts



To order GCW T-Shirts fill out the order form below:

Send to: **Susan Korn, 2501 Calle Fresca, Cool, CA 94614**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Item/color:	Quantity	Size
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Color(s): Forest Green, Red, White, Black, or Slate Grey (GCW Members Group selection)

Price: \$22.39 + 1.62 tax + shpg \$4.81. **Total: \$28.82**

(Price reduction if 12 shirts ordered at one time.)

Make checks payable to: **Gold Country Writers**

*Sorry Charly, you can't end your story
with the world ending because it's*



The Fork in the Road of My Career Plans

By Michael O'Haver

My dad was a construction professional. He helped construct several of the dams on the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon – Chief Joseph Dam at Bridgeport and the Dalles Dam at the Dalles. Then we moved to California. During summer vacation while I was in high school, dad was working for several of the stores like Sears and Roebuck and Montgomery Wards installing appliances like hot water heaters and furnaces. I would help him as a gofer – “gofer the big pipe wrench”, “gofer the ladder,” etc. I knew when I grew up, I wanted to go into construction just like my dad.

When I graduated from high school and entered college I was leaning toward architecture as a profession. But the prerequisite courses included physics and calculus which turned out to not be easy subjects for me. While I was taking too much time getting through two years of junior college Uncle Sam caught up with me. It was 1965 and I had two choices, get drafted into the Army for two years and wind up in Viet Nam as an Infantry soldier or enlist for three years and get to choose my MOS (Military Occupation Specialty). I chose to enlist and picked my MOS as an administration specialist. I still wound up in Viet Nam, but I was stationed in Cam Ranh Bay, the in-country R & R center processing soldiers in and out of the country. During my eighteen-month tour there I had lots of time to think about what I would use my GI Bill benefits for when I got out.

Living in Southern California I learned the premier school for Architecture and Environmental Design was Cal. Poly at San Luis Obispo. They were so popular there were no openings in the Architecture major when I first applied. But I learned a little trick. It was much easier to transfer from one major to another once you were enrolled at Cal. Poly. So, I entered Cal. Poly as a Physical Education major when I got out of the Army and then simply transferred into the School of Architecture and Environmental Design after my first semester.

Now, within Cal. Poly's School of Architecture and Environmental Design, at that time there were four majors – Architecture, Construction Engineering, Landscape Design, and City and Regional Planning. I remembered how much fun it was writing term papers and other reports. So, when I had trouble with math and physics, I quickly learned that City Planning required lots of report writing and was the logical alternative profession for me. Granted, it was technical report writing required for City Planning, but I soon got to be a specialist in general plans, environmental reports, and transit studies. After retirement, it was not that hard switching from technical writing to fiction writing and with the help of my granddaughter, even children's book writing.

Wanted: In-Depth Memoir Spin-Off Critique Group Coordinator

We have had a Memoir Spin-Off critique group for a long time, thanks to Susan Thompson, but there is a need for another group that is aiming toward publication, either self-publishing or via traditional publishing. Anyone interested in leading such a group contact Rebecca or any of the GCW Officers or Board members.

Optimizing On-Line Marketing

Workshop by Betsy Schwarzentraub

On October 17, 2020 Betsy presented a very informative workshop on optimizing on-line book marketing. ~ Start early, before you've finished your book, buy the domain name (URL for your website)

~ Prioritize key words, use them in web pages, blog titles and book descriptions. Provide links to other websites.

~ Three ways to increase on-line ranking:

1) Optimize Link Structure: a) page name, b) relevant words (nothing vague), c) concise URL

2) Use Helpful Header Tags: a) page name, scope of page, blog title; b) name of section, c) main point

3) Have Internal Linking Organized: a) by topics,

b) top navigation, c) supporting main page

Additional Tips:

~On free websites like Wordpress & Wix, they own all content you put on it in case you ever want to use it in a book.

~Use your key words in the first line of any website posting.

~Posts can be backdated as well as scheduled for future release.

~Include hyperlinks for ease of use.

~Tabs at top of page can include info such as promotional and media events, book signings, reviews, etc

~When providing links to other websites, ensure ability to return to your website.

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Optimizing On-Line Marketing (Cont.)

~www.unsplash.com & www.pixabay.com for photos—legal free graphic websites.

~www.namecheap.com—good website for obtaining domain name

~Make a list of at least 5 key words/phrases that fit you best.

~Create separate places for different niches

~Join in on other's blog conversations (makes you an expert).

~Include a "Call to Action".

~Limit time responding to other people's blogs to 15-20 min./day.

~Blogging, engage with others, allow comments, comment often to other's comments.

~In online ads remember the rhino. - make one point (hook).

~The more links, internal or to others, the better. The more links, the higher ranking on Google.

~One participant recommended Blue Cat Studios—good local source for advertising.

~www.fiverr.com—digital services in 300+ categories

Na-No-Wri-Mo Workshop

By Rebecca Inch-Partridge

We had an in-person (6) combined with Zoom (25) presentation on October 21, 2020 on "How to Write a Novel in a Month." Rebecca started out by saying you need a plan. Ideally a O-Draft book should be around 50,000 words. O-Draft = Rough Draft which is merely a narrative outline of your idea. But it needs to be a complete book from beginning to end.

50,000 divided by 30 = **16,666/day**. That equals **3,333 words an hour for 5 hours**. If that is too generous a goal, cut it back until it seems manageable. It's your plan, you have to believe in it.

A O-Draft doesn't have to be perfect. It is going to be revised several times later so don't sweat the small stuff.

Make a list of what steals your writing time.—phone calls, honey dos, etc. Try to eliminate them as much as possible.

Write down what you did yesterday and how much time it took you. Then decide what you could give up to free up three hours to meet your writing goal.

When taking a break from writing, always write a note to self about what's happening next or start a sentence and

leave it hanging to finish when you get back.

Find the time of day to write when your inner critique is disengaged.

Don't hesitate to cheat—start before November 1, write a summary of your book (what, where, when, & why), write character sketches. They can all count in your word daily count.

Binge Write—you can get more written in one four-hour binge than in four one-hour sessions.

If you can't write the actual book, write scenes, dialogue, character sketches. They can all be used later.

When you take a break, on a walk or to run an errand, have a notebook or tape recorder to jot down ideas.

Writer's Block Breakers:

- 1) Skip to a more interesting scene
- 2) Do character sketches
- 3) Start a letter to self (or anyone) telling what the book is all about
- 4) Go for a walk to get a change of scenery
- 5) Phone a friend

Writer's block only comes when the writer doesn't know their characters or their plot well enough.

Don't have a phone available to interrupt you.

Establish a routine well before the starting date.

Make sure you have a comfortable writing space—ergonomic chair, good lighting.

Decide what helps you focus on writing:

- 1) The right music
- 2) Have a friend who holds you accountable.
- 3) Bribe family members to let you accomplish your goals (take them out to a favorite restaurant).
- 4) Have incentive rewards for yourself—weekly, or for achieving 1/2 of writing word goal, etc.

Your last sentence in your book is just as important as your first. It leaves the last impression with your reader: Decide what it will be:

- 1) Happy ending
- 2) Thought-provoking dilemma
- 3) What would have happened if the hero failed?