

Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers

October 2017 Issue



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First day participants at the Gold Country Fair September 7, 2017. From the left in back row – Skip Michael and Michael O'Haver. In front row from the left Kate Luce, Susan Korn & Betsy Schwarzentraub.

This year's Gold Country Fair turned out to be quite lucrative for several club members. There were 33 books sold for a total of \$328.00. June Gillam topped the list with 8, but Pauline Nevins and Sheri McGuinn were close behind with 7 each. There were 11 authors selling and 13 members staffed the table. The prime location along the end wall, next to the exit helped a lot. A big thank you is due Book Mama June who organized everything so well it ran smoothly even with her gone some of the time to fulfill family obligations.



Joey Garcia

Summarized by Kathy Ward

Joey Garcia, GCW's September, 2017 Guest Speaker – Writing about love, sex and relationships.

A love scene doesn't have to be a sex scene, and a sex scene isn't always a love scene, author Joey Garcia told Gold Country Writers at our September 20, 2017, meeting. In fact, a love scene can be just as passionate as any sex scene, and a sex scene can be completely devoid of love. Before beginning to write, be clear in your mind what you want the scene to convey. Every love or sex scene must have a purpose for being in your book or story; it must move the story along. Don't throw one in just because you think you have to.

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PROSE



FROM THE PRES

I'm impressed with the collaboration we are experiencing as writers together! Often people think just of co-authoring books when they hear that word, but collaboration is alive among us in many forms: in our presenters' talks on different genres and sharing writing tools; in the mutual respect, recommendations and time given to one another at our Drop-In Critiques; in our committed Spin-Off Critique Groups; and in personal encouragement at the Writer's Platform Group and around the edges of our gatherings.

We have many opportunities to ramp up our writing this fall. By now our Mentors and Mentees are in full swing, working toward the three-month goals they have defined. The level of support and critique at our twice-monthly Drop-In Critique sessions is high. And our speakers keep teaching us new things.

On Oct. 18 we'll hear Elisabeth Kauffman, independent editor, author, and freelancer for Writer's Digest Books and other series. She'll present on "Finding Focus: Tips for tuning in to your creative voice and making the most of your writing sessions." Plan to come, and bring a friend!

Betsy

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 95603. Our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business Meeting to discuss club business. All are welcome to come. This is followed by a closed meeting of the Lead Team.

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

Third Wednesday: Special educational programs of general interest to the club members. Topics change each month. See Page 6 for the Speaker of the Month. These are open to the public.

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

Famous Writer's Quote

The more closely the author thinks of why he wrote, the more he comes to regard his imagination as a kind of self-generating cement which glued his facts together, and his emotions as a kind of dark and obscure designer of those facts. Reluctantly, he comes to the conclusion that to account for his book is to account for his life.

- Richard Wright

Garcia – Love, Sex & Relationships

Garcia has written the “Ask Joey” column for the *Sacramento News & Review* for over 20 years, and is the author of the award-winning book **When Your Heart Breaks, It’s Opening to Love: Healing and finding love after an affair, heartbreak, or divorce**. The title of her presentation to Gold Country Writers was “Writing About Love, Sex, and Relationships.”

Garcia offered several tips to consider when writing about love or sex:

- *Avoid clichés and chauvinism.

- *Remember to keep your characters just as multi-dimensional during a love or sex scene as they are in the rest of the book or story.

- *Get in your characters’ heads during the scene. What are they thinking or feeling?

- *Don’t overdo. Keep your characters’ motivation in focus—be clear why the scene has to happen.

- *Be realistic. People rarely say what they really feel, so they shouldn’t in your story’s love or sex scene. Also, people talk and make sounds during sex; don’t leave them out of your scene.

- *Let the tension build. If you build a scene well, a simple movement, kiss, etc., can be just as powerful as graphic details.

- *There’s no need to avoid terms like “penis” or “vagina” but you may want to consider using terms that would be more familiar and consistent with your character.

- *Remember, not all sexual encounters have to be perfect. A failed or disappointing bout can tell as much about your characters or the plot as a successful one.

Garcia also discussed using love and/or sex scenes in non-fiction, saying that the personal essay about relationships is one of the most popular genres today. The most sought-after personal essays are ones that have to do with negotiating family issues around transgenderism, unexpected or unusual family dynamics, and ethnic, religious, or political differences in the family. Even *Good Housekeeping* and *Reader’s Digest*, she said, are looking for them.

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Writing Contests/Awards

Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship

Deadline: October 15, 2017

Cash Prize: \$58,000

E-mail address: amylowell@choate.com

Website: <http://www.amylowell.org>

An award is given annually to a U.S. poet for a year of travel and study abroad. Submit two copies of up to 40 pages of poetry or a published book and up to 20 pages of poetry. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for the required entry form and complete guidelines.

Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship, c/o Thomas H. P. Whitney Jr. and William A. Lowell, Choate, Hall & Stewart, LLP, 2 International Place, Boston, MA 02110.

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KUDOS

Susan Korn made a memory book for her high school reunion that sold out.

Wendy Coles-Littlepage finished her book and is looking for a good editor. Anyone interested?

Kathleen Shields finished the trailer for her book and will show the club at the October Business meeting..

Kathy Ward entered the Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest, see her poem on Page 5.

Tears and Trombones just got a five-star Review and a silver medal from Readers' Favorites. Congratulations Nanci Lee Woody!

Special Events



GCW Special Guest Program

Oct 18, 2017, 10-noon at the church, **Elisabeth Kauffman**, Finding Focus: Tips for Tuning in to Your Creative Voice & Maximizing Writing Sessions

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Every Tuesday, Noon-1 pm at Placer Co. DeWitt Justice Center, Richardson Dr. & B Ave., Auburn, Contact: Michael O'Haver, GodsScribeMike@aol.com **Not a GCW Event**

Emerald City Writer's Conference

Oct, 13-15, 2017, Westin Hotel, Bellevue, WA
<http://gsrwa.org/ecwc/conference/> **Not a GCW Event**

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, 1 PM, at Auburn Library **Oct. 28 2017**.
Contact: Chery Anderson, Taleteller2@gmail.com
Not a GCW Event

Specialty Spin-off Critique Groups

Coordinator - Pauline Nevins -530/637-9163

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

Historical Fiction: Contact Michael O'Haver – 530/268-2490. They meet once a month on the 4th Thursday, 10:30 a.m. 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 Thursday, 2-4 p.m.

Science Fiction/Fantasy: Contact Skip Michael 916/601-1044.

Memoirs: Contact Susan Thompson 530/941-3778. They meet at Northridge Restaurant, 21515 Higgins Rd, off of Combie Road between Auburn and Grass Valley, the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

Novel: Contact Ann Reh 530/823-1870. They meet every other Monday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at a member's office. Call for directions.

GCW Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

President: Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852 Genre ~ Christian Nonfiction.

V P - Internal Affairs: Susan Korn 530/888-9971 Genre ~ Self-Help & Corporate Culture

V P – External Affairs: Joyce Rule 916/521-5177 Genre ~ Short Stories

Treasurer: Joy Hemp 650/799-5828 Genre ~ Self-Help & Inspirational

Secretary: Michael O'Haver 530/268-2490 Genre ~ Christian Children's Books & Poetry

Assistant Secretary: Kathleen Ward 209/704-0719 Genre ~ Short Stories

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

Marketing GCW & Events: Joyce Rule 916/521-5177 Genre ~ Short Stories

Author Opportunities: June Gillam 530/820-3020 Genre ~ Suspense Thrillers & Poetry

Membership & Guest Speakers: Margie Yee Webb 916/213-0798 Genre ~ Gift Books

Newsletter Editor: Michael O'Haver 530/268-2490 Genre ~ Historical Fiction & Memoirs
Submit newsletter material by the 15th of each month to
GodsScribeMike@aol.com

Garcia – Love, Sex & Relationships

While it's true, she said, that love or sex in an essay often "seals the deal" in getting the article published today, she cautioned that it's important for you to decide how far you want to go in revealing your love or sex life. Are you ready to deal with the reactions, the pushback, to your personal experiences? Your feelings about these reactions may be much different than they would be if your work was fiction. Garcia also warned that even though the essay is based on real experiences, the writer should change the names of the other people involved in your essay to prevent hurt feelings, damaged reputations, and possible law suits.

In a lively question and answer period following her presentation, Garcia talked at length about the value of agents in helping you build your platform and market your work. She advised that many agents now will only sign people they've met in person. They're looking for a long term professional relationship with their writers. She recommended that writers attend conferences and meet agents whenever possible

Originally from Belize, Garcia is launching the first-ever Belize Writers' Conference on April 23-28. She envisions the conference as one that will combine work and vacation time. Two New York literary agents and a writing coach/author will be on site as well. More information about the conference can be found on her website: www.joeygarcia.com/events.

Writing Contests/Awards Continued

The Woolf Short Story Competition:

The Woolf Short Story Competition: JUST LAUNCHED

Deadline: December 1, 2017

Prizes: 3 cash prizes (150 CHF, 100 CHF, 50 CHF) plus 3 winning stories to be published in The Woolf, March 2018.

Fees: \$20.00

Enter The Woolf's inaugural Short Story Competition and become part of our esteemed writerly history. Your challenge is to write a story of up to 2,000 words inspired by the theme of 'Raw'. Interpret it however you like....

<https://www.freelancewriting.com/contest/9071/>

If I Had a Second Chance

I would have given a dollar
Or a hamburger
To the homeless woman
Huddled by the off-ramp,
Her eyes and face as droopy
As her worn-out cardboard sign.

I would have held doors open
For people even when
They did not need the help
And I would remember to
Thank those who took the time
To open doors for me.

I would have stopped to answer
My three year old's question
Even though it was
The twentieth time she'd asked one
In the past ten minutes
And I'd answered them all before.

I would have tape recorded
My grandma's stories
The ones I loved when growing up
So that my children could hear
Them in Grandma's words, and bask
In the sweet tones of her voice.

I would have spent more time
Walking on the beach at sunrise
Hiking dark trails through the woods
Picking wildflowers by the roadside
Dancing with butterflies
Laughing with old friends.

If I had a second chance.

Kathy Ward





Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

Elisabeth Kauffman

*Finding Focus: Tips for tuning in to
your creative voice and making the
most of your writing sessions*



From the Pomodoro technique to morning pages to tarot cards, there are a myriad of ways to help keep you on track toward your writing goals and stimulate your creative mind. Join Elisabeth as she discusses the process of quieting your mind and cultivating productive space, and discover which combination of techniques work for you!

Elisabeth Kauffman is an author and an independent editor. She has worked with Sourcebooks and with Entangled Publishing in acquisitions, evaluating both agented and un-agented submissions and working with authors to develop manuscripts for publication. She also has experience working with agents to identify and develop prospective authors' works. She currently freelances for Sourcebooks, She Writes Press, and Writer's Digest Books, and works with independent clients who are interested in polishing their manuscripts before submitting through traditional channels, or who are taking the self-publishing route.

A four-time winner and six-time participant of NaNoWriMo, Elisabeth firmly believes in the power of focus and accountability to reach your writing goals. She organizes Sacramento-area writers to help them find encouragement and motivation as they tackle the challenge of completing a manuscript. For more about Elisabeth you can contact her at ekauffman@writingrefinery.com. Her website is www.writingrefinery.com.

Join us! Meetings are free and open to the public.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1279 High Street, Auburn CA 95603

(enter and park in back)

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**Gold Country Writers: "Writers Working Together To Promote and Improve Their Work"**  
~ A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization ~

Meetings are held every Wednesday of the month. Third Wednesdays: guest speaker presentation. First Wednesdays: business meeting. Second and Fourth Wednesdays: "Drop-In Critique" for members to get feedback on their work. For months with Fifth Wednesdays: social event. See website for details.

<http://GoldCountryWriters.com/>