

Gold Country Writers Dispatch

Our Mission is to Support Local Writers

November 2017 Issue



Face in a Book Hosts GCW

Face in a Book is a bookstore with the following mission:

"We exist for one reason: the love of good books!" - Tina Ferguson, Owner

Face in a Book is a neighborhood gathering place for readers of all ages seeking books on every subject. Located in the heart of Town Center in El Dorado Hills, California, Face in a Book aims to connect people with books and with their community. In addition to the thousands of titles to choose from, Face in a Book is your destination for fun and affordable gifts, greeting cards, and stationery.

Additionally, they offer a wide range of engaging events for our community to strengthen the bond shared by the individuals who embrace their passion for reading. From exciting children's events to personable author book signings, they strive to be the leader in the reading community.

Gold Country Writers will be featured at Face in a Book on March 25, 2018. Margie Yee Webb is coordinating this event to spotlight GCW authors. Stay tuned for details on how to apply to participate.

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Open Call for Submissions for Speculative Fiction Short Stories

Genre: Narrative Fiction, Supernatural, Horror, Sci. Fi., Fantasy, Futuristic or any combination, there of

Word Count: 2000 – 8000

Royalty: \$20 - \$30. Sliding Scale, Publication Rights for one year

Dates: Submit by Dec. 15, Selection by Dec. 31, 2017

Submit to: Placer Gold Publishing

Published: in next anthology publication

Contact: Submsion@PlacerGoldWritersINK.com

Web Site: www.PlacerGoldWritersINK.com

Location: Story must be set in the California Gold Country, past, present, or future



PROSE



FROM THE PRES

Several exciting writing-related events are happening this month!

On Nov. 15 at 10 a.m., children's author and essayist, T. E. Watson will speak to us and the community. Bring a friend or neighbor!

That same day at noon, our own Shelley Buck will present to the Writer's Platform Group about promoting our writing through Twitter. Everyone is welcome!

We are now in the middle of our GCW Mentoring Program, which continues a three-month one-on-one match to help mentees accomplish their specific writing goals.

If you're into the worldwide NaNoWriMo, you're writing like mad to get down 50,000 words of a novel within the month! Check out nanowrimo.org to get support, track your progress, and meet other writers online.

Because of Thanksgiving Day, we'll have no meeting on Nov. 22, in deference to all those excellent cooks out there.

Then on Nov. 29 we'll celebrate a super Fifth Wednesday at the home of Rebecca Inch-Partridge for a Writing Retreat Day! It can be from 9 a.m. to 12:15, or continue through a potluck meal together and more writing until 4 p.m. **Rebecca will provide lasagna.** Sign up at one of our GCW meetings to get all the details.

Keep on writing!

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.

Oct. 29 Open Mic Participants



Writer's Platform Group

A wealth of resources can tell us how to create and strengthen our online presence as writers, but how do we tap into it without getting overwhelmed? This spring we started a Platform Group to do exactly that. We meet every third Wednesday at noon for about an hour on a variety of topics.

So far we've learned about:

- Writing an author's bio and doing our GCW Bio Page;
- Developing an author brand;
- Helping our readers find us on the Web;
- Crafting an author's website and choosing a server;
- Using Teresa LeYung Ryan's workbook to expand our Internet connections; and
- Writing a winning One-Sheet instead of a query.

We also share lots of "nuggets" about software along the way, such as Smashwords and Snagit. Future possible topics include using Twitter, Facebook, and Goodreads to promote our writing. Every session stands on its own, so come check us out!

Betsy Schwarzentraub

GCW Guest Speaker – Elizabeth Kauffman – Reported by Kathy Ward

Have you ever sat down to write and had your mind go blank, or lost your focus because there were so many distractions around you? Elisabeth Kauffman, GCW's guest speaker for October, offered several techniques for maintaining your focus or regaining it once it's lost.

The first thing to do is to set aside a specific amount of time to devote solely to your craft.

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Writing Contests/Awards

Brooklyn Nonfiction Prize

Cash Prize: \$500 Entry Fee: \$0

Application Deadline: 11/15/17

Genre: Creative Nonfiction

A prize of \$500 and publication on the Brooklyn Film & Arts Festival website is given annually for a work of nonfiction that is set in Brooklyn, New York, and renders the borough's "rich soul and intangible qualities through the writer's actual experiences of Brooklyn." Using the online submission system, submit an essay of up to 2,500 words by November 15. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Brooklyn Film & Arts Festival, Brooklyn Nonfiction Prize, P.O. Box 491, New York, NY 10156.

KUDOS

Joanne Butterfield won first place in the Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest. See her poem on page 5.



Kathy Ward won 3rd place in the Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest, with her poem published last month in the GCW Dispatch.



Sheri McGuinn is reading at a Woman's National Book Association event at Book Passage in Corte Maders, 1 PM on Sunday, November 5, 2017.

Special Events



GCW Special Guest Program

Nov. 15, 2017, 10-noon at the church, T. E. Watson "Character Percolation, the art of Discovering your Stories' Characters."

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

4th Sat. of each month, 1 PM, at Auburn Library Nov. 25, 2017.

Contact: Chery Anderson, Taleteller2@gmail.com

Not a GCW Event

Introduce your book at the 2018

Global Book Shows

Hard Copy Books, E-Books, DVD, CD, or Gift Item.

Some of the shows include:

✓ Public Library Assoc. March 21-23 - \$170/Title

✓ London Book Fair April 10-12 - \$250/Title

✓ Book Expo, America, May 30-June 2 - \$170/Title

To order and/or for multi show discount call 1-800-644-0133 Ext.1004

Writer's Retreat

Nov. 29, 2017, See Prose from Pres, Page 2 for details

Placer's Gold Toastmasters

Every Tuesday, Noon-1 pm at Placer Co. DeWitt Justice Center, Richardson Dr. & B Ave., Auburn, Contact: Michael O'Haver,

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. We meet on November 30 the 5th Thursday, because of Thanksgiving, at 10:30 a.m. The Daily Egg has closed, New location is Mel's-Hwy. 49 & Luther Rd.

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

Kauffman Continued

Let friends and family know you're not to be disturbed. Once you've settled in to write, five techniques will help you maintain your concentration:

- **Set a measurable goal**, whether in pages, word count, or scene completion, etc.
- **Clear your mind** with:
 - (a) free-writing,
 - (b) text transcription of a favorite author,
 - (c) meditation,
 - (d) mantra recitation,
 - (e) tarot reading,
 - (f) music, or
 - (g) candle lighting
- **Prepare in advance for distractions**, such as bringing a snack with you to stave off hunger pangs and making bathroom visits before you begin
- **Unplug**, turn off your phone, Facebook, Twitter, Wi-Fi, all of which lure you from your goal
- **Have a system for accountability**, whether it's with a critique group, which Kauffman highly recommends, posting your goal on Facebook, or some other tactic

Lastly, Kauffman stressed the importance of Iteration. Don't be afraid to go back and tweak your goal or writing plan as needed. The most important thing is to find what works best for you.

Kauffman is a free-lance author and independent editor, and a liaison for the *NaNoWriMo* annual writing challenge. She can be reached at-

ekauffman@writingrefinery.com

or through her website writingrefinery.com



Ever Ageless

In my dreams, you are ageless.

Tall and muscular, your tanned arms give way to the hands I have come to know so well.

Your blond locks curl to one side.

Your eyes, which reveal so much and yet have more to reveal, are the brightest blue.

There is no hint of the glasses or of the cataracts to come.

In my dreams you are ever ageless.

We met as youngsters, dated as young adults, and married as passion rose within us both.

Life gave us roses with a thorn or two.

Children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren are ours to hold.

There is no hint of the losses to come nor of our strengthening bond.

In my dreams you are ageless.

We kiss and I see you as you first kissed me 58 years ago, tall muscular, blond and kind.

Sparkling eyes meet across a room.

Instant connection, immediate response, life time of knowing.

There is no hint of the wrinkled face, the failing bones, the arthritic hands.

In my dreams you are ever ageless.

Each time I see you, no matter where we are, you are young and virile and oh so handsome

A quick embrace, a generous hug, enough.

To hold your hand in mine takes me back to the days we fell in love.

We still share the same electricity, and as you always say, "we're connected."

Ever ageless

By Joanne Butterfield





Gold Country Writers

Third Wednesday Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

10 a.m. to 12 noon

~ Gold Country Writers proudly presents ~

T. E. Watson

*Character Percolation:
The art of discovering your stories'
characters*

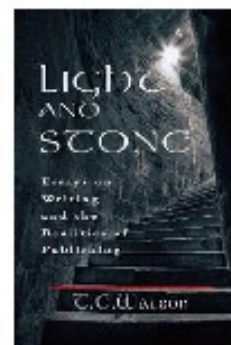


Characters are difficult enough to come up with, not to mention using them as you think they should be in your work. From character arcs to simple developmental beginnings, characters are the life blood of your story. They help your plot flow and keep your readers turning pages. Characters are essential to relatability and emotional connectivity. How are they developed? How are they emotionally attached to your story? Where do they come from in the first place? Author T.E. Watson will answer these questions and more.

T.E. Watson, author of *Light and Stone: Essays on Writing and the Realities of Publishing*, is a 43 year veteran of the publishing industry. His knowledge of everything from children's books and young adult to various nonfiction works is known the world over. He is a multiple award-winning author (24 in all), columnist, speaker, and writing book coach and mentor. Among his awards:

- Best Children's Book (2009) for *The Man Who Spoke With Cats* from American Authors Association
- Best Author (2009) also from American Authors Association
- Best Picture Book (2001) for *I Wanna Iguana* from Foreword Magazine

This year, he received the coveted Jack London Award from the California Writers Club for his service as Founding President of the North State Writers branch in Chico.



Presently, T.E. Watson has four new chapter books in the works and two new picture books. For more, visit <http://www.tewatsononline.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/>