



Our Mission ~ Support Local Writers

Newsletter for Gold Country Writers, P.O. Box 5991 Auburn, CA 95604 November, 2015 Issue

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Maryellen Burns & Larry Fox *Getting Your Darlings Published*

**No Meeting
on 11/11/15
Veteran's Day**



On October 21, 2015 Maryellen Burns and Larry Fox, local publishing experts made a presentation before a crowd of well over 100 eager writers. They stated that each year there are 600,000 books published in the U. S. alone through traditional publishers as well as self publishers. The numbers are growing because of self publishers.

Some tips for self publishing:

- ❖ Starting a blog is a good way to build interest for your book.
- ❖ I-Street Press in Sacramento can print your book from a flash drive for \$25 - \$300. They have 100 locations around the world and once you print your book anywhere you can download it again at any site.
- ❖ You should go to any publisher and get their format for proposals and do one for your book even if you are self publishing.
- ❖ Facebook has a shop for selling your books,
- ❖ You should get 150 copies of your book into reader's hands to build word of mouth publicity.
- ❖ Creatspace (Amazon) is a good way to do your hard copy book.
- ❖ Write a promotional article to build interest for your book.
- ❖ There are two types of editors – copy & developmental.
- ❖ Business book are the easiest to sell.
- ❖ You have to get permission to use photos from the internet, even if they don't have a copy write notice on them. Just click the photo and it will tell you who has the copy writes.
- ❖ Burns & Fox do a follow up presentation entitled –
“I'm Getting my Book Together and Taking it on the Road.”

FIGHTING WRITER'S BLOCK

By D. Michael O'Haver, adapted from an article *3 Ways to Shake Off Writer's Block*, by Kathleen Fordyce in October 2015 Toastmaster Magazine

You're working against a deadline. But, the creative juices aren't flowing. No matter how hard you try, noting is coming out. You have the dreaded *Writer's Block*.

Get something down on paper. Get those fingers moving on the keyboard. Anything is better than nothing. A blank page is intimidatating. This is because the writing monster steps in and tells us a bunch of lies about our creative abilities. The monster is so loud we can't hear our creative voice. The fact is we all have a bunch of creative ideas but the monster is stepping on the hose.

Start with a list. At this point don't worry about crafting the perfect opening. Don't bother with transitions or that awesome ending. All that can be fixed during the process, at a later time. Simply start by getting your ideas down. Don't censor yourself. Think of it as a brain dump. You can go back and make sense of it all later.

Imagine you are talking to your best friend. Or better yet, actually call or e-mail your best friend and discuss the main message you hope to convey, and be sure and take notes. Use them as a sounding board. Ask them for their uncensored thoughts on your topic.

Brainstorm for ten minutes. Don't spend hours stressing over your writing. It could be it will be more productive to work in short, timed spurts because it forces you to focus. Write out your ideas on paper. Once you have them down it is easier to see themes and organize your writing. After about ten minutes, see what you have. If you are still struggling, take a break and come back to it later. You may even have to go do something else for a while, to clear your head. When you do come back don't expect perfection right from the start. Perfection will come during the process.

Search for Quotations - ones that are related to your topic or the key words in your notes or list.

Look up synonyms for you key words. That is what they invented the thesaurus for.

Once you have started the "Monster" is dead. His power is gone.



Join the **Gold Country Writers** each Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to noon at the General Gomez Art Center Building, 808 Lincoln Way in Auburn, 95604. Our regular monthly schedule is:

First Wednesday: Business meeting to discuss administrative issues for the club (all members are welcome to come and contribute). This is followed by a short meeting of the club Board of Directors.

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

Third Wednesday: Special Program of general interest to the club members. This change each month. See Page 4 for the November Speaker.

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

Gold Country Writers Mentoring Program

Susan Korn is in charge of this recently started program. It pares writers who are looking for experience in specialty areas with other members who have had some experience in these areas. If you missed out on the first trial round, which will be up at the end of the year, contact Susan for another opportunity to join in as either a mentor or a mentee. Her phone number is 530/888-9971



Small Specialty Critique Groups

We currently have three small specialty critique groups in the following areas:

Religious: Contact- Betsy Schwarzentraub 530/333-0852

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

Memoirs: They meet at Depot Bay Wednesday's at noon, following the regular Gold Country Writers meeting.

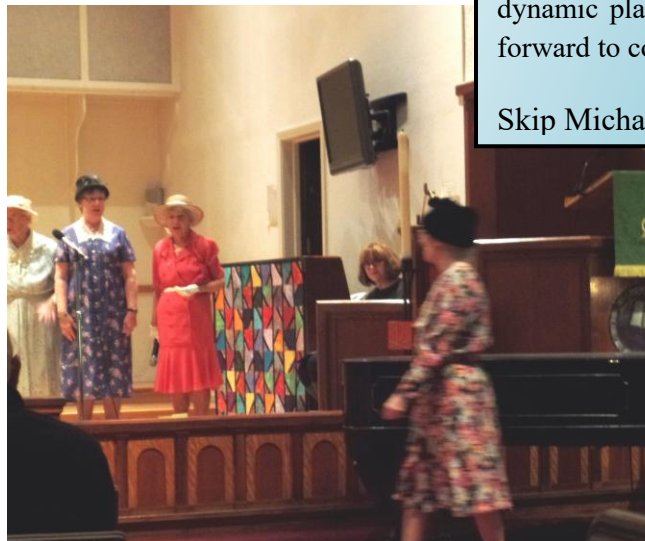
THANKSGIVING HUMOR

The Six-Legged Turkey

An industrious turkey farmer was always experimenting with breeding a better turkey. His family was fond of the leg portion for dinner and there were never enough legs for everyone. After many frustrating attempts, the farmer was relating the results of his efforts to his friends at the general store get-together. "Well I finally did it! I bred a turkey that has 6 legs!" They all asked the farmer how it tasted. "I don't know," said the farmer, "I never could catch it!"



Below one of our own Gold Country Writers Jan Collins, stretches her comfort zone and takes up acting. She stars as *Emma*, in a musical Chancel Operetta ~ *Everything*. She plays a Grass Valley miner's wife in 1936, leading a party of miner's wives baking up Pastys for their husbands while the Methodist Church burns to the ground.



Prose



From the Pres

I am the luckiest and most grateful President. Obama himself, should be so lucky. I have a group of woman who are the most capable, innovative, energetic, funniest, knowledgeable, bold, outspoken, smart and beautiful - everyone of them a leader. You would think it would be hard to guide such towering leaders with all their talents; but the truth is, they are so self-motivated to do their best, they seem to know what to do before I have a chance to mention any direction...they are on it.

Our club, group, organization.. whatever you want to call us, is in the process of change. We are growing fast, and we need to make major changes to accommodate our growth. We will need every member's support to make these changes work. We need your help. Volunteer to make the group a dynamic place that members look forward to coming to.

Skip Michael

Special Events

Ron Montana November 18, 2015

Learn how to turn your words into pictures when Gold Country Writers presents Noted Author & Screenwriter Ron Montana, 10 - to noon at the General Gomez Art Center, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603
Go to his website - granderana.wix.com/granderana

Local Author's Event

Folsom Public Library – 1 PM – 4 PM, 411 Stafford St., Folsom, CA 95603, Presented by the California Writers Club 916/355-7357 <>All Levels <> All Interests <> No Limits

Open Mike ~Story Telling

–Always the last Saturday of each month -Nov 28, Auburn Public Library 1 PM – 3 PM, 8 minute limits on stories.

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Meets Tuesdays at 2929 Richardson Dr., Auburn, CA 95603 from noon to 1 PM. Placer Co. Justice Center, Visitors are welcome.

CLUB NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

Any club member can submit newsletter worthy material. Get it to D. Michael O'Haver at MrOHaver77@outlook.com by the 15th of each month. Call 530/268-2490 for more information.

Auburn Christmas Fair

November 28-29, 2015 at the Gold Country Fairgrounds.

This is your chance to sell some of your works. Christmas is the biggest selling time of the year. Contact June Gillam 530/820-3020

Current Officers of Gold Country Writers

President:

Skip Michael
916/601-1044
Genre ~ Science Fiction

Vice President:

Betsy Schwarzentraub
530/333-0852 Genre
~Religious Teaching

Secretary:

Sharyn Matin
808/662-0432
Genre ~ Self Help

Treasurer:

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

Publicity Coordinator:

Chery Anderson
530/613-1153
Genre ~Story Telling

Mentor Coordinator

Susan Korn
530/888-9971
Genre – Self Help
Corporate Culture

Events & Fundraising Coordinator

Joyce Rule
916/409-0131

Marketing Coordinator

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